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, 100 degrees below freezing. 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.

SLAC was only able to operate its X-ray laser at 2 Kelvin, 100 degrees below freezing, before its upgrade. With this new technology, the laboratory can now produce X-rays 8,000 times brighter than before.

“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, 100 degrees below freezing. 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.

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.

See CENTENNIAL, page 14

See SLAC, page 17
Get your home the attention it deserves.

Whether maximizing the value of your home or finding the home of your dreams, our agents provide incomparable service at all price points. We’re locally rooted and globally connected.

154 Oak Court, Menlo Park
OFFERED AT $3,195,000
BRIAN AYER
650.242.2473  LICENSE# 01870281
DANIELA HAALAND
650.980.8866  LICENSE# 02045462

1950 Menalto Avenue, Menlo Park
OFFERED AT $2,095,000
OMAR KINAN
650.776.2828  LICENSE# 01723115

1952 Menalto Avenue, Menlo Park
OFFERED AT $3,195,000
OMAR KINAN
650.776.2828  LICENSE# 01723115

385 Westridge Drive, Portola Valley
OFFERED AT $4,950,000
GARY CAMPB
650.799.1855  LICENSE# 00600311

1741 Cowper Street, Palo Alto
OFFERED AT $5,650,000
TERRI KERWIN
650.868.0272  LICENSE# 01381550
MICHAEL DREYFUSS
650.485.3476  LICENSE# 01121795

552 Kellogg Avenue, Palo Alto
OFFERED AT $5,650,000
THE DREYFUSS GROUP
650.485.3476
MICHAEL DREYFUSS  LICENSE# 01121795
NOELLE QUEEN  LICENSE# 01917059
KRISTIN GAVIN  LICENSE# 02110854

1628 Bryant Street, Palo Alto
OFFERED AT $7,200,000
MARY JO McCARTHY
650.400.6364  LICENSE# 01354295

481 West Maple Way, Woodside
OFFERED AT $7,200,000
SUSAN TANNER
650.255.7372  LICENSE# 01736865

2 Rosewood Drive, Atherton
OFFERED AT $17,750,000
MARY GILLES
650.814.0858  LICENSE# 01789710

236 Camino Al Lago, Atherton
OFFERED AT $20,000,000
SHELA HURLER
650.557.9931  LICENSE# 01152002

3417 La Selva Street, San Mateo
OFFERED AT $1,098,000
RICKY FLORES
650.836.5626  LICENSE# 02027985
MARGOT LOCKWOOD
650.400.2528  LICENSE# 01017519

2941 Sherwood Drive, San Carlos
OFFERED AT $2,150,000
CARRIE DU BOIS
650.766.9069  LICENSE# 01179769

2211 Brewster Avenue, Redwood City
OFFERED AT $2,495,000
BRIAN AYER
650.242.2473  LICENSE# 01870281
DANIELA HAALAND
650.980.8866  LICENSE# 02045462

107 Wila Ranch Court, Redwood City
OFFERED AT $4,980,000
JOHN SHROYER
650.787.2321  LICENSE# 00613370

25 Admiralty Place, Redwood City
OFFERED AT $1,898,000
WILLIAM HOOHLORST
650.888.5089  LICENSE# 01504765

2759 Waltham Cross Street, Belmont
OFFERED AT $2,898,000
JOHN SHROYER
650.787.2321  LICENSE# 00613370
LEGACY ATHERTON ESTATE WITH EXTRAORDINARY GROUNDS

Approximately 3.17 gated acres
Artfully rebuilt within the existing structure
Designed around a spacious center courtyard
Main residence, guest house, exercise studio, & apartment

Approximately 19,650 total square feet
(per floor plan measurements)
Pool, spa, putting green, tennis court
Visually stunning gardens plus orchard and vegetable garden

Offered at $42,000,000  |  www.30Atherton.com

30 ATHERTON AVENUE, ATHERTON

HUGH CORNISH
650.619.6461
hcornish@cbnorcal.com
DRE# 00912143
HughCornish.com

HELEN + BRAD MILLER
650.400.3426 | 650.400.1317
helen.miller@compass.com
DRE# 01142061 | DRE# 00917768
HelenAndBradHomes.com
Premier Senior Living
In the Heart of Burlingame

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

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

Proud member of the Eskaton family
Assisted Living, Independent Living with Service and Memory Care
1600 Trousdale Drive, Burlingame, CA 94010 • License #415601015 • Equal Housing Opportunity

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

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

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

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

We couldn’t do it without you.

www.AlmanacNews.com/join
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.
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 seden 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 hospitalized 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. The CHP is investigating the cause of the crash.

