

The Almanac

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

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 | VOL. 58 NO. 52



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Woodside High alumna Jessika Cowart makes World Cup debut playing for the Philippines

By Shannon Faulise

When she was a kid, Jessika Cowart and her dad would bring lawn chairs from home onto Stanford University's soccer field. They would quietly settle behind the goal posts to watch the women's games. This was before the university added fencing that now blocks the view, back when soccer legends like Nicole Barnhart, Kelley O'Hara, Christen Press and Ali Riley dominated the field.

Now, the 23-year old American Filipina, is one of those legends - this young midfielder-defender made her World Cup debut for the Philippines team in New Zealand, an experience that's still sinking in.

"It felt like a culmination of all the hard work that the people on this team before me had put in for that very moment. You felt like you were wearing their jerseys on top of yours," Cowart said.

Her journey to getting to the biggest stage in soccer started

when she was very young. Before she turned to soccer, Cowart had a brief tryst with ballet. It wasn't a match. Trading out ballet shoes for soccer cleats, her parents enrolled her in a local American Youth Soccer Organization league. She thrived there, and soon one of her coaches suggested trying competitive soccer. Once she made the move from a recreational team to a club team, everything clicked.

Cowart continued playing soccer into her teenage years, even playing on the Woodside High School varsity team for a year.

"I feel super blessed and grateful to have been able to grow up and play soccer here. I had such great inspiration and it all came from growing up and playing here," Cowart said.

Playing soccer as a professional athlete was Cowart's dream, but a big part of that dream involved playing for the country where she and her family have ties, the Philippines.

See **COWART**, page 10



Courtesy FIFA

Jessika Cowart runs with the ball during the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia & New Zealand 2023 Group A match between the Philippines and Switzerland on July 21, in New Zealand.

Menlo Park strikes out a third time with its housing element

State officials sent back the latest version of the city's housing plan on Aug. 29

By Cameron Rebosio

Menlo Park's third version of its housing element shows improvement, but it's not there yet, according to the latest rejection letter from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) dated Aug. 29.

The housing element update is a state-mandated process that occurs once every eight years — and this time, the state is strongly enforcing the regulations. California requires cities to plan for future development

with an eye toward balancing jobs and housing. Menlo Park's housing target, also known as the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), says the city must plan for close to 3,800 net new housing units by 2031, and show how it will accomplish it in a document known as a housing element.

Menlo Park first submitted its housing element to the HCD over a year ago, in July 2022, but state housing officials didn't accept it and sent it back for revisions. A second attempt was shot down by the state in April. The third and most recent

iteration of the housing element was submitted in June.

One of the issues that the state took with Menlo Park's latest housing element was a lack of displacement protections for residents and unequal housing opportunities on the east and west sides of the city.

The Belle Haven neighborhood on the east side of Menlo Park has historically faced institutionalized injustice that still affects the city's layout, including racist redlining in the 1930s and blockbusting in the 1950s and '60s.

Council member Drew Combs was the one holdout in the 4-1

vote that approved submitting the latest iteration of the housing element to the state in June. Combs said that he believed the city could do more to spread affordable housing projects throughout the city, rather than concentrating them in Belle Haven.

There is certainly a disparity in where council members know affordable housing will be built, Combs said. "I thought there was an ability for council to address that better than they did. Does that mean that I agree with the stance that HCD is taking? I would say I do not."

Many of the HCD's complaints center around a lack of analysis of development sites and programs. Combs said he was perplexed by the generic language in the HCD's letter, adding that the city had reached out to HCD in the weeks prior to submitting the housing element to get guidance.

"I'm still left a little perplexed about what the city can actually do to receive the approval," Combs said. ■

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Devin Roberts

Peninsula Day Camp Director Monica Curtis convenes with Girl Scouts supporters after the Woodside council meeting on June 27.

Woodside, Girl Scouts strike compromise on Huddart Park bus access

Town's ban on large buses on Kings Mountain Road impacted youth groups' access to county park

By Malea Martin

After Woodside's large vehicle ban on Kings Mountain Road stirred up strong reactions from locals on both sides of the issue, town officials say they've reached a solution to allow youth groups to access Huddart Park by bus.

"I believe that we have achieved the twin goals of ensuring access to Huddart Park and providing a safe environment for all users of Kings Mountain Road," Woodside Town Manager Kevin Bryant told the Almanac.

The ordinance, which was

enacted last year, bans buses longer than 35 feet on Kings Mountain Road, impacting the main entrance to Huddart County Park.

For years, groups like the Peninsula Girl Scouts have held youth summer activities at the park and hired buses to transport kids up the mountain. But this past summer, after learning that the ordinance would upend transportation plans for their annual Peninsula Day Camp, leaders of the Peninsula Girls Scouts mobilized to speak out against the town's ban.

Town officials maintained

that the ban is necessary to keep everyone on the road safe. Cyclists in particular say that it's dangerous to share the winding two-lane road with buses, which sometimes have to cross the double yellow line to maneuver around its tight curves.

The Girl Scouts ended up receiving temporary permits from the town to use buses to bring hundreds of children to Peninsula Day Camp in July, but everyone agreed that a long-term solution still needed to be brokered.

See **BUS ACCESS**, page 11

\$3.5M landscaping project for Willow/101 interchange gets green light from Menlo Park council

By Cameron Rebosio

Landscaping the highway interchange at Willow Road and U.S. 101, in the works since 2019, was given renewed urgency at an Aug. 29 Menlo Park City Council meeting.

The interchange was rebuilt in 2019 as a "partial cloverleaf" design to improve merging. In the process, the original landscaping, which included mature trees, was demolished.

The total estimated cost to restore landscaping to the area is \$3.5 million, and coming up with the funding took time, according to Council member Drew Combs. The city has secured full funding through the San Mateo County Transportation Authority's Measure A.

Pam Jones, a Belle Haven resident, expressed disappointment that the project has been so long delayed and frustration with Caltrans for the original demolition and the ensuing lack of landscaping. Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood is cut off from the rest of the city by Highway 101, and due to a history of racially motivated "red-lining," has a more diverse population than the rest of the city.

"(When the freeway was built) it was about increasing the racial divide, and now it's about environmental justice," Jones said. "This is quite consistent without how our history continues to show up today."

City staffers said that as soon as a memorandum of

understanding with San Mateo County Transportation Authority is signed, design work will take approximately a year. Planting is expected to take about one year, followed by three years of watering the landscaping more often to get the plants established and to the desired levels of greenery.

Combs, a former member of the council subcommittee overseeing the Willow Road exchange with Vice Mayor Cecilia Taylor, said that the delay of the project "rhymes with a disappointing history." Combs acknowledged that while the city is not the lead agency on the project, everyone involved owns the delay.

Combs brought up the city's new focus on creating a "quiet zone" along the Caltrain line as a foil for why he saw the delay as disappointing. Proposed quiet zones would require trains not to blow horns when crossing intersections in Menlo Park and have recently moved to the city's priority list. Combs said that he would be looking to see which got finished first, as only one of those projects impacts the Belle Haven neighborhood.

At the meeting, the council unanimously authorized the city manager to execute the memorandum of understanding for the landscaping project, as part of a motion to approve items on the consent agenda. ■

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Woodside's Jamis MacNiven to be honored as this year's History Maker of San Mateo County

September event celebrates founder of Buck's restaurant, the unofficial 'mayor' of Silicon Valley

By Malea Martin

We've all seen this trope in movies: As mourning family members sob into handkerchiefs and pay respects by the casket, the person who's supposed to be inside it shows up, alive and well.

Jamis MacNiven said that's the

exact energy he wants to match at the annual History Makers event slated for Sept. 22, where he will be honored as San Mateo County's 2023 History Maker.

"Listen, I'm in perfect health," the Woodside resident said in an interview. "But who hasn't fantasized about attending his own funeral? Here is everybody

paying to come to my funeral, and I get to talk at it. ... That just makes it all rather perfect."

The History Makers dinner is not actually a funeral, but it is something of a celebration of life — a life that has left an indelible mark on the tech industry and earned MacNiven the unofficial title of Silicon Valley's mayor.

MacNiven is the founder of Buck's of Woodside, a restaurant even better-known for bringing together tech innovators and venture capitalists than it is for its pancakes.

"He has watched as firms such as Hotmail, eBay, Netscape, PayPal and Tesla were born over discussions at his

establishment," the San Mateo County Historical Association, which hosts the annual dinner, wrote of MacNiven.

Historical Association President Mitch Postel said choosing MacNiven as this year's History Maker was an

See **MACNIVEN**, page 15

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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.

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CRIME BRIEFS

Brush fire flares along I-280 near Edgewood Road

Roads were closed near Woodside on Tuesday afternoon, Aug. 29, after a brush fire broke out along northbound Interstate 280 near Edgewood Road at 2:53 p.m.

Ten fire engines and three fire prevention units were among the firefighting resources on the scene, according to the PulsePoint app.

The right lane of northbound I-280 was blocked, according to 511.org. Jefferson Avenue and Cañada Road also were impacted by road closures. The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office reported that the fire was under control and crews were deciding if they needed to chop down a tree that was involved in the blaze. The firefighting efforts wrapped up after about two hours and the incident was closed at 5:01 p.m.

Cal Fire's CZU unit posted a photo of the fire provided by PG&E on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter.

—Cameron Rebosio

Woodside DUI checkpoint nets two arrests

Following a DUI and driver's license checkpoint, deputies from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office arrested two and cited 27 in Woodside Saturday evening, Aug. 26.

Deputies conducted the checkpoint from 6 p.m. on Saturday to 2 a.m. on Sunday on the 2300 block of Woodside Road.

Out of 1,058 cars screened, two drivers were arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol. Twenty-seven drivers were cited for operating a car without a license, not possessing their license or driving on a suspended license.

—Bay City News Service

Fatal crash on Interstate 280

A rollover car crash on Interstate 280 south near the State Route 92 overpass killed a 39-year-old San Francisco resident at 2:53 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 27, according to the Redwood City California Highway Patrol (CHP).

The woman, driving a black 2020 Volkswagen, made a sudden left turn while on 280, causing the car to veer off the roadway and collide with a concrete pillar. The Volkswagen then hit a

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 14

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Take a survey on regional transportation needs

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments has released their annual survey, asking how life in the Bay Area has changed coming out of the pandemic.

Input will help MTG-ABAG create the Plan Bay Area 2050+ draft blueprint, an update on the long-range Plan Bay Area 2050, which was created in 2021. Survey results will also help develop a draft of Transit 2050+, a long-range plan for updating the Bay Area's public transit network.

The deadline to fill out the survey is Thursday, Sept. 7. Find the survey at surveymonkey.com/r/MTC-ABAG.

More information about about Plan Bay Area 2050+ and Transit 2050+ is at planbayarea.org.

Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA Foster Care Program needs volunteers

The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA Foster Care Program is looking for volunteers to give temporary care to shelter animals to get them ready for adoption. Pets may need to be trained on certain behaviors or recover from an injury or illness. Animals in need of fostering include dogs, kittens, guinea pigs and rabbits. Volunteers must be 18 years or older.

