

The Almanac

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

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 | VOL. 59 NO. 3



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SLAC's powerful new X-ray offers a great leap in scientific research into quantum materials

First images produced by powerful LCLS device at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory in Menlo Park

By Cameron Rebosio

SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory (SLAC) in Menlo Park has spent more than a decade developing an X-ray that can take images of atoms at greater speeds than ever before. It's just produced its first images, promising a great leap in scientific research into quantum materials.

The Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS-II) can take images of chemical reactions at the atomic scale to the attosecond, one quintillionth of a second, according to a SLAC press release on Monday, Sept. 18. Scientists expect the LCLS-II to lead to developments in renewable energy and the mitigation of greenhouse gases.

"The light from SLAC's LCLS-II will illuminate the smallest and fastest phenomena in the universe and lead to big discoveries in disciplines ranging

from human health to quantum materials science," said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm in a statement. "This upgrade to the most powerful X-ray laser in existence keeps the United States at the forefront of X-ray science, providing a window into how our world works at the atomic level."

The upgraded 1-km stretch of the 3 km-long X-ray known as LCLS-II can produce up to a million X-ray pulses per second. That's 8,000 times more than it could before, according to SLAC's press release. Its beam is also brighter and more energy efficient. Before being upgraded, it was only able to stay on for milliseconds before overheating and was 10,000 times dimmer.

Such advances are possible because SLAC successfully lowered the temperature of the device's accelerator to 2 Kelvin,

See **SLAC**, page 17



Magali Gauthier

Mike Minitti, the senior staff scientist and LCLS soft X-ray department head, points inside machinery used in experiments at SLAC in Menlo Park on May 13, 2022.

Atherton celebrates centennial, tracing back 100 years of history on the Peninsula

By Neil Gonzales

For some, the town's name has become synonymous with exclusivity.

Indeed, Atherton's founding fathers set the tone for that 100 years ago as they wanted to keep their community strictly residential, prohibiting commercial and industrial land uses within its borders.

But while Atherton is well-known for its affluence and celebrity residents, it's also a place rich in history, with some new developments keeping the town busy. This Sunday, Sept. 24, Atherton plans to commemorate that history with a

centennial celebration at the Town Center, located at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"It's a milestone achievement," Mayor Bill Widmer said of the centennial. "It gives us an opportunity to reflect back on where the town was and where it is today."

The celebration will feature exhibits educating folks about Atherton's neighborhoods and other characteristics.

The festivities will also include musical performances, food and a contest giving free oak trees to the first 100 residents. Holbrook-Palmer Park will have overflow parking with shuttle

service to the event.

The town party is a way to get people involved in the community, Widmer said. "It's also an opportunity for them to see what we have accomplished the last couple of years."

Atherton boasts the new \$32 million Mediterranean-inspired civic center. The project includes a \$19 million library, which measures 10,000 square feet and has a spot for the popular French bakery Mademoiselle Colette.

"I lot of people haven't seen the new library and civic center yet," Widmer said. "The whole community is pretty excited about Mademoiselle Colette. I think it'll be a complete draw."

Another new civic project is transforming the town's 620-square-foot train depot into a rail-history museum while a pickleball court may be coming to Holbrook-Palmer Park on a trial basis.

"Everybody's excited and happy" for Atherton to achieve a century, said Joan Sanders, a member of the group organizing the centennial party. "I've lived in town for 53 of those 100 years. We all live in Atherton because we like the rural feel and the openness."

That feel, however, could change to some degree as Atherton is figuring out how to plan for the additional housing

under new state requirements. Town Council member Elizabeth Lewis acknowledged that new housing is needed. "But that's really going to change the look and feel of Atherton," she said.

For now, though, Atherton remains a small, bucolic and mostly residential community with no industrial land-use base.

The small town tends to draw attention for having the priciest zip code in the country. According to real-estate data provider PropertyShark, Atherton (94027) approached \$8 million in median home-sale

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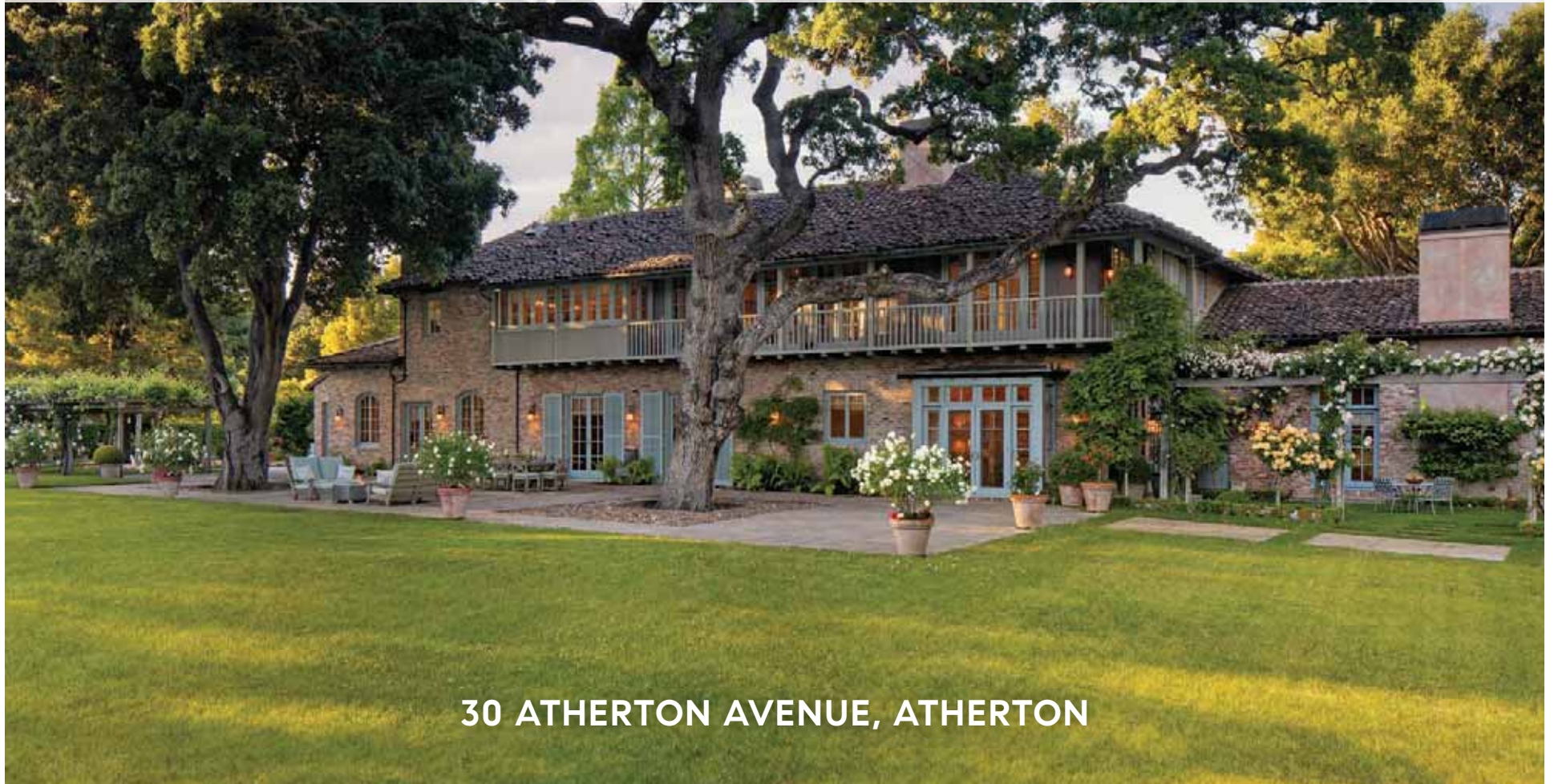
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Screenshot

Portola Valley council members, left to right, Judith Hasko, Mayor Jeff Aalfs and Vice Mayor Sarah Wernikoff during a Jan. 25 meeting.

Portola Valley council opts for stricter fire codes, saying improving safety is worth the cost

Town to post emergency evacuation plan online while still working on final version

By Neil Gonzales

Pursuing a high level of protection against fire dangers outweighed potential financial costs to residents as the Portola Valley Town Council Wednesday night adopted a significantly revised fire code.

With the fire season ongoing and the Maui wildfire disaster still resonating, the five council members unanimously approved a local ordinance crafted by the Woodside Fire Protection District that's stricter than what the state requires at the Sept. 13 meeting. They turned down calls from the

town Wildfire Preparedness Committee (WPC) and others to hold off on ratification until further work is done and additional community input is received.

In a related emergency-preparedness matter, the council also received an update on a draft evacuation plan that another town committee has been working on for more than a year.

"I think adopting safety ordinances is going to be really critical," Council member Judith Hasko said before she and her council colleagues took action on the fire-code revision. "I can't in good conscience vote

to hold something up because (some people) don't like specific language."

But Hasko and the rest of the council did want to see improved collaboration and communication between the fire district and WPC.

"I would ask you to try and work out a process with the WPC that's more productive," Hasko told fire officials in attendance.

Improving that process would serve in educating the community about the updated ordinance, the council said.

"I'm definitely happy to

See **FIRE CODES**, page 10

Palo Alto resident leads massive Bay Area protest against Benjamin Netanyahu

Over 2,000 protesters booed Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu as he arrived in the Bay

By Ashwini Gangal

Palo Alto-based entrepreneur Offir Gutelzon led a massive, five-part protest Monday, Sept. 18, across the Bay Area, to boo Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's meeting with Elon Musk, owner of social media platform X (formerly Twitter) because the latter allows antisemitic hate speech to go unchecked on his network, Gutelzon said.