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. Officials 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 investigate to remember their doors, set alarms, and make sure any video surveillance systems are working. If breaking and entering had happened, residents are asked to contact 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 homeowers 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 check 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 Inacheta

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

By Gennady Sheyner

Boasting 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施肥 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 $527 million investment, Californians will soon see more dentists, more police, more under cover officers to enhance community safety here in Palo Alto,” Binder said.

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

A burglary was reported at a home on the 100 block of Hobart Street at Santa Cruz Avenue. The Belmont man was reported as being 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 evacuate 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.

Officials 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 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.

Established 1965

The Almanac

Serving Menlo Park

Atherton,

Portal Valley,

and Woodside for over 50 years

NEWSROOM
Senior Editor Andrea Gemmett, 223-6537
agemmet@almanacnews.com
Staff Writers Cameron Reibondo, 223-6536
Angeela Brizzio, 223-6529
Audience Engagement Editor Jamie Padojino, 223-6524, jpadojino@almanacnews.com
Home/Real Estate Editor Linda Taaffe, 223-6551, ltaaffe@almanacnews.com
Arts & Culture Editor Heather Zimmerman, 223-6515, hzimmerman@almanacnews.com
Features Editor Julia Brown, 223-6531, jbrown@almanacnews.com
Audience Engagement Assistant Editor/Visual Journalist Regan Gauthier, 223-6530, mgauthier@almanacnews.com
Audience Engagement Assistant Editor Zoe Morgan, 223-6519, zmorgan@almanacnews.com
Lifes/Features Assistant Editor Karla Kane, 223-6521, kkane@almanacnews.com
Embarcadero Media Staff Writers Gustavo Arellano, 223-6518, garellano@almanacnews.com
Emily Margaritenn, 223-6517, emargaritenn@almanacnews.com
Eo Ibarra, 223-6519, gennady@almanacnews.com
Contributors Katie Daly, Maggie Mah

DESIGN & PRODUCTION
Design Director/Production Manager Kristin Brown, 223-6562
Design Associate Paul Lowellow, Mary Watabane, Doug Young

ADVERTISING
Vice President of Sales Gina Chooed African, 505-621-1171
Major Accounts Sales Manager Connie Cottton, 223-6577
Digital Advertising Sales Elaine Ogden, 223-6572
Real Estate Manager/Real Time, 223-6583
Digital Advertising Sales Lori Nikols, 223-6585

ADVERTISING SERVICES
Advertising Services Manager Kevin Llewellyn, 223-6597

Sales & Production Coordinator Diane Martin, 223-6584

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

Newsroom: (650) 223-6525
Newswon: Fax (650) 223-7525
Email news and photos with captions to: Editor@AlmanacNews.com
Email letters to: Letters@AlmanacNews.com
Advertising: (650) 834-2626
Submit Legal Notices: AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/
Submit Obituaries: AlmanacNews.com/obituaries

The Almanac is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-0508. Periodical Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA 94025-0508 and Other Locations. Additional mailing offices. Adapted as a newspaper of general circulation for the purpose of sale. The Almanac is delivered to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portal Valley and Woodside. However, in order to continue delivering to you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member of AlmanacNews.com and click here to start supporting The Almanac today.

POST OFFICE CHANGES TO THE ADDRESS: Changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-0508.

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

The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County to publish public notices of governmental and legal matters. The public notices are available in the office of the Clerk No. 175703, issued November 16, 1960.

To request delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac, in zip code 94023, 94027, 94028, 94025, please include portion of 94025, call 886-2026.
**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 T 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 Sand 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 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 warehouse collection, she felt inspired, she said.