To register to volunteer or for more information go to psh-spca.org.

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 11

Atherton gears up for town's 100th anniversary celebration

By Malea Martin

Atherton is about to turn 100, and the town is inviting everyone to its birthday party.

The Atherton Centennial Celebration will take place on Sunday, Sept. 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the town center, located at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, and will feature a variety of activities for all ages.

"The centennial celebration will include a tree giveaway, a musical performance from the Menlo-Atherton Jazz Band, catered food and ice cream, family-friendly activities and more," the town said in a statement. "Residents who attend will receive an

Atherton History Passport, which they can use to collect stamps while learning about Atherton's past."

The first 100 Atherton residents who collect enough stamps will receive a free 15-gallon oak tree, according to event organizers.

"Atherton's 100-year anniversary is a milestone that deserves to be celebrated by the whole community," said Council Member Rick DeGolia, according to the statement. "We invite all Athertonians to join us for this historic occasion and to appreciate the rich legacy of our town."

Council Member Elizabeth Lewis added that the planned

schedule of celebratory events will help residents learn more about Atherton's history and culture.

"We hope that residents will have a memorable and enjoyable time at the celebration and learn something new about our town," Lewis said.

Due to limited parking at the town center, attendees are encouraged to walk, bike or carpool to the celebration. Overflow parking will be available at Holbrook Palmer Park with a shuttle service to the town center, according to event organizers. ■

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

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Palo Alto Expands Its Definition of Historic Building

Dear Monica: We live in an old home in Palo Alto designated as "Deemed potentially eligible for the CRHR in 1998". We want to sell and want to know what we should do about this designation? Agnes T.

Dear Agnes: Palo Alto is concerned about the number of historic houses that have been torn down and replaced with modern structures. The consulting firm Page and Turnbull has issued a report on the properties that were on the list of "potentially eligible" 20 years ago as part of this update of the historic list and the City of Palo Alto would like to expand it. Before selling your property you should engage consultants such as Page and Turnbull to confirm whether you are likely to be on an historic list. Your buyer will need to know this in order to make renovations or even to demolish it.

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

Mother takes on Sequoia Hospital ER's lack of designated parking for the disabled

ADA-accessible parking near Redwood City hospital's emergency room was removed to create a COVID-19 testing drive-through

By Sue Dremann

When Christine Rutledge rushed her disabled son to the emergency room of Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City on Aug. 11, the 63-year-old military veteran faced an uphill battle trying to find parking space designated for the disabled, or any space on a flat surface that would lead to the door of the ER.

While Rutledge circled the parking lot, she worried about getting her 35-year-old son, Derek Walters, into the ER before his condition worsened. Leaving Derek, who has severe cognitive impairment, alone in the ER wasn't possible while she searched for a parking spot. Derek can't communicate for himself or make medical decisions, she said.

Designated parking for the disabled at the Sequoia ER, she learned the hard way, doesn't exist. Sequoia does have disability-accessible parking spots in a parking garage across the other side of the hospital complex; if she used one of those spots, Rutledge would have had to push her son in a wheelchair up a hill. Regular diagonal parking on the ER side is situated on another hill with a 30-degree slope. Trying to wheel a chair or a walker up the hill would be



Sue Dremann

Derek Walters, left, and his mother, Christine Rutledge faced a daunting challenge at Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital emergency room on Aug. 11.

The emergency department lacks disabled parking spots. In this photo taken at Palo Alto Medical Foundation, they had access to nearby designated parking to accommodate his disability.

impossible, she said.

"I'm 63 years old. Lifting a 35-year-old man is not in the cards for me anymore," she said. "I feel like Derek's — and my — rights were violated."

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guarantees persons with disabilities access to the same amenities, programs and services as anyone else, including parking and access to buildings. Under the law, 10% of patient and visitor parking must be ADA-accessible at hospitals where there are

outpatient facilities (units where patients have less than a 24-hour stay). At least one of every six accessible parking spaces must be van accessible.

Another methodology applies to portions of hospitals that are not outpatient facilities. It requires a specific number of parking spaces in each lot to be ADA-designated. According to an official table, a parking lot that has between one and 25 spaces must have at least one

See **SEQUOIA PARKING**, page 16



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Beaver makes species' first appearance in Palo Alto Baylands in over 160 years

The young aquatic mammal might herald the colonization of Matadero Creek

By Sue Dremann

A young beaver was spotted in the Palo Alto Baylands, marking the possible beginning of the return of the aquatic herbivores after more than 160 years. Researchers, who have long sought its comeback, are thrilled.

The chubby critter scampered across a remote, open area near Matadero Creek and was photographed on the trail camera of baylands fox researcher Bill Leikam on Aug. 23.

Leikam, aka The Fox Guy, is president and co-founder of the Urban Wildlife Research Project, a Palo Alto-based non-profit organization dedicated to the study and habitat expansion of the baylands gray fox.

Having been hunted and trapped to extinction in the Bay Area, the beaver is an even rarer sight in the baylands than the little gray foxes.

In September 2022, a pair of beavers was photographed on the trail cameras; Leikam and other researchers are hopeful that they have since mated and produced offspring.

While there's no evidence at this point that the young beaver is the offspring of the adult pair spotted a year ago, its very presence is a good sign. The hope is that they are comfortable colonizing in Palo Alto and possibly other creeks in northern Santa Clara and southern San Mateo counties.

"When I first saw it I suspected that it might be a young juvenile beaver, and since I'd never seen one before, I needed an expert like Dr. Heidi Perryman to confirm it. I am very excited about this turn of events," Leikam said, referring

to the founder of Worth a Dam, an advocacy group studying and protecting the beaver populations in Martinez, California.

Leikam's first record of the pair of semi-aquatic rodents gliding through the creek's waters last year was an exciting development. Beavers were once thought to never have existed here at all, according to scientists.

In 2013, Dr. Rick Lanman, a historical ecologist and president of the Los Altos-based Institute for Historical Ecology, made a stunning find — a preserved beaver skull at the Smithsonian Institution, which was collected on Saratoga Creek around 1855.

Lanman said that beavers got a new chance at returning to Santa Clara County waterways in the 1980s after being reintroduced to Los Gatos Creek near Lexington Reservoir. They began making their way northward, including to San Jose.

Beavers have been photographed at Moffett Gate; their tracks, including a tail drag in the mudflats, were photographed in Charleston Slough, just east of the Adobe Creek levee, he said at the time of the 2022 discovery in Matadero Creek. They use the salt water in San Francisco Bay to move from one freshwater tributary to another.

A colony of little beavers with the potential to inhabit San Francisquito Creek and move into adjacent San Mateo County could be a game changer, Lanman said in 2022. At a certain point, in a favorable habitat and with an open corridor, the population could jump

Beavers are beneficial to the environment, Stanford University researchers found. They may lessen damage from drought by creating a habitat that pushes water into secondary channels. Plants in these environments help filter out contaminants and purify water, improving wildlife habitats. Consequent dams could help create protective refuges for endangered fish species.

On Thursday, Aug. 24, Lanman expressed his excitement over Leikam's video.

"When Bill discovered (last year) there were two beavers in the lowest reaches of Matadero Creek, it was exciting because now we had the possibility of a mated pair in Palo Alto!" he said in an email.

"It's nearly impossible to tell a beaver's gender because they have no external genitalia, so we had to wait for kits to arrive (or not), which usually occurs in April. We waited through April, May, June, July and now in August we see a baby beaver scampering across the ground!"

For Lanman, this was particularly significant. "We had published in 2013 that beavers were native to SF Bay watersheds based on a specimen in the Smithsonian," he said.

Lanman said that Joseph Grinnell, the first director of the Berkeley Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, had published in 1937 that beavers were never there in coastal watersheds south of the Klamath River in our state, because the habitat was not suitable for them. "Well, this baby kit proves that the habitat here absolutely is suitable, in support of our publication 10



Courtesy Bill Leikam

A beaver swims in a creek in Palo Alto in September 2022.

years ago," he said.

Lanman expects the beaver population to expand in the Palo Alto Flood Basin, where both Adobe Creek and Matadero Creek come together.

"The Basin was created for flood control in 1957, after the large Christmas floods of 1955, and is kept lower than the Bay waters via a tidal gate. That way, if we get a big winter storm, instead of the two creeks overflowing in lower Palo Alto, the water can collect in the low basin," he said.

Inadvertently, they also created a wetland and creek system, of fresh- to slightly brackish- water, that is ideal for all kinds of wildlife. "And now, 63 years later, it is being naturally re-wilded by beavers."

Because the water is deep, the beavers don't have to build dams to raise the water level. Instead, they live in bank burrows with underwater entrances. The levee is too wide for beavers to undermine it, so Lanman said he sees zero risk from the furry mammals. They might dig canals, which will gradually add many side channels to the two creeks (Adobe and Matadero), creating more of the wetland habitat that many animal and bird species need to thrive.

Lanman doesn't expect the beaver to head upstream because both creeks are now concreted channels. Beavers would avoid it to prevent exposure to hawks, eagles, red foxes or coyotes.

"However, if the Basin Beaver family succeeds, then in two years there may be dispersals north to San Francisquito Creek," Lanman said, adding that this is one of the last

remaining creeks that is not a concrete flood channel. "So, we have a natural channel that beavers as well as other animals can use as a wildlife corridor to get from the Baylands to the uplands. This is likely how muskrats reached Searsville Reservoir about a decade ago, when muskrats had never been recorded there previously," he said.

When they reach shallow headwater streams of San Francisquito Creek, the beavers would build dams, as they do on Los Gatos Creek. These don't seem to cause flooding in local coastal watersheds because flash-flood storms blow them out in winter.

Turns out, salmon and steelhead go through and over beaver dams with impunity. "Steve Holmes, president of the South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition, has documented a Chinook salmon redd (nest) on the upside of a beaver dam in Los Gatos Creek a couple of years ago. Once they build headwater dams in summer, their ponds will recharge the water table and this will make some of our seasonal streams perennial," he said.

The higher water table will replenish the creeks in the dry season, which will be really good in fire season. "The beaver ponds in the uplands will also create habitat for all manner of birds, amphibians, bats, and will serve as an insect cafeteria for trout and salmon. That's why we refer to the beaver as a keystone species," Lanman said. ■

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



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COWART

continued from page 1

An opportunity to represent her parents' country of origin came to Cowart in 2013, when the Philippines national football team held a week-long training camp in Corona, California. The team was looking to build its squad for the 2014 AFC Women's Asian Cup, and a coach invited Cowart to participate.

The team was interested in Cowart, but at the time, she didn't have her dual citizenship for both the USA and the Philippines, and her Lola (grandmother) felt that she wasn't quite ready to go abroad.

It wasn't the right time then, but it got her foot in the door.

In college, Cowart played for the Washington Huskies, and after graduating in 2021, she went on to play for Turkey.

In 2022, Cowart was wrapping up her time playing for Turkey when she got a call from the same coach who had invited her to Corona back in 2013. Cowart knew the Philippines was trying to qualify for the World Cup, and the coach told her that if she wanted a shot at helping the team make it to the tournament, she should keep her 2023 summer plans open.