Gutelzon is co-founder of UnXeptable, a grassroots movement launched by a group of Israelis residing in the San Francisco Bay Area, in support of a democratic Israel.

Overall, about 2,000 people, mostly Israeli Americans and Jewish Americans, participated in these Bay Area protests.

The group made stops in San Jose at the San Jose Mineta International Airport and Signia by Hilton hotel; Fremont outside the Tesla factory; and San Francisco's Union Square. The airport leg of the protest had two parts, a "welcome protest" at 5:30 a.m. when Netanyahu landed and a "send off protest" at around 4 p.m. when he left.

Netanyahu is in the United States to speak at the United Nations General Assembly.

"The heart of the cause is to try and save Israeli democracy. There is a judicial overhaul happening in Israel since January and there is a very extreme, right-wing party run by Netanyahu. The reason we

were protesting today is — he came for a very short meeting here on his way to the UN week," said Gutelzon, in a phone interview with this publication.

"He was basically trying to show 'business as usual' in the Bay Area, by meeting Elon Musk. Our goal was to ensure he didn't land here on an empty field. We wanted to make sure everyone knows he is an indicted prime minister who is in the process of turning Israel from a democracy and start-up nation to a messianic dictatorship."

Protesters also went on boats to Alcatraz, projecting messages like "Welcome Bibi" along with a picture of Netanyahu behind bars. Gutelzon likens Netanyahu to an "indicted potential president we might have in America."

Gutelzon clarified that the protest is about much more than just the single meeting between Netanyahu and Musk.

"Yes, Elon Musk is being accused of antisemitism and other issues because of his actions against the ADL (anti-defamation league). But it's not about Elon Musk. It's not about this specific meeting only. Our protest is to stand in solidarity with protesters in Israel and with Jewish Americans," he said.

In Israel, over the last seven months, hundreds of thousands of citizens have been protesting the recent judicial overhaul that Netanyahu has put in place.

See **PROTEST**, page 17

'Body-builder' suspect struggles with police in Menlo Park and Belmont, injuring seven officers

Belmont man allegedly fled police at a domestic disturbance call, later turned up in downtown Menlo Park

By Bay City News Service

Seven police officers were injured while struggling with a suspect described as a "bodybuilder" on Saturday, Sept. 16, an incident that started in Belmont and then in Menlo Park, authorities said.

A call came to Belmont police about 3:13 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, when officers were called to a domestic disturbance in the 2100 block of Ralston Avenue.

The suspect, later identified as a 45-year-old Belmont resident, fled in a car at high speed and was pursued by police for about half a

mile to the 600 block of Alameda de las Pulgas. The car stopped and the suspect ignored command to stay inside, according to police.

A struggle with officers ensued and the man allegedly resisted arrest. He was eventually put into restraints, but the scuffle injured both the suspect and two officers,

police said.

The Belmont man was taken to a hospital with a head injury and the two officers were treated for minor injuries.

The suspect's injuries were significant enough to leave him in the care of hospital staff, police said. However, he left the hospital

on his own at some point and turned up in Menlo Park on Saturday afternoon.

Police there responded at about 2:24 p.m. to a report of a shirtless man described as a "bodybuilder" acting erratically in the area

See **STRUGGLE**, page 6

CRIME BRIEFS

One dead following hit-and-run crash on Highway 101

A Redwood City man died, and another person was injured in a hit-and-run crash that involved four cars on Sunday, Sept. 17, the California Highway Patrol said in a collision report released on Tuesday, Sept. 19.

According to authorities, the 24-year-old man died after his car was struck by multiple drivers. One of the drivers fled the scene before authorities arrived.

The incident occurred on U.S. Highway 101 at approximately 1:22 a.m., south of San Antonio Road.

The man was traveling north on U.S. 101 in a 2011 Chevrolet Camaro coupe when a 2019 Mazda CX-5 driven by another motorist allegedly crashed into the rear of his car, causing it to become disabled in the highway's No.1 lane — the fast lane, according to the California Highway Patrol. The Camaro was subsequently struck by a 2019 Honda Accord sedan driven by an 18-year-old Elk Grove man, then by a 2019 Nissan Altima sedan driven by a 27-year-old Mountain View man.

All of the cars became disabled in the highway's northbound lanes. The 24-year-old Camaro driver died at the scene.

The driver of the Mazda fled before the CHP's arrival. The drivers and passengers of the three vehicles that remained on the scene were using seat belts, the CHP said.

The Honda driver was transported with injuries to Stanford Hospital. One passenger in the Nissan had a complaint of pain but was not transported, the CHP said. The Santa Clara County Coroner's Office has not yet identified the Redwood City man.

US-101 northbound was closed to traffic for several hours for the on-scene investigation, and traffic was diverted onto the San Antonio Road off-ramp. The CHP is conducting further investigation into the cause of the crash and is looking for the hit-and-run driver. It isn't currently known whether alcohol or drugs were a factor in the crash.

Any witnesses are asked to contact Redwood City CHP Officer D. Ocampo at 650-779-2700.

—Sue Dremann

Atherton break-in

A burglary was reported at a home on the 100 block of Alta Vista Drive in Atherton on Sept. 15, police said. Officers responding to a burglar alarm at about 9:30 p.m. found a broken window in the rear of the house, according to an Atherton Police Department press release on Sept. 18.

The burglary is still under investigation. Residents are asked to remember to lock their doors, set alarms and make sure any video surveillance systems are working. If anything suspicious is happening, residents are asked to call the Atherton Police Department at 650-688-6500.

—Almanac staff

Sheriff warns residents about series of recent burglaries

After three masked people allegedly tried to force entry through a sliding glass door in a San Carlos home Friday, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office is reminding residents to stay alert and take measures to enhance their home security.

The incident occurred shortly after 9 p.m. on Los Vientos Way in San Carlos on Sept. 15, when three suspects tried to force their way into a home through a sliding glass door, according to a press release by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. The homeowners were able to "scare off the intruders," according to the release.

Security footage taken from the home showed the suspects wearing masks, hooded sweatshirts, and gloves. The suspects spoke Spanish and drove away in a black SUV, possibly a BMW or Mercedes, according to the press release.

The incident could be connected to a series of recent burglaries in unincorporated West Selby, Atherton and Redwood City due to the parallels in timing and vehicle choice, according to the Sheriff's office.

The reminder from the Sheriff's Office emphasized the importance of reinforcing doors and windows, adopting comprehensive security systems, ensuring outdoor areas are well-lit, and participating in community watch programs. Residents should securely store valuables, remain vigilant to unusual activities and frequently back up security camera footage, it said.

Anyone with relevant information is asked to contact the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office at 650-363-4911.

—Michelle Iracheta

Palo Alto police to add surveillance to Stanford shopping center, downtown

Palo Alto police plan to spend \$5.2M state grant to add undercover patrols, vehicle-tracking technology

By Gennady Sheyner

Boosted by a state grant, the Palo Alto Police Department is preparing to add more undercover officers to Stanford Shopping Center and other central shopping areas. The department is also preparing to deploy GPS technology that tracks suspect vehicles if they flee the scene.

The department announced Thursday, Sept. 14, that it is set to receive \$5.2 million from the Board of State and Community Corrections, which distributed \$267 million in grant funds to 38 law enforcement agencies and 13 district attorney offices this week. By far the largest component of the package is a \$242 million program called the Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant, which focuses on data sharing, surveillance and license plate trackers, according to a news release from the state board.

When announcing the grant program earlier this week, Gov. Gavin Newsom said it will target smash-and-grabs and retail thefts.

"Enough with these brazen smash-and-grabs," Newsom said in a statement. "With an unprecedented \$267 million investment, Californians will soon see more takedowns, more police, more arrests, and more felony prosecutions. When shameless criminals walk out of stores with stolen

goods, they'll walk straight into jail cells."

Palo Alto plans to spend its share of \$5.2 million to staff extra patrols, including undercover operations, in prime shopping areas like Stanford Shopping Center and downtown Palo Alto for the next three years, the city said in a news release. The department also plans to install new technology on patrol cars that will allow officers to remotely affix GPS tags to vehicles so that they can be monitored if the driver chooses to flee, according to the city.

The City Council would have to authorize the acceptance of state funds and the purchase of the patrol car technology before it is implemented, according to the department's news release. The department plans to request the authorization to buy and install the GPS technology in the coming weeks, the police said.

Police Chief Andrew Binder said the department received support for the grant application from the Stanford Shopping Center, the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce and District Attorney Jeff Rosen.

"We are grateful for the state's generous support, and we look forward to using the funds to enhance community safety here in Palo Alto," Binder said. ■

Email Staff Writer
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STRUGGLE

continued from page 5

of Hobart Street at Santa Cruz Avenue.

The Belmont man was reportedly running in and out of traffic and bleeding from the head, according to a press release from Menlo Park police.

When officers arrived, they found the man agitated, "in an altered mental state" and suffering from a significant head wound.

They called for medical personnel and talked with suspect to de-escalate the situation. Nevertheless, the subject ran away, through busy afternoon traffic, to the 800 block of Cotton Street, where he allegedly tried to break into a home.

Officers tried again to talk to him without success. They then used less than lethal devices, including a Taser and less than

lethal flexible projectile, to subdue him, Menlo Park police said.

The man allegedly continued to resist arrest leading to a physical struggle that lasted over three minutes before they placed him in handcuffs.

Menlo Park fire and ambulance personnel provided medical aid and the Belmont man was taken to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Five Menlo Park officers were also hurt and treated at the hospital. The officers were later released from the hospital with varying degrees of injuries, police said. Some had significant injuries but none were life-threatening.