In the meantime, Cowart came back to California briefly to play for the California Storm, a semi-professional team, part of the Women's Premier Soccer League based in Sacramento. The team has a number of notable alumni, including Brandi Chastain, Alex Morgan and Leslie Osborne. While there, Cowart was part of the team that won the national championship in 2022. She spoke highly of her time with the Storm and of the staff there.

"They took me in after my first pro season. The coaching level there is so high. I feel like they prepared me so well," Cowart said.

Jamie Levoy, a coach and the executive director of California Storm, enjoyed having Cowart on the team.

"I feel like she made the team

better as a whole because of what she demanded from herself, and expectations of her teammates to work hard and always give their best," Levoy said.

When asked whether she had kept up with Cowart's World Cup debut, Levoy said she absolutely had been following along.

"I stayed up for every game. I cried seeing her on the field. As a coach, there's nothing better than seeing one of your players accomplish their dream," Levoy said.

Cowart's time with the California Storm was cut short, but for good reason: she finally had the opportunity to go play her first games with the Philippines team.

In the following months, she signed with the Damallsvenskan, the highest professional soccer league in Sweden. She joined the club team IFK Kalmar in January of 2023.

As months passed and summer grew closer, Cowart prepared on the field as well as off by getting her passport secured in May. The next month, she received a text saying she'd been selected for the Philippines World Cup team.

Cowart was ecstatic. She wanted to tell her parents right away, but they were in the Bay Area, fast asleep, while she celebrated alone in her apartment in Sweden. She initially planned to hold off, but then she saw a congratulatory video posted by the Philippines team's social media page. It made her cry, and after 30 minutes, she couldn't wait any longer and called them.

"I was like, you're going to wake up for this!" Cowart said, laughing.

Her dream was one step closer to being realized, but a few logistical hurdles remained. Her games in Sweden ran right up to the dates when FIFA activities started, so while the rest of the Filipina players had a month to settle in, Cowart finished her last game on June 9 and finally flew out to join them on June 10. Her luggage was briefly lost in the airport when she landed, but luckily everything was sorted out and the excitement of the games overpowered any jet lag she may have felt.



Courtesy Jamie Levoy/California Storm

Jessika Cowart played soccer for Woodside High School and University of Washington before making the leap to professional teams.

"To come straight off the plane and be immersed in the World Cup was so, so cool. I was like, 'I'm going to play in that! Oh, that's going to be me!'" Cowart said.

This year, the Philippines made history at the FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand. It was the first time the women's team ever played at the tournament, scored a goal and won a game — beating host nation New Zealand.

The moment Sarina Bolden scored that first goal was historic. "At first I was like, oh my God, I hope Serena was on side, I hope everyone was on side. And then my second thought was like, oh my God, did that just happen?" Cowart said.

She allowed herself to celebrate for a few moments, but knew there was a lot of work left to do to get a win.

"My fourth thought was like dude, we have 60 plus minutes of play left in this game. We cannot lose our heads now, we have to stay focused," she said.

She and the rest of her team did just that, defending well for the rest of the game until the final whistle blew. When it was all over, Cowart ran to hug her teammate Reina Bonta, the daughter of California Attorney General Rob Bonta.

"I wasn't gonna cry at all. And then I hugged her and I just started sobbing. To come back together after all these years at the World Cup and win our first game, I think it just hit me how big the moment was," she said.

Once she was back in the United States, Cowart went out to dinner with her grandparents. Her Lolo (grandfather) asked her if she really sang the Philippines national anthem while she was at the World Cup.

"He was like, you guys were lip syncing it weren't you? And I was like no, I know the entire anthem," she said.

He asked her to sing it for him in the middle of the restaurant, so she did.

It moved him to tears. "It really hit me how special it was to my family. To be able to represent, and bring pride to, that side of the family is super special. I'm grateful I could do that," Cowart said.

It's a privilege Cowart said she doesn't take for granted and works hard to maintain. To play her best at the professional level, Cowart spends roughly 20 hours per week in training. She usually has one game a week and practices nearly every day, typically getting just one day off per week.

It might not sound like a full-time job, but when you add up the training time, gym sessions, rest and recovery, it all stacks up. And recovery, Cowart says, is absolutely essential. By recovery, Cowart doesn't mean kicking

back on the couch all day. For her, rest and recovery includes getting enough sleep, consuming plenty of protein and continuing to move her muscles so they don't stay sore.

Besides rolling, stretching and wearing compression gear, taking ice baths, something she learned in Sweden, is also a big part of recovery.

"I hate it, but once I started doing that after games, my life changed and I automatically started feeling better," she said.

In Sweden, Cowart doesn't need to get into a tub full of ice cubes for the kind of ice bath you and I might imagine. Instead, she heads into the ocean.

"In winter, the water in Sweden is frigid, it's in the negatives. It's the perfect little eight-minute ice bath," she said.

When she's not playing, training or recovering, Cowart is studying. Her dad, who knows she's a fan of true crime, sent her a post on Instagram about Arizona State University's crime analysis program while she was still in Sweden. Now her once casual passion for true crime is turning into a path toward a master's degree in crime analysis.

"It helps, you know, being in school again. It gives me something to do when I'm done training," she said.

Balancing her online studies with activities at the World Cup was no easy feat, but Cowart said her professors were very understanding and helped her juggle deadlines with her busy international athletic schedule.

"I could have maybe waited (until) after the World Cup to do it. But I'm grateful to be able to do both at the same time. I'm really enjoying it," Cowart said.

There's still a lot on the horizon for Cowart and the Philippines team as they navigate their post-World Cup schedule. The 2023 Asian Games, which will be held in India, are coming up in September, and the Olympic qualifiers will follow in October in Australia.

Cowart said she is excited about what's next for women's soccer overall.

"It feels like change is happening, not just for me but within women's soccer. I think the number of young girls playing soccer in the world will rise sky high," she said.

Cowart said she'd also like to see more coverage of soccer games and different leagues in all parts of the world. As a woman in the realm of professional sports, Cowart is all too aware of the difficulties that female athletes face. One of those challenges is fighting for airtime and not knowing whether the games they play will be televised.

"It's scenarios like those that

See COWART, page 11

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COWART

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really only happen to female sports and it's like, well, what are we doing wrong? These are the best moments of our lives; we want people to witness them and be part of them. What needs to change for it to just be the standard to televise female sports, at the very least the World Cup?" Cowart said.

For a few countries, the Philippines included, this was a concern. In the end, the Philippines did air their games,

and Cowart is hopeful that the number of viewers from this World Cup will help grow the game everywhere.

"I think the numbers (of viewers) from this tournament will help, definitely. But it's so strange to me that that was even an option — that we just weren't going to air the World Cup."

Cowart and her teammates also had to worry about their social media accounts; she, and the rest of the team, had to add monitoring security to their social media profiles to filter out negative and hateful comments.

"And it's like, when have you ever heard of a male athlete having to do that? Like sure they get hate, but they don't get the amount of hate that female athletes do. It's kind of ridiculous," Cowart said.

Cowart knows it's an issue that doesn't just impact women's professional soccer.

"The comment section is a dark place to be in for sure," Cowart added. "It's definitely something you have to battle as a female athlete, not just in soccer but everywhere."

Knowing that, Cowart likes to

uplift women in sports whenever she can. And despite the challenges, Cowart said she knows the voices of supporters are always going to be louder than negative comments. The support helps, and it fuels her excitement for what's ahead for both her and her Filipina teammates.

"Obviously I'm excited for the rest of my career," she said, "But I am really excited to see how the game grows and changes." ■

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 6

San Mateo County Youth Climate Ambassador Program seeks applicants

The San Mateo County Youth Climate Ambassador Program is taking applications for the seven-month program, which runs from October 2023 to April 2024. It's open to all students in grades 9-12 who live in the county. The program aims to expand students' knowledge about climate change solutions and will include a final project that will create positive environmental change within their school or community.

The application deadline is Friday, Sept. 15.

Find the application and more information at smcsustainability.org.

—*Michaela Seah*

BUS ACCESS

continued from page 5

On Aug. 15, town officials met with two Girl Scout troops that hold camps at Huddart Park, as well as the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks, County Supervisor Ray Mueller, county parks officials and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department to reach an agreement.

For small groups with just one to two buses that cannot obtain vehicles under 35 feet in length, the county Parks Department will provide a pilot car to safely guide the buses into the park, said Kevin Bryant, Woodside's town manager.

"These small programs take

place mostly during the school year," Bryant said in an email. "For summer camps, which have many buses (this year the number was between seven and 12) arriving and departing at the same time, the Sheriff's Department will conduct short road closures to allow the buses passage from Entrance Way to the Huddart Park entrance."

Bryant said the town encourages groups to use buses smaller than 35 feet long when possible, but also recognizes that smaller buses are less cost-effective and harder to find.

"I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who attended and embraced the spirit of cooperation," Bryant said of the Aug. 15 meeting.

Peninsula Day Camp Director Monica Curtis said that overall, she's satisfied with the solution that was reached, though she's not sure how sustainable it will be in the long run.

"I still have issue with the ordinance in general, because it's still a barrier: It's another hoop people have to jump through to access the park," Curtis said. "I'm glad we have a solution, it really does take a lot of the pressure off. We know camp won't be impacted. But if anybody changed their mind at Woodside, we would just be in the same situation we were in before."

Curtis said she's thankful to the county for offering resources to make the proposed solution

work, such as pilot cars for smaller groups and the commitment from the Sheriff's Office to implement short road closures to allow buses to pass through.

"We all decided to move forward with what is the best way to get buses in, and that was thanks to San Mateo County really stepping in and facilitating that, and really trying to ensure it happened," Curtis said. "I think there's still, between San Mateo County and Woodside, working out some of the details to make sure no bus starts driving there that is unaware of the rules." ■

*Email Staff Writer Malea
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With visitors on the rise, Palo Alto eyes safety improvements at Foothills Nature Preserve

New plan calls for a pathway through the park and new parking areas

By Gennady Sheyner

When Palo Alto expanded access to Foothills Park in December 2020, nature lovers leapt at the chance to visit the pristine preserve, which was formerly limited to the city's residents and their visitors.

According to city staff, about 202,000 visitors went to what is now known as Foothills Nature Preserve in 2022, about 40% more than the historic average. Whether families gathering by Boronda Lake, sightseers snapping photos on Vista Hill, runners huffing along Los Trancos Trail or picnickers congregating at the Oak Grove area, the nature preserve has seen a boost in popularity.

More visitors, however, also means more demand for parking, more speeding vehicles and more pedestrians straying off the official paths and into sensitive areas, according to city staff.

These problems are at the heart of Palo Alto's latest improvement project at Foothills Nature Preserve, an effort that includes



Magali Gauthier

The lake at Foothills Nature Preserve in Palo Alto.

new crosswalks and stop signs, increased fencing along trails and reconfigured parking at Boronda Lake and Vista Hill.

The plan has been in the works for more than two years, a product of meetings by a stakeholder group that included, among others, the nonprofits organizations Grassroots Ecology, Friends of Foothills Park, and the Stanford University Haas Center for Public Service. The Parks and Recreation Commission, which

discussed the improvements at its meeting Tuesday night, Aug. 22, also had two representatives on the group.

Daren Anderson, assistant director in the Community Services Department, said the recent uptick in visitations has underscored the need for improving safety conditions in the preserve, where drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists are currently forced to share relatively narrow roads.

Staff are also concerned about

the number of people walking off trails, a problem that they've tried to solve by installing temporary barriers.

While these stakes and ropes proved somewhat effective, Anderson said the city needs a long-term way to protect the sensitive areas.

"We need real split rail that stays up and fits in aesthetically," Anderson said.

A key component in the package of improvements is a creation of a new pedestrian path that will stretch from the west end of the nature preserve to the east and roughly run along the length of the existing road.

The path would go from the Oak Grove Picnic Area in the west to Lake Boronda in the east, according to a map provided by the city. A separate path, just north Boronda Lake, would allow pedestrians to easily walk from the lake to Vista Hill in the north part of the preserve.

Peter Jensen, landscape architect with the Public Works Department, said the goal is to "create a defined and continuous pathway" through the park. "Right now, mostly people who are walking through it go down the road and it's just not setting up the best circumstances," Jensen said at the meeting.

Most of the changes center on the area around Boronda Lake, which is the most popular parking area in the park. In addition to installing the split-rail fencing and making two new pathways that will connect the lake to Vista Hill and Oak Grove Picnic Area, the city is preparing to create a parking lot near the northern portion of the lake with 19 stalls.

Because this lot would be set back from the main entry points to the lake, a pathway will be added to make pedestrian access easier.

The new lots will replace most of the parking spots that previously existed along the side of the road but that the city has eliminated in the past two years to improve safety and protect sensitive areas.

The new configuration would take the total number of parking spots from 355 to 360 spaces, though that's still shy of the roughly 400 spots that existed before 2020.

According to a report from Anderson, most of the parking reductions occurred at the entrance to the preserve and in areas where the road is too narrow to accommodate parking.

Other components of the new Foothills plan aim to slow down

cars. The city plans to paint crosswalks and put up stop signs near Boronda Lake. It will also install speed bumps along the main road, in areas where long straightaways make the roads inviting for speeders.

One such area, west of Boronda Lake, will also see new curbs dividing the road from the pedestrian path.

"I think this is going to really aid and address that speeding-vehicle issue," Anderson said of the various traffic-calming measures.

The commission broadly supported the proposal, which will still require City Council approval before the city goes out to bid on a contractor.

Some members proposed other ideas, including stricter time limitations on parking at Vista Hill and other high-traffic areas and narrowing of some road. But the commission generally agreed that the approach proposed by the stakeholder group and adopted by staff will improve conditions in the nature preserve.

"I look at this as a little bit of an investment to maintain that natural environment with the increased visitation, knowing it's part of a multi-pronged approach," Vice Chair Amanda Brown said. "We have these physical changes, but it is also complemented by the education and enforcement done by our park ranger staff, and we appreciate that."

Commissioner Anne Cribbs, who had previously served on the Foothills stakeholder group, concurred and encouraged the city to also consider improvements to the Interpretive Center at the preserve.

She lauded the efforts by environmental advocates and city officials in advancing the proposed improvements, which the city plans to implement over the next year.

"It's really wonderful to see this come from where it started and the work that has been done by so many people — the stakeholders and the community," Cribbs said.

Chair Jeff Greenfield, a member of the stakeholder group, also supported the plan, though he noted that the removal of roadside parking near Boronda Lake will require some visitors to do a little more walking after they park.

"We'll provide more parking for people overall but it's not quite as convenient as in the past," Greenfield said. "I expect there will be some frustration for visitors who were able to park at the edge of the lake but not anymore." ■

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CRIME BRIEFS

continued from page 6

Wendy Margaret Wood

May 25, 1962 – July 4, 2023

We are heartbroken to share news of the sudden death of our beloved younger sister, Wendy Wood, who passed away on the 4th of July following a stroke.

Wendy Margaret Wood was born on May 25, 1962 at Stanford Hospital to the late Bob and Barbara Wood of Menlo Park. Wendy was the youngest of three daughters. She was a spunky, curious,



creative child who loved the outdoors. She was a strong reader, and would walk home from school up the steep hills of Sharon Heights with her nose in a book. Wendy was a competitive gymnast throughout grade school. She was a ball of muscle and when practicing backflips, she'd soar high above the other gymnasts.

Wendy attended La Entrada Middle School and Woodside High School where she acted in school plays, participated in student government, and was a cheerleader. Following graduation from UC Santa Barbara, Wendy's spirit of adventure landed her in Lake Tahoe and Whistler, BC where she taught skiing and was a great role model for aspiring skiers.

Wendy lived in San Francisco for many years, where she worked in catering and earned a baking certificate from the California Culinary Academy. Her next stop was St. Petersburg, Florida, where she and her boyfriend started a subscription-based newsletter with lifestyle tips for people over 50.

In 2015, Wendy returned to Menlo Park to care for our elderly parents, bringing joy and enrichment to their lives. She hosted birthday and holiday celebrations and planned visits to Filoli, Cantor Arts Center, Gamble Gardens, Allied Arts, Carmel, and to plays at local theaters. She also initiated trips to Pollock Pines to visit our father's beloved sister, Margaret Wyman. In her spare time, Wendy could be found in the kitchen producing a fresh batch of cookies, trying out a new soup recipe, or pulling a casserole from the freezer to feed friends and family.

Wendy loved to travel and throughout her life, she visited many U.S. destinations, Europe, and Mexico City. One of her favorite journeys was a trip to Cuba with our father, where she fell in love with renowned artist Frida Kahlo. Fittingly, her final adventure was a ski trip to Lake Tahoe with her beloved dog, Belle Star.

Wendy was beautiful, passionate, free-spirited and she made friends easily. She was often the brightest light in the room. She had moved to Half Moon Bay following the death of our father in April of this year. Although Wendy had struggled throughout her life, she was enjoying her new phase at the coast when she left us way too soon. She will be remembered for her creativity, boundless energy, and generosity.

Wendy is survived by her sisters, Carol Arvidsson (Pär), Sally Wood Williams (Mark), nephews Erik Arvidsson, Karl Arvidsson, Jackson Williams and niece, Elissa Williams. She is survived by her best friend, Mimi Roosli, her "forever friend", Doug Goldberg, many life long friends and her beloved family at St. Bedes Episcopal Church in Menlo Park. A Celebration of Life will take place on October 8th at 5pm at Filoli Gardens in Woodside. In lieu of flowers, the family is grateful for donations in Wendy's name to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Silicon Valley. <https://www.shfb.org/give-help/donate-food/>

PAID OBITUARY

June Paula Diller

June 27, 1937 – July 8, 2023

June Paula Diller passed away peacefully at home on July 8, 2023. She was 86 years old.

June was born in Providence, Rhode Island to Hebert and Etta Nyberg. For the next 18 years she lived in Warwick, Rhode Island where she was a very active girl scout and an outstanding student and participated in the state science fair.

In 1955, she won a statewide competition and received a full scholarship to attend Brown University's Pembroke College for Women where she majored in Psychology.

She graduated Phi Beta Kappa. In 1958 she married her high school sweetheart Jim Diller.

After graduation, June and Jim moved to Wakefield, Massachusetts where Jim worked in the semiconductor industry.

Over the next few years their two sons, Jim the third, and Jeff were born. In 1963, the family moved to San Rafael, California when Jim joined Fairchild Semiconductor. Over the next five years, she was busy being a mom, learning tennis, and doing volunteer work at the local schools. In 1968, the family moved to Hong Kong where Jim was running a Fairchild factory.

This is where June's life really changed. She fell in love with Chinese brush painting and Chinese antiques. She started collecting antiques and studied brush painting. This only lasted for a short time when just a year later Jim's career took the family to Germany where they lived in a small town just outside of Munich. This was a wonderful experience for June and the family. Within 3 months, the kids were speaking German and she had made friends with people in the village and many of these friendships continue today through three generations.

In 1971, the family moved back to California, buying a home in Portola Valley. Again, this did not last very long. Jim's career took the family to Singapore, where they lived for two years. During this time, she studied Chinese brush painting under a master teacher and produced many works that hang in the family homes. She also continued her search for Chinese antiques.

In 1975, the family moved back to Portola Valley and purchased their current home. At that point she became very active in the Peninsula volunteers and a docent at the Stanford museum. She also started her own Chinese antique business. She would fly to Hong Kong twice a year and visit her network of small dealers where she would purchase her antiques. She would then take the hydrofoil to Macau and do the same thing. All her suppliers would then send her items to a shipper in Hong Kong who would ship them to her home in Portola Valley. She would then sell them to friends and neighbors. The word spread very quickly what great stuff she had, and she built a large customer base who would wait for the next shipment. Also, during this time, she would make Chinese jewelry which she would also sell to the customers.

She also loved to travel. She and Jim went to Antarctica and the North Pole as well as the Middle East, New Zealand, Australia and probably her favorite, Southern Africa. The family loved to sail and took many trips where the family rented a sailboat which they sailed themselves in the Caribbean as well as Tahiti, the Greek Islands, and many other trips.

June leaves behind her loving family; Jim, husband of 64 years, son Jim Jr. and his wife Carrie, son Jeff and his wife Natalie and grandchildren James Patrick, Devon, Peter, and Lauren.

She had a wonderful life and will be terribly missed.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to Peninsula Bridge or the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula.



PAID OBITUARY

metal guardrail and came to rest between the southbound lanes numbers one and two. At some point in the sequence of events, the Volkswagen rolled over.

A 2013 Honda, driven by a 31-year-old San Jose resident, was also heading south on 280 and approached the State Route 92 overpass in the number one lane at about 75 miles per hour. It collided with the Volkswagen, the CHP reported in a press release. Both the driver and his passenger, also a 31-year-old San Jose resident, got out of their car.

Medical personnel and multiple units from the Redwood City CHP responded to multiple 911 calls about the collisions. The driver of the Volkswagen was declared dead at the scene. The CHP states that it is unknown whether the woman was under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the crash.

The Honda driver has been cleared of having any impairment from alcohol or drugs, the CHP stated. His passenger was taken by ambulance to Stanford Hospital after reporting she was experiencing pain.

The investigation continues, and CHP is asking that individuals who witnessed the collision contact Redwood City CHP Officer E. Jimenez at 650-779-2700.

—Redwood City Pulse staff

Palo Alto Domino's Pizza catches fire

The Cambridge Avenue building that houses the Domino's Pizza in Palo Alto was singed on Tuesday afternoon, Aug. 29, by a fire that broke out near the hood and spread through the ceiling.

The fire at 250 Cambridge Ave. was reported at about 3:20 p.m. Within 10 minutes, Palo Alto firefighters had arrived at the scene and extinguished the flames, limiting the damage and preventing the building from being fully engulfed.