The suspect was taken from the hospital to San Mateo County jail, where he was booked on suspicion of crimes that include attempted burglary, resisting arrest, battery on a police officer, and obstructing a police officer. ■

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The Almanac

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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.

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San Mateo County's newest local history museum breaks ground

By Sue Dremann

A longtime dream to put the San Mateo County History Museum's collection of rare 19th-century horse-drawn carriages on public display broke ground on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 14.

The \$13.5 million Taube Family Carriage House and Automobile Gallery will have glass walls and nighttime lighting to allow the public to view the displays of historic vehicles after hours. The three-story museum at Marshall Street and Middlefield Road will be located in downtown Redwood City.

At nearly 15,000 square feet, the museum will include permanent and rotating exhibits, a rooftop terrace and ground-floor courtyard. There will be events and summertime museum camps for children, according to the history museum.

Thursday's groundbreaking ceremony included an 1890 Ladies "George IV" Phaeton carriage and a 1928 Ford Model A Sport car lent for the event from private collections. A 1914 Model T Ford was also displayed at a catered reception at Courthouse Square.

Mitch Postel, president of the San Mateo County Historical Association, led the groundbreaking and Paul Tonnelli, San Francisco 49ers sports broadcaster, took on the role of master of ceremonies.

Chonita Cleary, past chair and historical association board member, said the Carriage House is part of the San Mateo County Historical Association's "mission to inspire wonder and discovery about the history of San Mateo County."

The historical association's collection of Victorian-era carriages made by Brewster, a leading 19th-century carriage maker, was gifted to the San Mateo County History Museum in 1975 by Lurline Matson Roth. Roth owned the Filoli property, which was deeded separately to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The historic carriages, and those of other prominent local families, have been stored for the last 40 years in a climate-controlled facility located in San Mateo, according to the historical association.

Barbara Pierce, a member of the Historical Association's Carriage House Committee and a past Redwood City mayor, has championed the museum idea for more than a decade.

"The goal was a much more modest project," she said, but supply-chain issues and the COVID-19 pandemic drove up the costs. Through their Taube



Sue Dremann

This 1890 Ladies "George IV" Phaeton Carriage is from the Roth Collection Filoli, a collection of Victorian carriages owned by San Mateo County residents. The carriages will be displayed at the San Mateo County History Museum's Taube Family Carriage House and Automobile Gallery in Redwood City.

Family Foundation, Woodside residents Dianne and Tad Taube have donated a whopping \$8 million toward building the museum.

The association has raised \$12 million, with only \$1.5 million more needed to complete its fundraising goal.

"Tad has a special place in his heart for San Mateo history. We are proud to turn the ground on this new project," Dianne Taube said during the groundbreaking.

Tad Taube, whose family's historical World War II collection is on permanent display in the San Mateo County History Museum, said he hadn't been to downtown Redwood City before. He thought the downtown and the museum, which is housed in the old court building at Courthouse Square, is "an incredible public building."

Seeing the area behind the museum, Tad Taube said, he was excited by the prospect of a museum dedicated to early San Mateo transportation.

Dianne Taube said she grew up in San Mateo County. She has visually watched the area transition through time. Keeping a part of history alive in the area where she grew up is valuable for the community.

When she first saw the 18 carriages in the historical association's warehoused collection, she felt inspired, she said.

"I felt immersed in time. There were women's carriages and nanny carriages ... they represent so many parts of (Victorian) life," she said.

She thought about what it took to travel from one place to the other, harnessing the horses, and the time and effort it took to ride out to a gathering in the hills. The things modern drivers take for granted were a tremendous effort compared to hopping into a car today and zipping up Woodside

of period pieces in the museum's Millie Collection, Williams wore an original sage-green dress from the collection. Here and there, small patches of fabric had been darned after 183 years of exposure to time.

As women did in the past, Williams wore a corset and bustle. "They did the corset tight today. I'm not having any hors d'oeuvres," Williams said at the reception, which featured an ice sculpture of a vintage carriage.

The Millie Collection is named after Millie Hagstrom, a local who gathered Victorian-era clothing from the 1840s through the 1880s. She hosted Victorian Days in San Mateo Park, where people dressed up until the donations became unwieldy. Williams said the women's clothing was first housed at the College of San Mateo before permanently coming to the History Museum.

All the clothing in the collection was initially worn by San Mateo County residents. Like the carriage collection, the county-specific collection doesn't include anything from outside the area. The museum once turned down a beautiful and expensive dress they were offered to the museum from San Francisco. It didn't have a local connection, Williams said.

Just as Dianne Taube imagined what transportation life was like in Victorian San Mateo County, Williams said wearing the Millie Collection clothing also captures the strong sense of connection to the people of Redwood City's and San Mateo County's past.

"I like to imagine the woman who wore it. You couldn't dress yourself. You had to have a dresser then. It starts to lend an (upper crust) air about you," she said.

The Carriage House museum will likewise feature vehicles with a San Mateo history. The carriages will be paired with vintage clothing and textiles from the history museum. They will be reflected in Victorian mirrors from the county's grand estates. The Carriage Conservation Center will allow the public to view the restoration of the vehicles through a glass-enclosed gallery.

In addition to the vintage carriages, the historical association said the first floor will have changing exhibits on vintage automobiles from local collections and more unusual vehicles. The Carriage House is scheduled to open in 2025. ■

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

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Oak Knoll Elementary School prepares to lose its cherished tree

By Andrea Gemmet

Throughout Oak Knoll Elementary's 72-year history in Menlo Park, children have cavorted beneath the towering oak tree in the middle of the playground. Last week, a large limb came crashing down, and then an arborist sealed its fate: On Saturday, Sept. 23, Oak Knoll's beloved oak is getting cut down.

"It's really heart-breaking," said Principal Alicia Payton-Miyazaki, who recalled playing by the tree back when she was a student at Oak Knoll. She said there was a huge collective feeling of relief that the branch fell overnight last Tuesday, Sept. 12, when no one was on campus.

The school gardener discovered the damage Wednesday morning, Sept. 13,

Payton-Miyazaki said. "He said the most lovely thing," she said. "He said, 'Trees take care of people, they try not to fall down during the day.'"

School officials took the "extremely cautious" approach of roping off a large area surrounding the tree and portion of the lunch tables until the tree is removed.

An arborist from Davey Tree Service trimmed the damaged sections, but said that based on the way the limb broke, the tree could not be stabilized and saved, said Payton-Miyazaki. He also said he didn't think it likely that any other branches would fall.

Losing a cherished symbol of the school has left some of the younger students concerned that Oak Knoll would have to be renamed, Payton-Miyazaki. She

reassured them that the school was actually named for the street it's on, Oak Knoll Lane, and not for the tree itself.

On Monday afternoon, Sept. 18, there were plans to take staff photos under the tree while it still stands, she said. In all, five people who currently work at Oak Knoll are also former students, and they're planning a special group photo, she said.

Administrators contacted a Santa Cruz-based carver and are soliciting ideas from the school community about how best to repurpose the doomed oak. Ideas include making a bench, preserving the stump or carving it into something that kids can climb on, said Payton-Miyazaki. ■

Email Editor Andrea Gemmet at agemmet@almanacnews.com.



Andrea Gemmet

About one-third of the great oak at Oak Knoll School in Menlo Park fell on Sept. 12, 2023. A tree company determined that trimming the sentimental symbol of the school would not be sufficient and the tree is scheduled to be cut down Sept. 23.

Becker bill seeks to end 'cruel' price markups at prison stores

SB 474, which caps markups at 35%, advances through Legislature

By Gennady Sheyner

Seeking to curb what he calls cruel and egregious markups at California prisons, state Sen. Josh Becker is spearheading a law that would cap prices on items sold at canteen stores.

The new legislation, known as Senate Bill 474 or Basic Act, reduces the markups on items sold in prison stores to 35% above what is paid to vendors. The bill cleared the Legislature this week and is now on its way to Gov. Gavin Newsom for his signature.

For Becker, SB 474 is the second major piece of legislation that addresses prison conditions. Last year, he successfully advanced SB 1008, which allowed incarcerated individuals to make and receive phone calls free of charge.

The new bill was influenced by recent studies that showed markups of more than 200% for some items at prison canteens. A 2020 audit by the Inmate Welfare Fund found that canteen items were marked up an average of 65% of the price paid to the vendor, which contributed significantly to economic burdens suffered by both the incarcerated individuals and their family members.

Isa Borgeson, campaign manager at the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, testified at a June meeting of the Assembly Public Safety Committee that because of inadequate food and hygiene provisions in state prisons, most incarcerated people depend on canteen purchases for basic needs. But given the high markups and extremely low

wages, essential items like toothpaste and body wash remain out of reach for many. The financial burden, she noted, often falls on their family members, who are disproportionately Black and brown women.

"It is unacceptable for incarcerated people and their loved ones to fund the Department of Corrections' operating expenses and staffing costs through high markups on essential goods," Borgeson said in her testimony in support of SB 474.

She also read a letter from Steve Warren, an inmate at San Quentin, who listed some of the prices that the canteen charges: \$10.80 for a case of soup, \$3.60 for a stick of deodorant; \$2.40 for laundry soap. With inmates earning a minimum wage of \$0.08 per hour, he receives about

\$12.80 per month.

"Overpriced canteen items force me to become a financial burden to my family," the letter stated.

In his testimony to the Assembly Public Safety Committee, Becker noted that the February 2023 price list at San Quentin State Prison shows Aquafresh toothpaste going for \$5.50, more than twice of what it would cost at Walgreens, where it retails for \$1.83. These markups, he said, "make many products inaccessible and economically drain over \$30 million a year from predominantly low-income families of color."