Meninder Singh, manager at Domino's, said the fire appears to have originated near the exhaust hood and was spreading along the ceiling when he left the building. He said he quickly left the building after being alerted by someone else about the fire.

"There was a lot of fire at the top," Singh said.

With smoke coming out of the building, fire crews went inside with a hose and snuffed out the fire before it spread to other portions of the building, though the extent of the damage wasn't immediate clear.

—Gennady Sheyner

MACNIVEN

continued from page 5

easy choice. If Silicon Valley were a wheel, MacNiven and Buck's would be the grease.

"When you think about the Silicon Valley and the creativity that's necessary to create these businesses that have basically changed the world, you have to have places where people can meet and have those very fertile meetings," Postel said. "He has been right in the middle of all that. And it's not just that he provided the space, but he was a character of Silicon Valley."

For MacNiven, Buck's is "an art gallery full of amazing people that happens to serve food." The entire restaurant is adorned with quirky relics, from a Russian spacesuit to a 110-foot mural that wraps around the restaurant. MacNiven said his favorite piece that he's collected for the restaurant is a pictograph of a sawfish shark.

"It's painted by some South Sea islanders who tell this story," MacNiven said. "It's 4 feet long and it's got all these pictures of a trip they took through the South Seas. My grandfather got it from Jack London's widow's estate back in the '50s."

It's these little slices of history that make Buck's such a memorable place to visit, combined with the knowledge that some of the biggest names in tech got their start around the diner's no-fuss tables.

Just about when COVID-19 hit, MacNiven decided it was time to pass the family business

down to his sons, freeing up time for him to try out other ventures that fit right in with MacNiven's eccentric personality.

"I helped found a clinic in Mexico where we're treating Navy Seals with some very esoteric psychedelics for PTSD and trauma," MacNiven said. "I'm executive producing a film about that with Participant Media, who did 'An Inconvenient Truth.' So I have the time to do these other creative things that I wouldn't have had time for if I was still running Buck's."

Attendees at this year's History Makers dinner will have a chance to learn more about MacNiven's latest adventures as well as his past ones. The event will be held Friday, Sept. 22, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency in Burlingame, and tickets can be purchased from the San Mateo County Historical Association's website.

The event will start with a cocktail reception followed by dinner, a brief live auction and "a special film created by the Historical Association describing the life and times of Mr. MacNiven," the event page states.

Historical Association President Postel said the event is known to sell out from time to time, so he encouraged the community to get their tickets as soon as possible. Proceeds from the event help to fund the Association's work. ■

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



Sammy Dallal

Jamis MacNiven, the founder of Buck's restaurant in Woodside, in 2019.

Public Notices

THEVDG 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)

under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/05/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 25 2023.
(ALM Sep 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2023)

LINK ED SOLUTIONS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294971
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Link Ed Solutions, located at 6 Skyline Drive, Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
Linked Solutions LLC
3315 S. Cobb Drive,
Smyrna, GA 30081-8501
Georgia
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 03 2023.
(ALM Sep 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2023)

AV CAPITAL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-295156
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) AV Capital, located at 25 Dwight Rd. Burlingame, CA 94010.
Registered owner(s):
AV CAPITAL LLC
25 Dwight Rd. Burlingame, CA 94010
Burlingame, CA 94010
CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/21/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 22 2023.
(ALM Sep 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2023)

DESIGN BUILD GROUP
ISMAIL PROPERTIES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-295189
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Design Build Group, 2.) Ismail Properties, located at 1121 Hopkins Ave., Unit B, Redwood City, CA 94062.
Registered owner(s):
AMER ISMAIL
1121 Hopkins Ave., Unit B
Redwood City, CA 94062
ALAA ISMAIL
1121 Hopkins Ave., Unit B
Redwood City, CA 94062
MIMI ISMAIL
1121 Hopkins Ave., Unit B
Redwood City, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: Co-Partners.
Registrant commenced to transact business

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)

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)

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)

The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.

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

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

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Armand Lareau, 80, a Yountville resident who served in the Air Force and later as a police officer in California cities including Menlo Park, and who enjoyed traveling and camping, on June 3.

Donna Prudence, 76, a Los Altos Hills resident who moved to the Bay Area and opened a Kentucky Fried Chicken in Palo Alto in 1966, and who built connections with customers over the course of 34 years before her retirement in 2001, on Aug. 14.

Joan Wrenn, 80, a long-time Palo Alto resident who switched careers to work in education and joined the guidance department at Palo Alto High School, was an avid collector of botanical prints and salt cellars, and whose extensive travels included Antarctica, on Aug. 17.

Cathryn Young, 76, who worked for the CIA

in Washington, D.C., after college, and later for Bank of America, where she was involved with the introduction of the country's first ATM machine, eventually moving to Palo Alto where she lived for nearly 50 years, on July 27.

Margaret Gould, 85, a Los Altos Hills resident who worked as an accountant while also playing an active role for local nonprofits, and who volunteered for groups including the Los Altos Community Foundation, the El Camino YMCA and the Los Altos Aquatic Club, on May 7.

Joan Meyn, 93, a Palo Alto resident who was active with St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, loved Stanford football and hosted summer camps for her grandchildren, on July 30.

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

Community steps up to support Kepler's book drive for kids in Santa Clara County courts

Summer book drive netted around 1,000 donated books

By Michaela Seah

This summer, shoppers at Kepler's Books in Menlo Park donated around 1,000 books to benefit youth in Santa Clara County Juvenile and Family Court.

The book drive, which ran from June to the end of August, encouraged shoppers to donate books that were either lightly used or bought new at Kepler's,

located at 1010 El Camino Real. From there, they went to a bookshelf in Santa Clara County Family Court in San Jose where they are offered for free to children and teens in Family Court and Juvenile Court.

Steve Preminger, the director of the Santa Clara County Office of Strategic and Intergovernmental Affairs, has been driving the bins of books

to the courthouse in his car all summer.

In addition to the book drive, Preminger also ran a toy drive for the children in Family Court that inspired him to collaborate with Sally Lieber, a member of the State Board of Equalization and former Mountain View mayor, who had worked with Kepler's on book drives for women's prisons and homeless shelters pre-pandemic.

"The theme of the Family Court is that usually ... is when parents are not getting along well, to say the least," Preminger said.

"Then kids get dragged along and the kids are usually sad, uptight and unhappy. And having a book that they can read either in the court or to take home sometimes can be a real salvation for them," Preminger said.

There have been talks about expanding the drive to Santa Clara County Family Justice centers and San Mateo County in the future, as well as efforts to revive previously existing book donation programs, such as the library at the women's jail at Elmwood, according to Lieber.

"We're really pleased that Kepler's has, once again, stood up like that, they have consistently for many years now," Lieber said. "It's fantastic that the community is so generous with books." ■

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

SEQUOIA PARKING

continued from page 7

that is disabled-designated; a lot with 26 to 50 parking slots would require two designated spots, and so on, according to the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and the California building code.

The ADA requires that disabled parking and other amenities such as access ramps be located at the nearest entrance to each parking lot, so spaces located in a garage on the opposite side of the building wouldn't necessarily comply with the

law. The law also requires each parking lot to have the required ADA-compliant spots.

Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto and Kaiser Permanente in Redwood City both have ADA-compliant parking spots near their ERs. Kaiser has one patient drop-off location designated for people with disabilities about 50 feet from the ER doors and four ADA-compliant spaces, in addition to at least one for pregnant women, in the parking lot closest to the door. Stanford has at least two parking spots designated for people with disabilities in its small lot

close to the doors of its ER.

Rutledge said the Sequoia ER parking lot, which has a flat portion at the top, also doesn't have any accessible-designated spots.

"Even worse than the lack of disabled parking spaces at the level top, was the lack of curb cuts, onto and off of the sidewalk leading down to the ER entrance, forcing the person in the wheelchair onto and into the one-way street that leads to the ER from Whipple Avenue. They really need some portable ramps out there until they get something more permanent," she said.

Rutledge added, "It's so inexcusable and so dangerous. That incline, in a manual chair, trying to control the chair from running away from you, is just outrageous. However, you're so close to the ER, so just in case the chair gets away from you and you crash into the asphalt, at least you wouldn't have to pay for an ambulance ride."

In a statement, Dignity Health said that ADA-accessible parking near the emergency department was originally removed to create a COVID-19 testing drive-through during the pandemic. The area is near a back entrance to the hospital that has since been closed off to increase the safety of patients and staff.

COVID-19 testing drive-throughs, Rutledge noted, ended a long time ago.

"Sequoia Hospital is working with an architect to develop a plan for new accessible parking near the entrance of the emergency department. Safety and access is our top priority and our security officers are available 24/7 to assist patients with disabilities until a permanent solution has been identified. Patients with disabilities are advised to pull up adjacent to the emergency department ambulance bay and request assistance from an on-site security team member," Dignity Health said.

There's no signage, however,

instructing patients with disabilities about these procedures.

As far as Rutledge is concerned, Sequoia hasn't made temporary accommodations for people with disabilities.

When she was at the ER with Derek, she wanted to talk to a patient advocate about the parking situation. Security personnel eventually called someone, but they instructed her to walk around the building to the main entrance on the other side of the campus to meet them. Security wouldn't let her walk through the building. Instead, she would have to walk downslope to get to the other side. She would also have to leave her disabled son in the ER with an assistant who couldn't authorize care, she said.

Rutledge has two hip replacements and couldn't walk up and down the hill. She eventually drove to the main entrance to wait for someone to speak with about the parking situation.

As far as Rutledge is concerned, Sequoia hasn't made temporary accommodations for people with disabilities.

"There is no excuse for it. It's their job to stay compliant with the law. There is a person to blame here. It needs to not go on for another day," she said. ■

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



Town of Atherton

Town Administrative Offices
80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, California 94027
650-752-0500 | Fax 650-688-6528

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of an Ordinance to add Section 12.06.030-D and Chapter 12.10 related to maintenance responsibilities for property owners near public rights of way and public sidewalks.

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,506897786# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us

Description: The City Council is considering adding Section 12.06.030-D and Chapter 12.10 related to maintenance responsibilities for property owners near public rights of way and public sidewalks. The purpose of this Ordinance is to clarify maintenance responsibilities on the owners of property adjacent to public rights of way and to impose liability on owners of property adjacent to public sidewalks for injuries suffered. A copy of the City Council staff report and draft Ordinance can be found online, by Friday, September 15, 2023 here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

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

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said application is set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on **September 20, 2023, at 6:00 PM** via in-person and teleconference accessible through the above-described information, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the amendments should or should not be approved. The initial hearing was scheduled for July 19, 2023, which was continued to the September 20th Council meeting.

IF YOU CHALLENGE any actions taken to adopt an Ordinance adding Section 12.06.030-D and Chapter 12.10 in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing.

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

Date Published: September 1, 2023

Date Posted: September 1, 2023

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL

/s/ Anthony Suber

Anthony Suber, City Clerk



Sequoia Hospital's emergency room.

Sue Dremann

Fall Class Guide: Make the most of autumn



By **Michaela Seah**

What better way to embrace the cooler weather and autumn leaves this fall than by learning a new skill or delving back into an old hobby? From fitness to the arts, the Midpeninsula has a wide variety of classes this season that is sure to catch your attention.

Want to learn golf one-on-one from a professional? Or perhaps how to cook a delicious new dish? Or maybe try a new workout with an instructor at the gym? All of

that, and more, can become a reality this season.

Whether through after-school programs, adult school courses or senior center activities, people of all ages have the opportunity to stay active and learn a new skill this season.

The Fall Class Guide offers in-person, remote and hybrid courses, as well as important registration information to help get you started on a new endeavor this fall.

The Class Guide is published quarterly by the Palo Alto Weekly and The Almanac.

Dance

Dance Connection

Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto / 650-322-7032 / info@danceconnectionpaloalto.com / danceconnectionpaloalto.com

Dance Connection offers a preschool combination class for preschool-age children (beginning at age 3), graded classes for youth and adults and other programs to meet dancers' needs. Ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, lyrical, Pilates and other instruction are available for students at various levels of ability. Fall classes started on Aug. 14; registration is ongoing.

Mannakin Theater and Dance

en Avant School of Dance, 1841 Bay Road, East Palo Alto / 415-519-7171 / info@mannakindance.org / mannakindance.org

Mannakin Theater and Dance offers ballet and dance classes at its new en Avant School of Dance studio in East Palo Alto, which opened in March 2022. Youth between the ages of 3 and 14 can enroll in ballet and folklorico classes for the following school year. Registration is open and classes are held from now to May 31.

Stanford Quads

3300 Alpine Road, Portola Valley / stanfordquads.org/class

Learn to square dance. It's fun for singles, couples and families with teens. Sunday evenings 6:30-8:30 p.m. The first two nights (Sept. 17 and 24) are free. The group meets at Ladera Community Church.

Victoria Ballet

370 California Ave., Palo Alto / 650-720-2643 / webmaster@victoriaballet.dance / victoriaballet.dance

At this new ballet studio, students from age 4 to adult are

learning the art of dance from instructor Victoria Lee and other dance faculty who have danced professionally with the San Francisco Ballet. The classes offered include all experience levels — from beginners who have never stepped up to the barre to pre-professional dancers. Classes run from now through May. Level 5.5 and Level 4.5 are full. Registration is open.

Zohar School of Dance & Company

Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Room L-4, Palo Alto / 650-494-8221 / zohardance@gmail.com / zohardancecompany.org

With roots going back to 1979, Zohar School of Dance holds a range of adult dance classes in jazz, contemporary, modern, ballet, musical theater and tap. Fall workshops include voice building from Sept. 12 to Oct. 17 and a contemporary workshop on Oct. 14 and 21. Registration for workshops and ongoing dance classes for adults of all skill levels is now open.

Sports

Baylands Golf Links

1875 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto / 650-856-0881 / baylandsgolflinks.com

Private lessons teaching golf techniques, rules and etiquette are available for sign-up at any level of experience throughout the year.

Kim Grant Tennis Academy

3005 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto / 650-752-8061 / admin@kimgranttennis.com / kimgranttennis.com

The Kim Grant Tennis Academy organizes an array of tennis classes and programs for adults and children, including those with special needs. Fall classes for adults and youth run from now to Nov. 5. Registration is open.

United States Youth Volleyball League

550 Sylvan Ave., Mountain View / 310-212-7008 / info@usyvl.org / usyvl.org/locations/palo-alto

Run by the league and volunteers, the youth volleyball program teaches youth ages 7-15 of all skill levels to play and learn the sport in a fun, supportive and co-ed environment. Fall classes are held from Sept. 13 to Nov. 4. Registration is open.

Health & Fitness

Equinox

440 Portage Ave., Palo Alto / 650-319-1700 / equinox.com/clubs/northern-california/paloalto

Equinox's Palo Alto location offers a variety of fitness and wellness activities including yoga, cycling and high-intensity interval training classes. Indoor and outdoor classes are available.

One Heart Yoga

Portola Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley / oneheartyyoga.com

One Heart Yoga offers weekly classes in Kundalini yoga and meditation, aimed at helping students increase flexibility and strength and learn breathing techniques to calm and focus and reduce anxiety and depression. Hybrid (in-person and online) classes take place on Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m.

Taijiquan Tutelage of Palo Alto

Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Room U-7, Palo Alto / 650-327-9350 / mjchan@ttopa.com / ttopa.com

At Taijiquan Tutelage of Palo Alto, established in 1973, students learn the classical Yang Style Taijiquan Slow Form style of tai

chi. Sunday outdoor classes take place at Rinconada Park, 777 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. A new beginners class will run on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Cubberley Community Center starting Sept. 7.

Older adults

Avenidas

Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Room H-5, Palo Alto / 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto / 650-289-5400 / info@avenidas.org / avenidas.org

Avenidas offers many classes, as well as lectures and workshops, for Midpeninsula seniors focusing on topics such as general health, physical fitness, languages, humanities, computing, music and writing. Classes are held in person, online via Zoom or are a hybrid of both, and run throughout the fall.

Little House Activity Center

800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park / 650-272-5000 / lpvi.org/littlehouse

Little House Activity Center offers classes for adults of all ages on various topics and activities, including health and wellness for seniors; fitness exercises like line dancing and Pilates; ceramics, drawing and other arts; languages; history and culture; and computer skills. Check the website for the calendar of classes.

Culture clubs

Joy Culture Foundation

934 Santa Cruz Ave., Suite A, Menlo Park / 650-272-6915 / info@thejoyculturefoundation.org / thejoyculturefoundation.org

The nonprofit Joy Culture Foundation operates the Little Bookworm Library to provide families a place to immerse in

Chinese culture and language. The center has children's books in Mandarin and English available for check out, as well as bilingual language and culture classes. Classes and activities for children and their families are offered throughout fall.

Music & arts

Community School of Music and Arts

Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View / 650-917-6800 / info@arts4all.org / arts4all.org

The Community School of Music and Arts offers year-round classes in music, visual and digital arts, with courses suited for adults and children as young as preschool-age. Fall classes run from Sept. 5 to Dec. 9. Students are encouraged to sign up for classes at least two weeks in advance.

EPACenter

1950 Bay Road, East Palo Alto / 650-313-2626 / epacenter.org

The EPACenter opened its doors in spring 2022. The 25,000-square-foot space offers a wide range of artistic disciplines for youth ages 6-25. Students can participate in classes such as character design, drawing, culinary arts, digital music production, drumming, guitar, hip-hop, painting, piano, ukulele, 3D clay forms and more. Fall classes run Sept. 9-Dec. 9.

Music Together Menlo Park

75 Arbor Road, Suite N, Menlo Park / 650-799-1624 / admin@mt-mp.com / mt-mp.com

Music Together Menlo Park holds classes exploring music and movement for children from birth

See **FALL CLASS GUIDE**, page 19

FALL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

CAPTIVATING DANCE

By Nona

Classes start September 5th

Offering ballet, jazz, lyrical, tap, hip hop, contemporary, and tumbling

2 Studio Locations
1923 Menlo Ave Menlo Park | 3536 Alameda De Las Pulgas Menlo Park
www.captivatingdancebynona.com



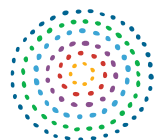
PRIVATE SCHOOL PREVIEWS

What do you wonder?

At Ventana School, we believe in the **infinite potential of the confident, curious child**. Our Reggio-inspired **preschool and elementary** program nurtures children's wonder, creativity, and collaboration while fostering critical thinking skills and building strong academic foundations.



*Serving Students from
Preschool to 5th Grade*



**Ventana
School**



admissions@ventanaschool.org

1040 Border Road
Los Altos, CA 94024
(650) 948-2121



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Fall Class Guide: Make the most of autumn

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up to age 5 and their guardians at the Allied Arts Guild. Mixed-age music classes run Sept. 11-Nov. 20.

New Mozart School of Music

2100 El Camino Real, Suite C, Palo Alto / 650-324-2373
info@newmozartschool.com
newmozartschool.com

New Mozart School of Music offers music lessons year-round to students of all ages and abilities. Piano, violin, viola, cello, voice, guitar, flute and early childhood music classes are available.

Pacific Art League

668 Ramona St., Palo Alto / 650-321-3891 / info@pacificartleague.org
pacificartleague.org

The classes and workshops at the Pacific Art League are taught by qualified and experienced instructors for children and adults with varying experience. Instructors teach many mediums, including drawing, painting, watercolor, digital art and more. In-person and live online classes are offered year-round.

Palo Alto Art Center

1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto / 650-329-2366 / artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org / cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Community-Services/Arts-Sciences/Palo-Alto-Art-Center

Palo Alto Art Center classes and workshops for children, teens and adults cover such areas as ceramics, painting, drawing, jewelry, sculpture, Adobe PhotoShop and more. Fall classes and workshops start on Sep. 9.

School days

Amigos de Palo Alto

1611 Stanford Ave., Palo Alto / 650-493-4300 / info@amigosdepaloalto.com / amigosdepaloalto.com

Amigos de Palo Alto is a Spanish-immersion preschool for children 2 1/2 and older. Students are a mix of native and new Spanish speakers and the program combines reading, writing, art and play to develop a love of learning. Amigos also offers Spanish-immersion after-school programs for kindergartners with some Spanish experience during the school year. Registration is open.

Emerson School

2800 W. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto / 650-424-1221 / vbarberis@headsip.org / emersonmontessori.com

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Kehillah Jewish High School

3900 Fabian Way, Palo Alto / 650-213-9600 / admissions@kehillah.org
kehillah.org

This college-preparatory high school (grades 9 through 12) features modern science and computer labs, art and music studios, a drama program, a full range of academic courses with small class sizes, sports teams and more. Visit the website for a virtual open house and to register for the 2024-25 school year.

Learning Links

3864 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto / 650-618-3342 / enroll@learninglinks.org / learninglinks.org

Learning Links, formerly Milestones Preschool, offers year-round programs for junior preschool and preschool, pre-kindergarten and special education students to foster social, emotional, cognitive and physical development. Enrollment is open and open houses are available.

Lydian Academy

815 El Camino Real, Menlo Park / 650-699-6399 / staff@lydianlink.com / lydianacademy.com

Lydian Academy is a middle and high school offering year-round individualized instruction to prepare students for college. Lessons include a mix of one-on-one teaching and group sessions. It also offers tutoring and after-school programs. Both in-person and online instruction is available. Registration is open.

Mustard Seed Learning Center

950 Amarillo Ave., Palo Alto / 650-494-7389 / info@mustardseedlearningcenter.org
mustardseedlearningcenter.org

Mustard Seed Learning Center is an after-school tutoring and care program that teaches local youth to speak Mandarin Chinese, in addition to emphasizing social development and excellence in mathematics, science, arts and music. After school programs are held at 3048 Price Court, Palo Alto and Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. The center also offers a preschool program that takes place at the Price Court address.