"We need the BASIC Act, because incarcerated people should not have to choose between basic necessities of food, hygiene products or health supplements," Becker said.

A 2020 report by Impact Justice, which surveyed 250 formerly incarcerated individuals and 230 friends and families of incarcerated individuals, underscored the extent of the problem. Three in five formerly incarcerated people reported they could not afford commissary purchases and many people are "forced to choose between buying food and purchasing necessities such as toothpaste or making costly phone calls to loved ones." Furthermore, 75% reported that they were served rotten or spoiled food while they were incarcerated.

"We heard stories of people so desperate for palatable food that they would trade sex for commissary items, form romantic relationships with others who

could afford to shop at the commissary, or get involved in gang activity when commissary items were a reward," the 2020 report states "As one formerly incarcerated person said, 'If you didn't cook ... you starved.'"

Assembly Majority Leader Isaac Brown, D-Los Angeles, who presented SB 474 on the Assembly floor, served as the principal co-author of the legislation.

"I have family who have been incarcerated," Bryan said in a statement Thursday, Sept. 14. "I've got J-Pay on my phone right now. You send a hygiene kit or you send some noodles, and then you see your final fines and fees, and you realize that this is the most expensive cup of noodles you've ever seen."

The legislation sailed through the formal process, boosted by support from more than 2,000 individuals and dozens of advocacy groups focused on prison reform and social justice.

In a Thursday statement, Becker called the prison markups of food and hygiene items "egregious and cruel." He noted that this year alone, prices have increased by at least three times in some prisons, with coffee in these places now going for \$9.05 and toilet paper for \$1 per roll.

"We have a \$15 billion prison budget in this state," Becker said in the statement. "It is time we stopped profiting off the sale of basic necessities to one of our state's most vulnerable populations." ■

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

Menlo Park Fire Protection District to donate fire engine to Maui Fire Department

By Cameron Rebosio

In a split vote, the Menlo Park Fire Protection District Board of Directors voted on Sept. 19 to donate a surplus fire engine to the Maui Fire Department in the wake of the fires that spread across the island.

The effort to donate the engine was led by Fire Board President Virginia Chang-Kiraly in response to the Lahaina fires that burned 2,170 acres last month and caused the Maui Fire Department to

lose a fire engine and a brush engine. The Menlo Park Fire Protection District (MPFPD) had a surplus of seven fire engines for sale and auction, and elected to donate one to the Maui fire department, an estimated value between \$45,000 and \$75,000.

"As a taxpayer, I'd like to say that I do respect the argument for fiscal responsibility," an Atherton resident said. "But I also do feel that something that really bonds us as Americans is helping each other in need, and I think

this is the right thing to do to donate the firetruck."

There was some discussion over whether the MPFPD could request funding from the federal government in exchange for exchanging the fire engine with the Maui Fire Department, but the board elected to donate the fire engine directly.

The motion passed 3-2 with board members Chuck Bernstein and Rob Silano dissenting. ■

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



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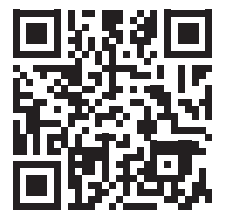
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FIRE CODES

continued from page 5

support this,” Vice Mayor Sarah Wernikoff said of the ordinance. “I think what I’m focused on is what are the opportunities for improvement in terms of the process. I feel like we’ve definitely had hiccups.”

A key objective “is to try to get people to understand what’s needed to be done and why it’s important for community safety,” Council member Craig Taylor said, “and I think most residents are going to follow through with that.”

The revised ordinance is “a work-in-progress, (but) I’m comfortable with it,” Mayor Jeff Aalfs said.

The new ordinance incorporates changes and additions that make it more stringent than state standards, responding to climactic, geological and topographical conditions distinct to the local area.

The fire district serves Portola Valley, Woodside and surrounding unincorporated areas, including Emerald Hills, Ladera and Los Trancos Woods.

Certain existing structures that undergo a large enough renovation will have to conform to the same fire-safety requirements as those for a new building. This is “necessary for the Woodside Fire Protection District to provide a reasonable degree of fire and life safety for the community and firefighters,” the agency said.

Another new wrinkle is requiring a construction permit that involves a landscape plan, which should detail plants put in a project, grade changes, screening elements and other information useful for a fire crew to know in battling a blaze at a development.

The update also added a section that requires a building to install a full sprinkler system — not a partial one. The fire district pointed out that if a blaze starts in a portion of a building where there

are no sprinklers, the heat can overcome the section with them.

Before the council made its decision, it took several public comments for and against approving the revise.

WPC Chairperson Jennifer Hammer strongly objected to it.

“There are potentially significant financial and regulatory burdens for the residents of Portola Valley,” Hammer said. “I know we’re all thinking about the terrible fires in Maui. There is a desire to act quickly to keep Portola Valley safe, but this fire code is going to impact residents for many years.”

Hammer and others also contended that additional open discussions should have been held with the fire district.

“It just seems like a lot of changes are happening very quickly without a process that allows for residents to have their questions answered and their feedback heard,” Hammer said.

“It’s very important that the

public be deeply involved and then educated about what our fire hazards and risks are in this community,” resident Rusty Day added.

“We want clarity here,” resident Caroline Vertongen said. “Just ratifying or just adopting this is not right.”

Although she doesn’t want to see costs go up, resident Karen Askey said, the revamped ordinance is “worth the money” if lives are saved.

Dale Pfau said he understands the criticism coming from some of his fellow residents. “Let’s be serious about the issues,” he said. “This is a step forward in trying to help us mitigate what we can with the fire danger that we have (and) is only going to get worse in future years.”

Pfau added, “Much of this new code is really just bringing us up to par with the other municipalities in the county.”

Fire officials said the work on the ordinance sought to bolster the ability to safeguard residents, their property and the environment.

They also said the fire district is willing to hold community outreach sessions for residents to ask questions and learn about what changed in the fire code.

Evacuation planning moves forward

In other news from the Sept. 13 meeting, the council was updated on the evacuation plan being worked on by the town Emergency Preparedness Committee.

The plan contains a wide range of information that details levels of danger from slow-developing emergencies to imminent risk, how residents can prepare for an evacuation, communications before and during an event, traffic control, responsibilities of various agencies and other elements.

It also incorporates evacuation routes and scenarios developed in a traffic study released a year ago.

The council debated whether or not to formalize and officially adopt the plan but stopped short of doing so. For now, members decided merely to acknowledge the plan as a work-in-progress guide available on the town website for the public to peruse.

“Everybody who looks at it will learn something about where their risk is, which should be front and center on our website as our current working document,” Council member Mary Hufty said, “and we should be proud of the work that everybody finally did to get this together.”

“I think this is all going in the right direction,” Taylor said.

Mayor Aalfs told his fellow council members that the plan will need further refinement in collaboration with stakeholders, including the fire district, San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management and the county Sheriff’s Office.

The mayor said the ongoing work looks to improve the town’s preparations and coordination with other agencies in the event of a mass evacuation. It will also raise public awareness of the steps and resources that residents need to be ready for such an event, he said.

Day said he hoped the town continues to work on the document, telling the council not to regard it as a plan yet.

“We need a lot more,” Day said. “This is just the beginning. To have a plan, you have to anticipate what is going to happen in a real wildfire.”

When a catastrophe leaves residents “completely confused, in the dark with no communications, what are we going to do?” he added. To have a practical strategy for such a scenario, “that’s a plan.” ■

**TOWN OF WOODSIDE
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**PLANNING COMMISSION
OCTOBER 4, 2023 6:00 PM**

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Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: sharper@woodsidetown.org

PUBLIC HEARING

1. 243 Highland Terrace VARI2023-0001

Kyle Tran, Kreative Touch Design Development Planner: Melanie Olson, Associate Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposal to construct a new Accessory Dwelling Unit located as close as 4 feet to the side and rear property lines as permitted by State law. The project requires approval of a Variance for the building to have a rear plate height exceeding the 11-foot plate height maximum required for accessory structures (VARI2023-0001). The overall height at the rear of the building would be approximately 15 feet tall, with the highest point of the structure being 16 feet tall. Both points are under the maximum allowed overall height of 17 feet.

The project is Categorically Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to §15303(a), which includes a second dwelling unit in a residential zone.

2. 1101 Cañada Road SDIV2022-0001; GPAM2023-0001; GRAD2023-0001; CEQA2022-0001

Joseph Putnam Planner: Sarah Filipe, Associate Planner

Presentation and recommendation of approval, conditional approval, or denial to the Town Council of a proposed Tentative Map (SDIV2022-0001); General Plan Amendment (GPAM2023-0001); Grading Exception (GRAD2023-0001); and Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (CEQA2022-0001). The project proposes a seven-lot residential subdivision on the 7.8-acre site and involves the demolition and removal of existing site features, including the driveway, residential structure, accessory structures, and horse corral. Improvements proposed as part of the subdivision include establishing property lines for the seven one-acre home sites, installation of a new private roadway, underground utilities stubbed to each home site, and installation of bio-retention (stormwater treatment) features to serve the subdivision. The project site is zoned SR, Suburban Residential, permitting one-acre residential lots. A General Plan Amendment is required to revise the site’s designation from Institutional to Residential.

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING MELAINE OLSON AT MOLSON@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG OR SARAH FILIPE AT SFILIPE@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Arturo Santo Domingo, 84, a resident of Atherton and Las Vegas who served 26 years as an official scorekeeper for the Giants and the Oakland A’s, co-founded the Cable Car Classic college basketball tournament, was named to the the Santa Clara University Athletics Hall of Fame and won the Pioneer Award from the Hispanic Heritage Baseball Hall of Fame for being Major League Baseball’s first Hispanic scorekeeper, on Aug. 25.