Peninsula School

920 Peninsula Way, Menlo Park / 650-325-1584 / info@peninsulaschool.org
peninsulaschool.org

Peninsula School is a progressive institution teaching students from nursery through eighth grade, with an emphasis on choice and experience. Classes cover core subjects as well as instruction in music, physical education, drama, ceramics, woodshop and more. In-person and online instruction

options are available. The school is accepting applications for the 2023-24 school year.

Disability services

Bay Area Friendship Circle

3921 Fabian Way, Suite A023, Palo Alto / 650-858-6990 / info@bayareaafc.org / bayareaafc.org

The Bay Area Friendship Circle offers programs for children, teens and young adults with special needs ages 2 to 22 year-round as well as a summer camp program. Trained teen volunteers provide one-on-one friendship and support. Fall programs start on Oct. 29. Registration is open.

Something for everyone

JobTrain

1200 O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park / 650-330-6429 / info@jobtrainworks.org / jobtrainworks.org

JobTrain has a variety of training programs for adults — providing instruction in the culinary arts, business administration, health care, web technology, construction and other fields — as well as programs specifically for youth, to help with GED diploma preparation, job placement and vocational training. The center also offers onsite preschool with income-based fees. Open entry GED/high school equivalency classes run on weekdays. Online digital literacy classes take place throughout the fall. Check the website for career training course schedules.

Palo Alto Adult School

Palo Alto High School, Tower Building, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto / 650-329-3752
adultschool@pausd.org
paadultschool.org

Classes on computer skills, language, cooking, art, outdoors, and many others are available through

the Palo Alto Adult School. Both online and in-person classes are available. Fall quarter runs now to Dec. 15. Registration is open.

The Riekes Center

3455 Edison Way, Menlo Park / 650-364-2509 / info@rieakes.org
rieakes.org

The Riekes Center offers year-round programming in fitness, arts and nature for individuals of all ages and abilities. The center also provides programs for home-schooled students.

Sequoia District Adult School

3247 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park / 650-306-8866 / seqsas.org

Sequoia District Adult Education holds classes in English as a second language and computer and business skills. Students can also earn a high school diploma or GED certificate. Counselors are available to help students

See **FALL CLASS GUIDE**, page 20



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Fall Class Guide: Make the most of autumn

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transition to college programs. Registration for high school diploma and high school equivalency classes is open. Registration for ESL classes will start on Nov. 13.

Stanford Continuing Studies

Littlefield Center, 365 Lasuen St., Stanford / continuingstudies@stanford.edu / continuingstudies.stanford.edu

Stanford Continuing Studies organizes in-person and online classes in liberal arts and sciences, creative writing and professional and personal development.

Registration for fall classes is open. Classes start on Sept. 25. View the course catalog online.

Business & Tech

CareerGenerations

2100 Geng Road, Suite 210, Palo Alto / info@careergenerations.com / careergenerations.com

CareerGenerations offers group workshops to meet the career needs of a variety of individuals, including college students looking for internships, and graduates and professionals exploring career options or looking for employment.

ReBoot Accelerator for Women

585 Broadway, Redwood City / 650-387-3743 / reboot@rebootaccel.com / rebootaccel.com

ReBoot Accelerator for Women keeps local women current, connected and confident about re-entering the workforce through workshops taught by social media experts and instructors from LinkedIn, Google, Apple and Enjoy.

Class Guides are published quarterly in the Palo Alto Weekly and The Almanac. Descriptions of classes offered in Palo Alto, Stanford, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Atherton, East Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Portola Valley and Woodside are provided. Listings are free and subject to editing. Due to space constraints, classes held in the cities noted above are given priority.

To inquire about submitting a listing for the next Class Guide, email lifestyle@pawebly.com. To place a paid advertisement in the Class Guide, call the display advertising department at 650-326-8210. ■

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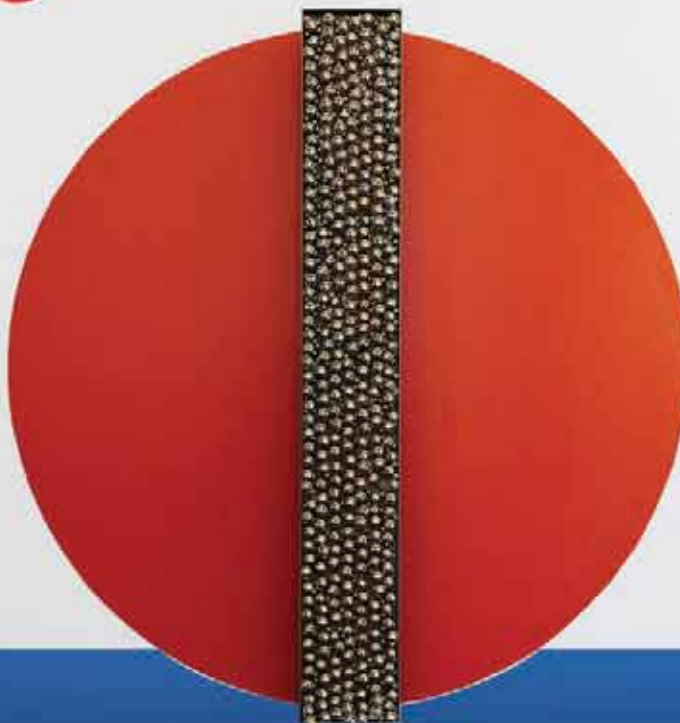
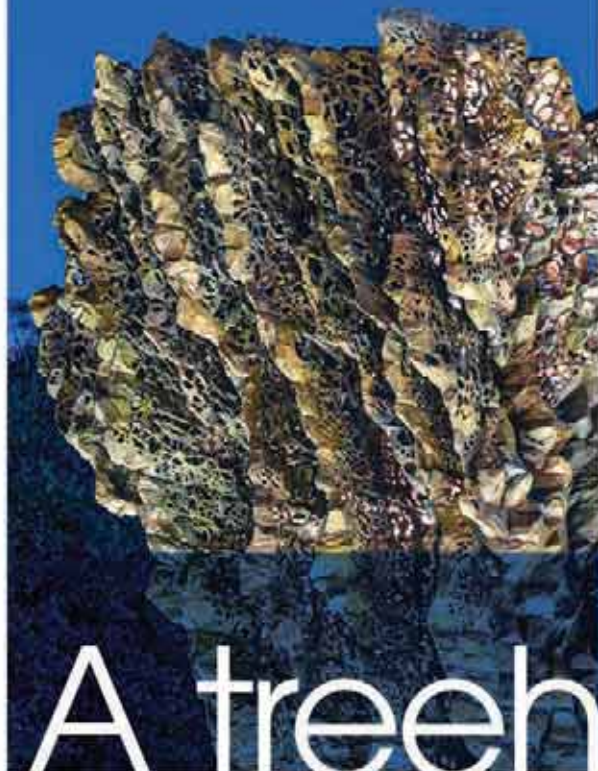
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The Palo Alto Weekly Moonlight Run & Walk is a benefit event for local nonprofits supporting kids and families.





A treehouse for scholars

A look inside a unique workspace for Stanford fellows that's also a home for art

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

Quite often graduate students are relegated to offices in library basements or other dark corners of a university. The lucky students who are chosen to be Knight-Hennessy Scholars at Stanford University get to meet, work and just hang out in an open, airy “treehouse” built on the banks of Lake Lagunita. Constructed five years ago, Denning House is a home-away-from-home for students from all over the world who enjoy its unique architectural design and world-class art collection. Since March of this year, the house is also open to the public via weekly tours.

Nestled in a forest of California oaks and constructed of Douglas fir, the 18,000-square-foot building stands on the former site of a parking lot that led up to the lake’s boat house. According to press information from Ennead Architects, the building “emanates from the trees” with a focus on respect towards nature. A floating “board walk” leads to the front façade, which is a wall of glass. It is the warm, golden hue of the exterior cypress cladding, however, that sets the tone for this modernist building and certainly distinguishes it from the sandstone and red tile roofs that characterize most of the historic buildings on campus.

Joslyn Gray, director of facilities, design and construction, explained that the timber-framed construction of Denning House limited the use of concrete and steel, reflecting a contemporary approach to architecture that is more sustainable. This is most appropriate given that Knight-Hennessy Scholars, all of whom are Stanford graduate students, are chosen to be “visionary, courageous and collaborative leaders who address complex challenges facing the world,” according to the program description. There have been 425 scholars from 68

countries to date.

The house is designed with a focus on the scholars’ use, with the dining room, living room and small meeting rooms on the second floor, where large windows provide calming views of the lake. Administrative offices are situated on the first floor. Art is installed in strategic places throughout the building and much of it has been commissioned specifically for this site. Gray explained that Roberta Bowman Denning and Steve Denning, alumni of Stanford’s Business School, funded both the construction of the building and the art collection. “They strongly believe that art should be a part of every well-rounded education, regardless of primary discipline,” explained Gray.

As we climbed the stairs from the lobby

to the second floor, Gray pointed out that Argentinian artist Tomas Saraceno’s “Wolf 359c/M+M,” a cloud formation suspended from the ceiling, is both “very strong and very delicate.” It is a complex geometric shape that consists partly of metal panels that reflect the golden color of the wood in some sections, while in others it is clear or mirror-like. Informed by art, architecture and engineering, it seems a logical choice for a program that attracts scholars from a multitude of disciplines.

At the top of the steps there is an installation by Korean artist Haegue Yang entitled “Sonic Rotating Line Type A.” It consists of a large red circle on which a metal strip, overlaid with hundreds of nickel-plated bells, has been attached. Gray explained that this is the only piece in the collection

that viewers can touch. Moving the metal strip results in a cacophony of jingling bells. Noted Gray, “The piece makes a statement about migration and how people move around a lot, causing a bit of commotion but then settle into place and eventually become part of the environment.” It is, she noted, “a very popular piece with the scholars and they love to move it.”

Passing through the library, which contains around 700 art books, Gray pointed out a world map on a display stand that is studded with small flags that denote the origin countries of current and former scholars. “We have a new cohort of 85 scholars this fall so we are looking forward to many more flags on the map,” Gray said.

See **TREEHOUSE**, page 22



Above: Artist Teresita Fernández was inspired by the Baylands in creating the wood, charcoal and aluminum piece “Apparition (Golden),” a site-specific installation for the Denning House dining room. (Courtesy Micaela Go). Top from left: a detail of Ursula von Rydingsvard’s bronze sculpture “MOCNA,” which stands outside Denning House (Courtesy Henrik Kam); Guests can spin Haegue Yang’s sculpture “Sonic Rotating Line Type A,” which produces bell-like sounds when turned (Courtesy Micaela Go); detail of “Red Leaves,” which artist Elias Sime wove from electrical wires and circuit boards (Courtesy Micaela Go).



Courtesy Micaela Go

Ennead Architects, who designed Denning House, said the building "emanates from the trees." The front of Denning House is clad in cypress; Ursula von Rydingsvard's bronze sculpture "MOCNA" is seen at the left.