Priscilla C. Azcueta, 68, a San Mateo resident who grew up in Mountain View, loved to travel, adopted several beloved Bichon dogs, and over the course of a more than 40-year career served as vice president at Manpower

Inc., managing director of Expandability Staffing and vocational rehabilitation specialist at the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Healthcare System, on Aug. 20.

James Edward Callahan, 80, a former Menlo Park resident who was born in New York, served 10 years as a reservist in the Marine Corps, hitchhiked to California where he had a long career with Boys Clubs of America, and was a key witness in a lawsuit to ensure that girls would get equal access, leading to what’s now the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, on Aug. 13.

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

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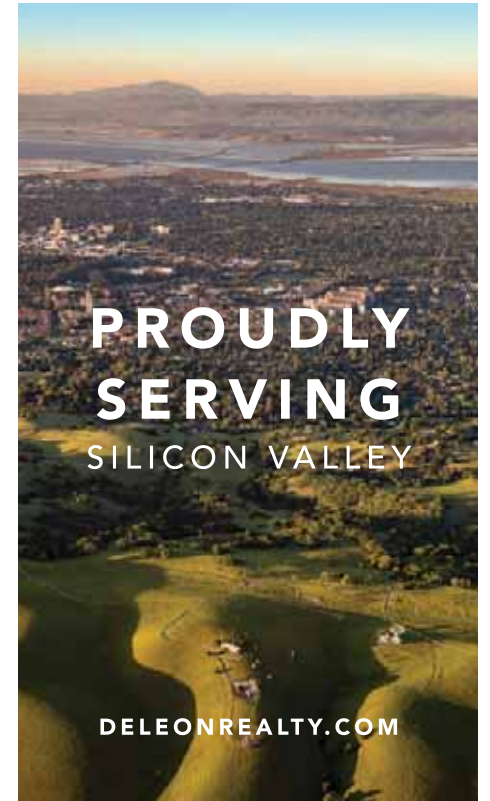


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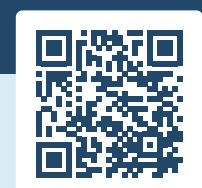


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Artist who painted Taylor Swift's butterfly mural debuts new work

Renowned street artist Kelsey Montague adds a charm of hummingbirds to downtown Palo Alto business

By Suman Mudamula

A charm of hummingbirds has descended on a wall in Palo Alto. The latest mural by renowned street artist Kelsey Montague, the artist behind the famous #whatliftsyou wings and Taylor Swift's butterfly mural, opened to the public Thursday, Sept. 14. Located in the heart of the city's downtown area, this bright, joyous, colorful piece of public art is a gift to the community by a local business.

To celebrate 20 years as a Bay Area business, SkinSpirit — a skin clinic or “medspa” that was founded in Palo Alto in 2003 by a local entrepreneur Lynn Heublein and Stanford plastic surgeon Dr. Dean Vistnes — commissioned the mural at its flagship Palo Alto location.

At the unveiling of the mural, Victoria Voorhees, head of marketing communications, said, “the mural is our gift to the community. It's a piece of public art that everyone can enjoy.”

The mural is a way to thank the community, employees and clients for their support over the last two decades. She said getting permission for the public mural from the city's arts council was a straightforward process. The only guidelines were — no logo and no branding.

The mural is on the side wall of the clinic, at 701 Emerson St., Palo Alto.

With small cans holding

different colors strewn on the ground, Montague perched up on a ladder lift to add blue color to one of the wings of over a dozen hummingbirds sketched out a day before the opening. She describes the birds as “beautiful, bright and happy.”

Deftly painting their long beaks and multiple feathers, Montague turned a nondescript wall into a work of art using simple store-bought outdoor paints, some acrylics, and paint pens for details, in under three days. “I love being a part of something that is giving back to the community and this is just a really cool community,” she added.

Choosing murals as an art form wasn't intentional for Montague. It developed organically when she was living in New York and started doing it for local businesses. Her sister Courtney joined her to look after the business side and then things took off.

Talking about her creative process, that developed over 10 years of painting more than 300 murals in the U.S. and all over the world, Montague said she always wanted to paint hummingbirds and this project gave her the perfect opportunity.

“I have a bunch of crazy ideas, but the idea of hummingbirds and a hummingbird feeder as an interactive component was perfect for this,” she said. “They are all different and unique. Look at people — we're all unique. It's all about uplifting and supporting

that. You just kind of love that inner beauty and it was great to add the hummingbirds into that concept.”

Montague's website has a map of the locations of all her murals. “I love uplifting people. I love doing stuff that is positive,” she added.

Montague likens her work to a gift for someone. “So when you come across it, it's like you know it's for you and you like sharing that and sharing memories and bringing families to come out and interact. Just having someone smile is for me the most beautiful thing,” she said. “Life can be hard. Take a photo and be social. Be physically there and share a smile.”

This was her first trip to Palo Alto as an adult, she said. Montague expressed pleasant surprise that the city is not as fast-paced as she had imagined. “This is a moving and shaking part of the world. I was really excited. I don't think I was expecting such a beautiful, quiet place giving almost-like-a-village feeling. It's like there is a canopy of trees. Everyone is so nice,” she said.

Quite impressed with the city, Montague said, “You can feel the creative energy here. It also just feels kind of calming.” As for the mural, she's happy with it “because there are a lot of bright colors. And working with them now I definitely understand. It's gorgeous here. I'm obsessed with the trees.”



Suman Mudamula

Street artist Kelsey Montague poses with her finished mural for Palo Alto skin clinic SkinSpirit on Sept. 14.

She said she was glad Palo Alto is not like Colorado, where she had to brave challenging weather conditions to paint a 100-foot-long mural. She has made a seven-story-high mural in Poland.

Acknowledging the way technologies like AI are changing the world, Montague said, “No matter what's happening, if there is a way for me creatively to still bring people under the moment, it's rewarding.”

She comes from a family of artists on her mother's side. “I could draw on a wall. I could draw all day, every day.”

For her, it's always been about “the community.”

She said, “That's why I have been able to do so much all over the US and all over the world because for me this is about people. What will resonate with the community, the colors, the imagery, anything hidden there, the whole subject matter. So, for me it's really about catering to that and

drawing for the community.”

Talking about the mural at the opening, Dr. Vistnes, said the mural was beautiful and true to the spirit of the community. It's all about “efficacy and value,” he added. The location of the mural has high traffic and visibility. “It's been a blessing to have a place like this here in Palo Alto and to grow as a company,” he said.

Cara Fonteyne, who is associated with SkinSpirit, said the mural was a nice surprise to her. “I love it! I really love it. I love the message that it sends. I think it really embodies who we are as a company and it speaks for Palo Alto, too,” she said.

SkinSpirit's “medspa” concept blends medical aesthetics with spa-like luxury and service. The business has nearly 40 locations (10 in the Bay Area) and 500 employees across the U.S.

Montague loves that once the public piece of art is created, she is gone. It's everyone else's. It becomes their piece. ■

CENTENNIAL

continued from page 1

price in 2022 — the sixth consecutive year that the area topped the list nationwide.

Among the famous who have a home in Atherton include Golden State Warriors basketball superstar Stephen Curry and Hall of Fame former football player Jerry Rice.

But Lewis, an Atherton

resident since 1997, tried to dispel the perception that her town is home only to the affluent.

“It is true we have a number of high net-worth individuals,” she said, but many other residents “have lived here a long time, and their wealth is not as spectacular. Many have modest homes and own their own business.”

Lewis also feels Atherton doesn't get enough credit for having diversity. “We have a lot of ethnic groups here,” she said.

White residents represent a large majority of the town's population — at 68 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. But Asians account for 19 percent, and Latinos make up 9 percent. About 7,000 people live in Atherton.

The town officially incorporated Sept. 12, 1923, but its beginnings go back even further. In the 1860s, what

was then known as Fair Oaks served as a Southern Pacific Railroad train stop between San Francisco and San Jose for those who owned large estates north of Menlo Park, according to the town's website.

In the early 1920s, Menlo Park wanted to incorporate to include Fair Oaks. But during a meeting between the two communities, Fair Oaks property owners maintained that their area should only be residential and incorporate separately.

Both groups raced to the state capitol to seek incorporation, but the Fair Oaks representatives got to Sacramento first.

It was around then that they realized another name was needed for their community as there was already a Fair Oaks near Sacramento. They decided to name their newfound town after merchant Faxon Dean Atherton, one of the first



Courtesy Atherton Heritage Association

Mayme and Rena Roach in a wagon at the Atherton train station, known as the Fair Oaks train station at the time, in 1906. The train stop's name was changed to Atherton when the town was incorporated in 1923.

property owners on the southern Peninsula.

Originally from Massachusetts, Atherton bought more

than 600 acres in the region in 1860 and built his home called Valparaiso Park several years later. ■

LEHUA GREENMAN



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Plenty of work still to do on landslide-damaged section of Highway 84 in Woodside

By Andrea Gemmet

There's still much to do before the landslide-damaged section of Highway 84 in Woodside is fully repaired, according to Caltrans.

In the latest update on the monthslong project, the transportation agency outlined its

current work and next steps to shore up the approximately 250-foot-long stretch of two-lane highway between Foxhill and Portola Roads impacted by two landslides on March 9. Crews are working to shore up the upper slope and install erosion-control measures, while also doing culvert work and

vegetation control.

Still to be done is installing permanent lower slope repairs and new drainage at the east end of the slide area, according to Caltrans in the Sept. 15 newsletter.

The highway, also known as La Honda Road in that area, was fully closed to traffic from

March 9 to July 27, when one lane reopened. Caltrans estimated that both lanes would reopen by October, but that estimate was pushed out another two months.

In the Sept. 1 edition of Caltrans' weekly newsletter update on the state route's repair, officials said the full

reopening is now scheduled for December, unless there are weather delays, which could push it as late as April 2024.

To sign up for Caltrans' newsletter, email SR84slideupdates@dot.ca.gov. ■

Email Editor Andrea Gemmet at agemmet@almanacnews.com.

Kick volleyball, a popular sport in Southeast Asia, makes inroads in the Bay Area as local teams compete

Mountain View resident promotes gold medal wins of USA National Sepak Takraw Team in Thailand

By Emily Margaretten

Growing up in Singapore, Kalwant Sandhu spent many afternoons playing a pick-up game that he learned about from his Malay friends. It was sepak takraw, translated as "kick ball" in Malay and Thai.

But "kamikaze volleyball" was more like it, Sandhu said, describing the flying scissor kicks and acrobatic feats of players who launched rattan balls over a high net with every

part of their body except their arms and hands.

Sandhu moved to the Bay Area in 1980 and did not see sepak takraw again. Instead, he played and coached soccer in Palo Alto and settled his family in Mountain View. All this changed a few years ago when he met Jeremy Mirken, a former sepak takraw player who now is an event organizer and head coach for the USA National Sepak Takraw Team.

Together, Sandhu and Mirken are introducing the popular

Southeast Asian sport to those living in the United States. "We're trying to reach out to athletic leagues and let them know there's an inexpensive sport that doesn't use much space and is very entertaining for kids," Sandhu said, adding that some enthusiasts like to describe the sport as "martial arts ballet."

Traditionally played three-on-three in an arena about the size of a badminton or pickleball court, sepak takraw players use different parts of their

bodies — heads, knees, feet and occasionally their chest — to bump, set and spike a small ball over a five-foot-high net, Mirken said.

Each player has a specific role. A server initiates the rally by making the first kick; a feeder or setter puts the ball in the air; and a spiker ends the point. "It's very much played like volleyball with kind of acrobatic martial arts-style kicks," Mirken said, adding that elite players jump between seven and nine feet high up in the air.

The arrival of sepak takraw to the U.S. can be traced to refugee groups displaced from conflicts in Southeast Asia, Mirken said. Many ethnic groups, like the Lao and Hmong, learned to play sepak takraw in Thai refugee camps; when they came to the U.S. about 40 years ago, they brought the game with them. Other refugee groups, like the Karen from Myanmar, came to the U.S. more recently and play sepak takraw to keep their culture alive, according to Merkin.

While an immensely popular sport in Southeast Asia, sepak takraw is relatively unknown in the U.S. Mirken, who was living in Oakland, only learned about it from a friend when he was 23-years-old. "Even if I had walked right by it, I wouldn't have noticed it," he said, explaining that the game was taking place inside the parking lot of an apartment complex that was hidden from the street.

Nearly 20 years later, the invisibility of the sport is still its greatest barrier to access. "You can play with almost any pair of shoes. All you need to find is a ball and a net," Mirken said. "But man, to find the people who play can be a challenge." There are only about 500 active tournament players

and most clubs do not have trainers or coaches.

Despite its limited resources, the USA National Sepak Takraw Team has made inroads competing at the international level, where they play against teams that have a lot of support from athletic federations. In July, the U.S. team competed at the King's Cup Sepaktakraw World Championship in Thailand, which is considered the sport's most prestigious international tournament.

The men's team won two gold medals in the Division One competition, just a step below the Premiere Division. Because of these victories, they likely will compete in the Premiere Division next year and will face off teams with superhero status, like Thailand and Malaysia.

This also was the first year the USA National Sepak Takraw Team sent a women's team to compete at the King's Cup. While other countries regularly have women playing the sport, the U.S. has lagged behind, Sandhu said, adding that they hope to change this with greater exposure of sepak takraw in the U.S.

In the meantime, the U.S. team plans to celebrate its gold wins in Oakland with former national team members who taught Mirken how to play the game.

"Now we've won some things, and I'd like to thank them for their support of me and other players that ultimately helped us grow the game and inspired us to try to bring it to communities outside of just the Laotian population," Mirken said.

"And so that's what we're doing. We're keeping the legacy alive and growing it," he added. ■

Email Staff Writer Emily Margaretten at mmargaretten@mv-voice.com.

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SLAC

continued from page 1

or -456 F, which is lower than Uranus, the coldest point in our solar system at a frosty -371 F. This is done through a series of tubes along the X-ray that carry helium that a cryoplant holds at -456 F.

Researchers have said that they expect the scientific achievement to lead to discoveries that will improve everyday products such as phone batteries and energy grids, according to Mike Minitti, senior staff scientist and LCLS soft X-ray department head. Scientists can use LCLS-II to examine the details of quantum materials in a new way, and that can drive new forms of computing and communications. Watching chemical interactions on a scale only allowed by the LCLS-II can also drive forward research of more sustainable industries, clean energy technologies and develop new types of pharmaceuticals, according to SLAC's press release. The LCLS-II allows for study on a new scale, more minute and faster than ever before, which scientists say can open up new fields of scientific investigation.

"This upgrade will keep SLAC and the U.S. at the forefront of X-ray science," said SLAC interim Laboratory Director Stephen

Streiffer. "It's all thanks to the amazing efforts of all parts of our laboratory in collaboration with the wider project team."

"Experiments in each of these areas are set to begin in the coming weeks and months, attracting thousands of researchers from across the nation and around the world," said LCLS Director Mike Dunne in a statement. "LCLS-II is going to drive a revolution across many academic and industrial sectors. I look forward to the onslaught of new ideas — this is the essence of why national labs exist."

The work towards the LCLS-II started in 2010 and evolved into a \$1.1 billion upgrade project involving thousands of scientists, engineers, and technicians. The advances were also made with the collaboration of several other labs, including Jefferson Lab in Virginia and Fermilab in Illinois.

"Congratulations to SLAC and to the impressive team of accelerator experts from the Department of Energy Labs across the country that built LCLS-II," said Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Director Mike Witherell. "This unique new facility will provide many new opportunities for discovery science." ■

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

PROTEST

continued from page 5

"About 20% of Israel's population has taken to the streets. What we need is stability in the country, but Netanyahu is turning Israel into a very unstable place," he added.

Gutelzon was very pleased with the support for Monday's protest.

"We were surprised. It was an amazing turnout," he said about the participation. "We've been holding rallies for several

months now; usually we have like a 100 or so, but this was a historic event. Our WhatsApp group was tripled in less than three days."

Gutelzon plans to go to New York to continue his rallies as Netanyahu prepares to meet President Joe Biden at the UN Assembly.

UnXeptable has about 40 chapters around North America, of which the largest is in New York.

"This is our most innovative protest fighting for democracy," he said. ■

Public Notices

WAVY TROPICAL FOOD
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-295186
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Wavy Tropical Food, located at 2025 AVY AVE UNIT A MENLO PARK, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
ETUSZN MEDIA GROUP INC
2025 AVY AVE UNIT A
MENLO PARK, CA 94025
California
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/01/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 25 2023.
(ALM Sep 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2023)

RESSA.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-295195
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) ressa, located at 851 Cherry Ave, Ste 27 #1041, San Bruno, CA 94066.
Registered owner(s):
HSUAN-TING YU
111 Broadway APT 3
Millbrae, CA 94030
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 28 2023.
(ALM Sep 8, 15, 22 and 29, 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 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
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)

MI TIERRA LINDA SUPERMERCADO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-295277
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Mi Tierra Linda Supermercado, located at 1209 Willow Pass Rd. Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
QUALITY MARKET CORPORATION
1209 Willow Pass Rd.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
California
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/06/2006
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 07 2023.
(ALM Sep 15, 22, 29 and Oct 6, 2023)

FURIA FIGHT CLUB
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M294963
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) FURIA FIGHT CLUB, located at 501 Old County Rd.suit K, Belmont,CA 94002.
Registered owner(s):
ANTONIO ATAHIDE SANTANA
100 N. Whisman Rd. Apt 3412
Mountain View,CA 94043
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 August 02 2023.
(ALM Sep 1, 8, 15 and 22, 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-03999
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Chrispus Alexander Easley filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
CHRISPUX ALEXANDER EASLEY to JACE ALEXANDER WILLIAMS
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: 10/24/2023, 9:00 a.m., Southern Branch: Hall of Justice and Records 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: 08/30/2023
Lee, Elizabeth K
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Sep 15, 22, 29 and Oct 6, 2023)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 23CIV03945
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Gloria Anne Falcinelli filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
GLORIA ANNE FALCINELLI to GLORIA FALCINELLI ELDREDGE
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: 10/18/2023, 9:00 AM, Civil - Dept MC, Room MC 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: 08/28/2023
Marie S. Weiner
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Sep 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2023)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 23CIV03781
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Blake Andrew William Binkley filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
BLAKE ANDREW WILLIAM BINKLEY to BLAKE ANDREW ROSE
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: 10/11/2023, 9am, MC 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: 08/16/2023
Elizabeth Lee
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Sep 8, 15, 22 and 29, 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-03799
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Jintao Feng filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
VINCENT ZHONGXU TANG to VINCENT XU FENG
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: 10/09/2023, 9:00 a.m., Master Calendar 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: 08/14/2023
Judge Elizabeth Lee
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Sep 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2023)

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Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Riffed from the headlines

Musician David James debuts a work about a rebel with a cause: his community activist father

By Heather Zimmerman

Bay Area musician David James' newest piece tells a story that's drawn from historical TV news reports and newspapers, but that also has a personal connection. The work, called "Mission Rebel No. 1," looks back to San Francisco's Mission District in the mid-1960s and the community activism of Rev. Jesse James, who was David James' father.