TREEHOUSE

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In a sitting area adjacent to the library is "Red Leaves" by Elias Sime, an Ethiopian artist who transforms "technological detritus" such as computer keys, wires and circuit boards into works of art. This piece, cheerful and boldly colored, must be observed up close to appreciate the incredible patience and time it must have taken to crush and braid these materials together, creating an incredibly tactile surface. "This piece makes me think of 'things' — and sustainability. Everything we own — where does it come from and where will it go?" Gray said.

In the dining room, which is large, open and welcoming thanks to high ceilings and the lake view windows, Teresita Fernández took advantage of a wide wall expanse to install a site-specific piece, "Apparition (Golden)." Gray said that the artist was inspired by a photograph of the Baylands and that "She really wanted to pay tribute to the natural environment and the indigenous community." The shimmering, gold aluminum background of this piece is countered by the black charcoal

(burned wood) landscape that has been affixed to its surface.

"The piece has important facets of California history: water, fire and gold," Gray said.

The collection also boasts work by established and well-known artists like Nick Cave, Trevor Paglen and Ursula von Rydingsvard, whose monumental bronze sculpture, "MOCNA," serves as a sentinel at the entrance of the building. But Gray emphasized that the selection committee tends to look favorably at emerging artists because "it fits with our mission to nurture future leaders." When asked why Denning House doesn't just borrow art from campus museums (the Cantor or the Anderson Collection), Gray said that the focus is on art that most clearly and specifically reflects the mission of the program.

The process by which art is acquired entails using outside art consultants Zlot/Buell Art Advisors, who vet potential artists and present their work to a committee. Seated on the committee are selected Denning House staff, Roberta Denning and her son Robert, John Hennessy and Veronica Roberts, director of the Cantor Arts Center, among others. Also included on the jury are

two scholars from the program. An initial group of 10 artists is narrowed to three finalists and then one piece is selected. Gray noted that, while there is currently "lots of wall space," when there is no longer room, the art will be shared with other departments on campus.

Gray said that the response to the public tours has been "wonderful." "Many people walk by the building and wonder what it is. We want to share the collection with the broader community — and to educate the public about the Knight-Hennessy Scholars."

And what about the scholars themselves? Gray related a story about a young scholar whose entire academic career had focused only on STEM. "She came here and a whole new world opened up to her; now she participates in every art event we offer." ■

Free public tours of Denning House, which are limited to 15 participants, are offered on Mondays at 4:00 (from Sept. 18 to Oct. 30) and Thursdays at 4:00 beginning Sept. 21. For more information, visit knight-hennessy.stanford.edu.



Courtesy Micaela Go

Left: The mixed-media work "Pregnant Mountains – Trustworthy #316, 2017" is one of two works in the Denning House collection by artist Haegue Yang. Right: Tomás Saraceno's "Wolf 359 c/M+M" is suspended from the ceiling, reflecting glimpses of the interior on mirror-like panels.

Worth a Look



Courtesy Kings Mountain Art Fair

Kings Mountain Art Fair, celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, features over 120 juried artists and 20 local artists.

Kings Mountain Art Fair

The redwood forest where the Kings Mountain Art Fair takes place each year is a setting as picture-perfect as the art on display, and this year marks the 60th anniversary of this most scenic art festival. Guests can peruse the works of over 120 juried artists, as well as about 20 local artists. The festival showcases work in a variety of media, including jewelry, paintings, sculpture, textiles, decorative and functional ceramics, furniture and woodworking, wearable art and photography. The fair also offers an online gallery and virtual fair walk for early shopping, or for those who can't make it in person this year. A variety of breakfast and lunch offerings — including the "world's largest cookies" — are available for hungry shoppers, and the youngest visitors can enjoy crafts and games at Kiddie Hollow. The fair is 100% volunteer-run, with all proceeds benefitting the all-volunteer Kings Mountain Fire Department and the Kings Mountain Elementary School

Sept. 2-4 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (breakfast 8-10 a.m.) at Kings Mountain Community Center and Firehouse at 13889 Skyline Blvd. above the town of Woodside. Admission is free. kingsmountainartfair.org.

Haiti: Harvest of Hope

Justice Vanguard presents a movie night that also includes an art show, dinner and a panel discussion. The social justice organization hosts movie nights highlighting important global and political topics. The group's Sept. 2 movie night, presented jointly with activist group Haiti Action, features a screening of "Haiti: Harvest of Hope," a 1994 documentary that had aimed to tell the story of the election of Jean-Bertrand Aristide as president of Haiti but instead became a chronicle of a military coup in the nation. Guests can also take in works by artist and graphic designer Emory Douglas, who served as the Minister of Culture for the Black Panther party. The movie night includes a panel discussion with members of Haiti Action, who focus on bringing a democratic government to Haiti. The evening also features dinner from Tal Palo, a Los Altos cafe and store celebrating Mexican culture.

Sept. 2, 6 p.m. at Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. justicevanguard.org.

Pride and Joy at Rock the Dock

Catch some tunes by the bay Sept. 2 as dance band Pride and Joy SF plays the Rock the Dock concert series. The Port of Redwood City hosts the weekly concerts, which showcase a variety of Bay Area bands, including this longtime favorite. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and refreshments to enjoy the outdoor concert experience. They can also grab a bite at on-site food vendors.

Sept. 2, 4:30-7 p.m. at 459 Seaport Court, Redwood City. rockthedockrwc.com. ■

Food & Drink

A sweet meetup

Cottage bakery Shru's Kitchen combines South Asian flavors, modern vegan baking and minimalist designs in made-to-order cakes

By Stephanie Gerson

Before Shruti Boddu started a custom-order, vegan cake business from the kitchen of her San Mateo home, she had to overcome one major hurdle: learning how to cook.

"I refused to enter the kitchen until I was 25 years old," said Boddu, owner of Shru's Kitchen, attributing it to her desire to "break gender bias" by pursuing other things outside of the kitchen.

Once Boddu started living on her own, she began to see the value in learning how to cook for herself. As a vegetarian for a decade who became a vegan in recent years, Boddu's motivation to learn how to cook also stemmed from a lack of plant-based options. Vegan baked goods, particularly high-quality ones, were, and still are, rare.

Boddu started experimenting with vegan baking, using friends and co-workers as guinea pigs for her latest creations. They provided helpful feedback and an outpouring of support, encouraging her to start a baked good business. Boddu's passion for vegan baking began "out of necessity and a love for sweet things," evolving into Shru's Kitchen in February 2020.

The pandemic gave Boddu time to develop her baking skills, experiment with new flavors and allow her new business to gain traction. It was also a time to give back through bake sales — Boddu donated a portion of proceeds to social causes and organizations such as The Okra Project, ACLU and California Fire Foundation, and she participated in the Bakers Against Racism movement. Not long after the business launched, customers started to place online orders for her cakes with unique South Asian flavors.

With an emphasis on simplicity, the cakes merge nostalgic Indian desserts with modern vegan baking techniques. The results are flavor combinations including Carrot Halwa, Masala Chai and Boddu's favorite, Flavors of India: a cardamom pistachio cake with rose coconut cream that she created in 2020. Sometimes it's a particular memory from Boddu's childhood in India that inspires a flavor. Other times, it's the desire to create an unexpectedly delicious combination with the addition of aromatics, such as teas and florals, even if the flavors aren't specifically South Asian.

Boddu grew up primarily in India and enjoyed Indian treats that relied heavily on milk and butter. Vegan varieties of these foods did not exist. "When you're celebrating a birthday you still want a cake. You're not necessarily going to buy a traditional Indian sweet to celebrate a birthday ... at least you're not going to put a birthday candle in one," Boddu said.

Boddu's elegant, coconut cream-frosted cakes appeal to members of the South Asian community on the Peninsula searching for flavors that feel like home in the relatable and accessible form of a celebration cake. Boddu develops all of her flavors herself, sometimes making 10 different iterations of a recipe until she creates one that adequately captures a particular moment of food nostalgia.

Shru's Kitchen is a cottage bakery, a small-scale operation based out of one's home; a 2019 law known as the Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations Act authorizes San Mateo County to permit home kitchens, like Boddu's, for retail use. Operating from home seemed like the most straightforward option for Boddu, who had considered other possibilities

like using a commercial kitchen or working out of a restaurant's kitchen. But Boddu says she wanted to stay true to herself and her business's principles.

"It's always the trade-off between sticking with what you believe in and trying really hard to scale," Boddu said.

Scaling up one's business is a large undertaking that adds several other operating costs, in addition to the "physical and emotional toll" of the food industry, Boddu said. Burning out when operating your own business is extremely common, so Boddu emphasizes the importance of taking things day by day instead of rushing to expand. Operating the business by herself is the greatest challenge for Boddu who, in addition to doing all of the baking and cake decorating, also manages the business side of things by operating her social media and advertising.

Boddu's idea of 'scaling up' for Shru's Kitchen involves increasing the cottage bakery's output and physical presence on the Peninsula. Shru's Kitchen regularly participates in pop-ups at vegan restaurant Millennium in Oakland alongside other vegan bakers. Boddu sees these pop-ups as an important way to connect with customers and hopes to host more in the future. Often her customers help facilitate these opportunities; the owners of Lebanese restaurant Jood in San Carlos offered their restaurant to Boddu after she posted on Instagram inquiring about Peninsula pop-up spaces. The menu for Shru's Kitchen's last pop-up at Jood in March included sweet potato samosa galettes, cardamom rolls, chai banana bundt bread and slices of two of the bakery's most popular cake flavors: Flavors of India and saffron.

Pop-ups allow Boddu to



Above: Shru's Kitchen participates in pop-ups at Peninsula restaurants such as Jood, selling cake slices and handheld pastries. Top: Shruti Boddu's favorite cake flavor is Flavors of India, a cardamom pistachio cake with rose coconut cream. Background: Boddu keeps her cake designs minimal and elegant, adorning her vegan cakes with dried rose, pistachio or edible flowers. Photos courtesy Shruti Boddu.

further experiment with her bakery's menu and branch out into smaller baked goods and handheld pastries for more casual occasions. These smaller items are reimagined traditional bakery staples with a South Asian twist: cardamom rolls that take the shape of a classic cinnamon roll, samosa galettes and chai-spiced banana bread loaves, among others. Offering smaller, less expensive baked goods that still feature South Asian flavors is another way Boddu aims to increase her bakery's accessibility.

Boddu hopes to start producing more cakes weekly, find more Peninsula restaurants where she can sell her baked goods and explore other cake ordering and delivery platforms, including DoorDash. The success of Shru's Kitchen and its loyal customers inspire Boddu to keep her one-woman

business going, even on the days when there are 20 cake orders that need to be fulfilled.

"A lot of my South Asian customers love that the flavors remind them of their childhood experience and flavors from their past," Boddu said. "I'm really lucky that Shru's Kitchen has gotten to the place it has." ■

Email the Peninsula Foodist at peninsulafoodist@almanacnews.com.

Customers can place orders for vegan cakes on the Shru's Kitchen website and pick up orders in San Mateo. Follow Shru's Kitchen on Instagram for updates on their next Peninsula pop-up. Shru's Kitchen, San Mateo; 408-466-4870, Instagram: @shruskitchen, shruskitchen.com.

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