"Mission Rebel No. 1" debuts this weekend, with a local performance Sept. 24 at Mitchell Park Community Center, presented by Earthwise Productions. The work will also be presented Sept. 22 in San Francisco.

Composer, guitarist and vocalist David James, who grew up in the Bay Area, said he was drawn to music at a very young age and taught himself to play on an acoustic guitar that a family friend had given him and his sister.

"It's just been a love affair, with playing guitar and singing," he said.

He has toured and recorded with Spearhead, The Coup and the Beth Custer Ensemble. James' sound channels an array of styles, including jazz, Afrobeat, funk, rock and new music, a wide range that's reflected in Afrofunk Experience and Russian Telegraph, two groups for which he has served as co-leader. With his own sextet,

David James' GPS, he recorded and released the album "Billionaire Blues" in 2016, which garnered a rave as one of the best debut CDs of the year from jazz critic Francis Davis.

"I was born in San Francisco and grew up mostly in Oakland with my mom, I didn't grow up with my father. This whole piece, which is inspired by my father, is really the culmination of a lot of research and a lot of discovery," James said.

"It's not linear, it's not a biographical tale or anything, but it's a bunch of snapshots — music inspired by a series of snapshots of this person's life," he said of "Mission Rebel No. 1."

Reverend was an honorary title for Jesse James, who was not ordained, but it seems he did have a calling to help local young people. In 1965, he founded an organization that sought to improve opportunities for Black and Latino youth. The Mission Rebels was made up of "mostly high school and college-aged young people from the Mission, working with James and a host of adults to advocate for and provide job placement and educational programs, as well as to do general community work," according to an essay from digital history archive FoundSF.

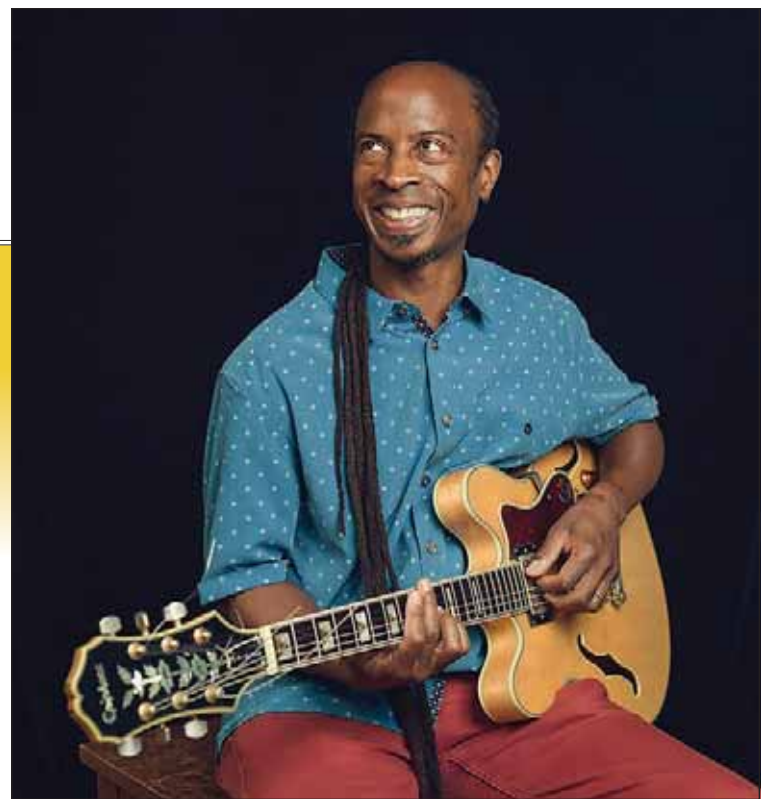
Rev. James not only built a group for local youth, but he had also traveled a tough road himself. As a teen, he became addicted to heroin, which led him to crime and, eventually,

15 years in prison. Taking part in an evangelical youth group helped Rev. James take a different path, according to an obituary from SFGate.

"He had a pretty rough childhood and young adulthood, with addiction and being incarcerated. Yet somehow he was able to start this organization that wound up doing amazing things and affecting people's lives in a very positive way, particularly at-risk youth who then went on to start their own organizations. It has this ripple effect that emerged from his work," James said.

The Mission Rebels were active from 1965 through the early '70s, and the group's work was well-documented in newspapers and TV reports — a large number of which James found through the San Francisco Public Library.

James said "Mission Rebel No. 1" came about in part because he was inspired to compose a longer piece of music by longtime collaborators Beth Custer and Lisa Mezzacappa, whose work includes soundtracks and large-scale performances. Both musicians are part of his GPS ensemble and will be featured in the "Mission Rebel No. 1" performance, with Custer on clarinet and Mezzacappa on double bass. The performance also features trombonist Alan Williams, Keith Lawrence on viola, drummer John Hanes and James on electric guitar.



Courtesy Lenny Gonzalez

Musician David James composed "Mission Rebel No. 1" about his father, Rev. Jesse James.

Basing a longer composition on his father's story slowly crystallized as James considered what he had learned about his father. "Especially once he passed, which was in 2005, I started doing a little digging into his life. It occurred to me at some point that this man's life is pretty amazing. It had a lot of texture to it," James said.

James received grants in 2020 and 2022 from the San Francisco

Arts Commission to develop and perform a suite of music about his father and his work.

In some cases, the music draws from the headlines and stories he found, with Rev. James' words and the news coverage brought together in James' composition.

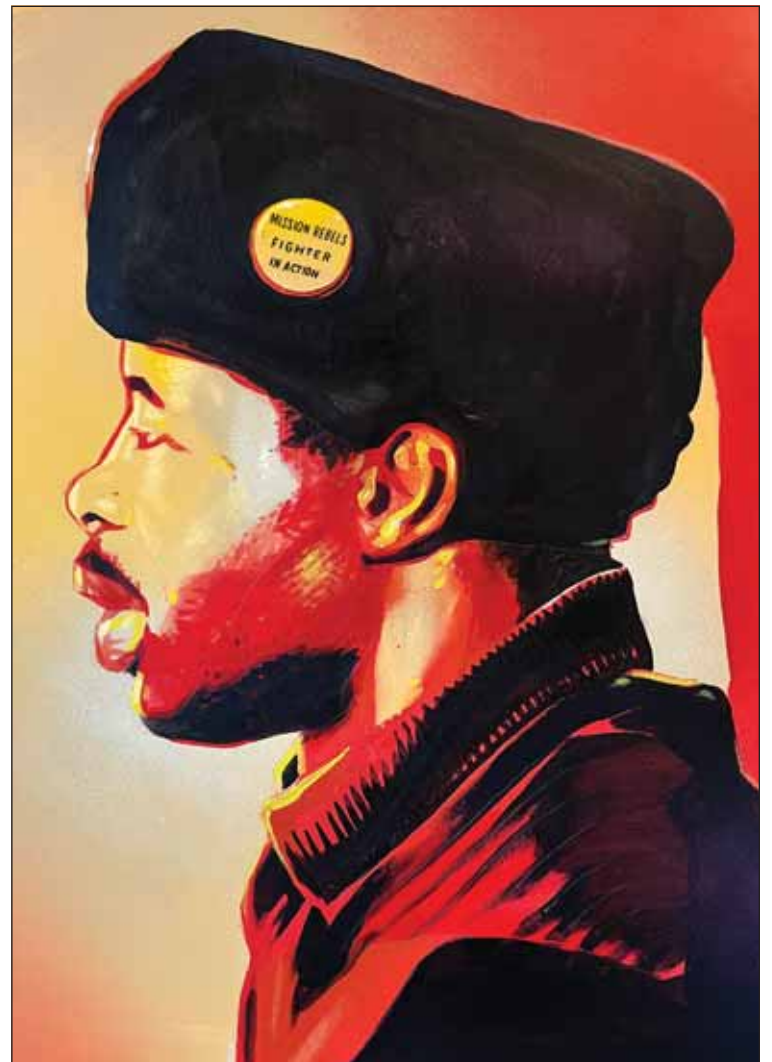
"I actually took a whole story from an interview that my father

See **MISSION REBELS**, page 21



Courtesy David James

The GPS ensemble seen at a previous performance at Bird and Beckett in San Francisco.



Courtesy David James

A painting depicting Rev. Jesse James wearing a Mission Rebels button. The image, based on a historical photo, has been used for promoting the "Mission Rebel No. 1" performances.

Worth a Look



Courtesy Stanford Live

Saxophonist Joshua Redman opens the 2023-24 season at Stanford Live with a concert highlighting his new album, "Where Are We."

Joshua Redman

Stanford Live officially opens its 2023-24 season with jazz saxophonist Joshua Redman and it's an epic kickoff, with a concert celebrating Redman's new album and offering something of a musical tour of the United States in the process. The artist's latest release, titled "Where Are We," not only makes callouts to various U.S. cities and regions with its song titles, but also blends in Redman's take on songs such as Count Basie's "Going to Chicago," Rodgers & Hart's "Manhattan," John Coltrane's "Alabama" and Bruce Springsteen's "Streets of Philadelphia," along with some standards and original compositions. It's also the first of his albums to include vocals — Redman teamed with singer Gabrielle Cavassa, who will join Redman for this show, along with an ensemble of musicians featured on the album: pianist Aaron Parks, bassist Joe Sanders, and drummer Brian Blade.

Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m. at Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Tickets are \$34-\$92. live.stanford.edu.

Springline Opening Events

Menlo Park's newest development marks its official opening with an extravaganza of activities. Following on festivities from last week that included a sold-out jazz show, Springline's opening events this weekend include an art gala on Sept. 22 highlighting pieces by local artists, with LED installations, live art and more on display in the plaza, plus craft cocktails and bites and a panel discussion. The following day, Sept. 23, heralds the coming of fall with the End of Summer Palooza, a carnival with live music, games, food trucks, wine tasting and outdoor movies. Also on Sept. 23, guests can get their groove on without even disturbing the neighbors at the After Dark Silent Disco, dancing to tunes spun by DJ Red Corvette broadcast through headphones, while enjoying outdoor games, plus beer and wine.

Sept. 22-23 at Springline, 1302 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Art gala tickets are \$25; admission to carnival and silent disco is free. springline.com.

Smuin Ballet season opener

From the world premiere "Salsa 'Til Dawn" to a Johnny Cash tribute to danced in cowboy boots, the wide range of works in Smuin Contemporary Ballet's 2023-24 season kickoff could almost be summed up by another work on their diverse program: "everything but the kitchen sink," better known as "Tutto Eccetto il Lavandino" by Val Caniparoli. But the mix is not an unusual step for Smuin,

which frequently brings together classical ballet with other styles. Headlining the company's 30th anniversary season opener is "Salsa 'Til Dawn," by top choreographer Darrell Grand Moultrie, who has worked with such big names as American Ballet Theatre, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Beyoncé. The piece is set to an original Cuban jazz score by Grammy- and Emmy-award-winning composer Charles Fox. The program also marks the return of James Kudelka's "The Man in Black," set to Cash's music, and Caniparoli's work, a neoclassical piece set to Vivaldi and commissioned by Smuin in 2014.

Sept. 21-24 at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Tickets are \$25-\$84. smuinballet.org.

Galactic

New Orleans-based Galactic has infused the irresistible funk style of its hometown in a sound that touches a wide variety of genres, from blues, hip-hop and alternative pop to a retro groove. Galactic's style effortlessly morphs to spotlight the talents of many collaborators, including Irma Thomas, Mavis Staples, Macy Gray, Boots Riley and Boyfriend. Joining the lineup in recent years is vocalist Anjelika "Jelly" Joseph. Hailing from New Orleans herself, Joseph previously fronted fellow NOLA band, the Original Pinettes, an all-female brass band, and also appeared on "American Idol."

Sept. 22, 8 p.m. at The Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. \$68-\$133. guildtheatre.com.



Courtesy Linda Wilson

"It occurred to me at some point that this man's life is pretty amazing. It had a lot of texture to it," David James said of his father, Rev. Jesse James, seen here in an undated photo.

MISSION REBELS

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gave about the formation — how the Mission Rebels began. I transcribed that interview, and I recorded myself improvising, singing those words, and then I wrote a piece around that. And that might be kind of the centerpiece of the work," he said.

He took a similar approach with his ensemble, whom he invited to bring their own takes to the piece. He sent each musician a historical headline and asked them to improvise a melody to the words, record themselves singing the melody, and James composed music based on each melody. Some opportunities for improvisation are also built into the piece.

"Everybody gets a little feature moment to improvise within the context," he said.

James' research drew him to take a multimedia approach to the performance, which uses projections to weave in historical footage and photographs.

"It was amazing how many news accounts I was able to find, discover and uncover. And I just thought this is pretty fertile ground for us. I used some of the headlines as lyrics, but I did also think it might be interesting to show some of these headlines or a series of photos of the time," James said.

All humans are complex, and

Rev. James was no different. While he stepped back from the Mission Rebels in the late '60s due to issues with drinking, the influence of his work remained. Delving into a complicated legacy can bring a variety of emotions.

"We're just working on the music and then when I take a moment to breathe, and step back and think about it, it can be emotional. There are some heavy, intense facts about this person's life.

There's trauma that he lived through, there's trauma that he inflicted," James said.

"He was still able to build this very positive, beautiful thing. And if there is a message — I don't know that there is a message — but if there is a message, it's probably something about that: having spent years in addiction, years of incarceration and there's still a capacity for beauty." ■

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

"Mission Rebel No. 1" will be performed Sept. 24, 2 p.m. at the Mitchell Park Library & Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. The work's premiere is Sept. 22, 8 p.m. at the Brava Theater in San Francisco. Tickets are \$20. eventbrite.com or heydavidjames.com.

Food & Drink

Realizing a sweet dream

Former Peninsula theater producer stages a cider bar on the Coastside

By Stephanie Gerson

Meredith Kasyan's first love has always been the theater. In 1999, Kasyan moved to the Bay Area to pursue her passion, organizing productions at the Dragon Productions Theater Company — a Redwood City-based non-profit theater organization that shuttered in 2022 — until 2018, when retirement was on the horizon.

In this new chapter of her life, Kasyan felt desperate for the type of change that could be triggered by something drastic, perhaps an international move. Instead she decided to move to the Coastside to become a seaside, inspiring a new business in which she would not be operating a stage but rather a cider trailer. The name would be SeaCider, a reference to the new life to which Kasyan was adjusting.

"Nobody was offering cider tastings with a really cozy atmosphere right on the water, which was right where I wanted to hang out. So I decided I would create this thing for myself and for the community," Kasyan said.

The original concept was straightforward: a cider tasting room with a welcoming vibe, ciders from California distributors and, hopefully, an ocean view. While there are a number of breweries on the coast, Kasyan noticed that dedicated hard cider bars are harder to come by. At first, Kasyan sought a brick-and-mortar location in her new hometown of Half Moon Bay, but none of the places she looked at captured her vision.

Instead, a lot that had stood vacant for 20 years in El Granada caught her attention. The San Mateo County Harbor District owned the lot, and Kasyan spent nine months in 2022 obtaining proper permits and sketching out a cider pop-up that would occupy the lot. But roadblocks

kept deterring Kasyan's cider dreams from coming to fruition. One of them was an issue over her business's original name SeaCider, which faced a trademark infringement from a farm in British Columbia under the same name. Thus, SeaCider was renamed to OceanCiders. The larger issues dealt with the physical lot itself, such as the lack of water rights available in El Granada.

"We came to a brick wall that we couldn't get over," Kasyan said.

With a background in show business, Kasyan is more than familiar with handling setbacks and last-minute changes. Just when she was ready to close the curtain on cider, the Harbor District offered her an alternate outdoor location adjacent to Princeton's Pillar Point Harbor. OceanCiders pivoted yet again and in October 2022, Kasyan got back to work on her cider outpost.

Building out OceanCiders took the theater phrase "the show must go on" to a new level. Kasyan did not want to operate her business out of any trailer but rather a custom one that was constructed in Mexico City. She commissioned the trailer in spring 2022 to be built to her liking since she would be the one pouring ciders, grabbing cider cans from coolers and handing out snacks to patrons.

The saga of obtaining the trailer was "worthy of a mini-series," Kasyan said. Pandemic-related supply chain issues delayed the trailer's construction. Then, the construction company responsible for the trailer refused to fully complete the project, holding it in Mexico City. The help of a "miracle worker" and advocate for Kasyan in Mexico City convinced the company to send the trailer to its rightful owner despite its unfinished nature, crossing the border in August and finally arriving in Princeton.



Above: Meredith Kasyan opened her outdoor tasting room OceanCiders over Labor Day weekend. Top: A pint of cider comes with a view of the harbor at Princeton-by-the-Sea. Photos by Devin Roberts.

Despite the misfortunes, Kasyan's patience paid off. She tapped into her creative side, curating an eclectic atmosphere through the use of repurposed furniture she scavenged, with vast ocean and mountainous views surrounding the site.

OceanCiders' soft opening over Labor Day weekend came at a time of upheaval for the cider industry locally, as Redwood Coast Cider, South City Cider and Red Branch all closed in the past year. But Kasyan was not deterred by the cidery shutdowns that were caused by pandemic-related losses and rent increases. She said her business model differs greatly from these taprooms and offers a unique cider tasting experience that you can't find anywhere else in the area.

The staff at The Cider Junction in San Jose helped Kasyan as she learned the ropes of operating a cider taproom. Just like Cider Junction, OceanCiders sources its offerings from cideries up

and down the California coast. Santa Cruz's Scrumpy Cider and Mendocino County's Gowan's Heirloom Cider are just a few of the cideries Kasyan plans to feature. OceanCiders has a rotation of six ciders on tap, various canned ciders, cider cocktails and cider slushies.

A love of cider led to Kasyan's development of a cider cheese dip recipe, which is paired with warm soft pretzels. S'mores kits are available for patrons seated at the space's fire pits, and gluten-free snacks like nuts and fruit chips are also available for purchase (Kasyan emphasized the accessibility of cider for gluten-free individuals and wanted to accommodate all dietary needs.)

Signage at OceanCiders reads, "Outside food? Yeah! Outside booze? No!" to serve as encouragement for guests to bring a picnic to pair with their pints of cider. Given the lot's expansive outdoor area, Kasyan foresees

local food trucks popping up alongside her cider trailer from time to time.

Kasyan's background operating a theater means she's familiar with running a multiuse space. OceanCiders hosts live music and can serve as a venue for a variety of events, whether that be weddings or meetings for local nonprofits Kasyan is involved with, such as the Surfrider Foundation.

"I'm trying to make this place better than when I got there," Kasyan said. ■

Email the Peninsula Foodist at peninsulafoodist@almanacnews.com.

OceanCiders, 2 Pillar Point Harbor Blvd., Half Moon Bay. Open Wednesday-Friday from 3-8 p.m. and noon to 8 p.m. on weekends barring inclement weather to those 21 and over. [instagram.com/oceanciders](https://www.instagram.com/oceanciders).



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