“I felt immersed in time. There were women’s carriages and nancy 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 Road or the freeway. She said she hoped the new museum would connect people to the lives of past community residents.

Nanci Williams, a Historical Museum volunteer, was one of about a half-dozen women dressed in clothing dating from the 1800s, the time period captured by the carriages. While most of the clothing were replicas 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.

---

**Have you heard?**

**Readers’ Choice 2023 voting starts Oct. 2!**

Get ready to vote for your favorites!

Online voting starts Oct. 2 at AlmanacNews.com/readers_choice

TheAlmanac ALMANACNEWS.COM

---

**September 22, 2023  AlmanacNews.com  The Almanac 7**
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 coveted 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 under 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 size of the limb broken, 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.

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.

Ilsa 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 added, 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 soda, $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 $1.85. These markups, he said, “make may produces 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 (MPPFD) 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,” A “good年报, 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 one in need, and I think this is the right thing to do to donate the firetruck.”

There was some discussion over whether the MPPFD 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.
575 OAK KNOLL LANE

5 Bed
4.5 Bath
4,000 Sq Ft
13,600 Sq Ft Lot

$6,800,000

Gorgeous custom built home with ground floor main bedroom, wine cellar, pool and spa in prime Menlo Park.

MONICA CORMAN
650.465.5971
monica.corman@compass.com
DRE 01111473

MANDY MONTOYA
650.823.8212
mandy.montoya@compass.com
DRE 01911643

SCAN ME TO SEE INSIDE
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 climatic, 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 revisions.

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 chang- es 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 Pflau 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.”

Pflau 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 was working 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.

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 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, 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, leaveremembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at AlmanacNews.com.

TOWN OF WOODSIDE
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062
PLANNING COMMISSION
OCTOBER 4, 2023 6:00 PM

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

Join Zoom Meeting:
16699091286,86068472736
+1532158782,86068472736
Dial by your location:
+16699091286
+1532158782
Meeting ID: 860 6847 2736

Weblink: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736
Remote Public Comments:
Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. Members of the public participating remotely may comment on items during the hearing.
Email: sharper@woodsidetown.org

PUBLIC HEARING
1. 243 Highland Terrace
   Vari023-0001
   Kyle Tran, Creative Touch 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 of the building would be approximately 15 feet tall, with the highest point of the structure 11-foot plate height maximum required for accessory structures (VARI2023-0001). The overall height of the building would be approximately 15 feet tall, with the highest point of the structure
   2. 1101 Cañada Road SDV2022-0001; GPM2022-0001; 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 (SDV2022-0001); General Plan Amendment (GPM2023-0001); 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 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, 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.
1200 Rosefield Way, Menlo Park

Open House Saturday and Sunday 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

4 Bedrooms | 3.5 Bathrooms | 2,733 Square Foot home | 10,080 Square Foot Lot

LIST PRICE: $4,450,000

Douglas Andrew Gonzalez
Coldwell Banker Realty
Mobile: 650-465-8930
Email: dgonzalez@cbnorcal.com
Webpage: TheRealEstateGuy.Info
CalDRE# 00895924
OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY 9/23 & SUNDAY 9/24: 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

6 SARGENT LANE
ATHERTON
$9,988,000 | 7 Bd | 7 Bth
6Sargent.com

74 MONTE VISTA AVENUE
ATHERTON
$12,988,000 | 6 Bd | 7 Bth
74MonteVista.com

585 CHERRY AVENUE
LOS ALTOS
$4,288,000 | 6 Bd | 3 Bth
585Cherry.com

750 WILLOWOOD LANE
PALO ALTO
$2,988,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth
750Wildwood.com

SATURDAY ONLY

1932 EMERSON STREET
PALO ALTO
$11,650,000 | 6 Bd | 6 Bth
1932EmersonStreet.com

64 FAIRVIEW AVENUE
ATHERTON
$7,488,000 | 4 Bd | 2.5 Bth
64Fairview.com

121 PARK AVENUE
PALO ALTO
$4,288,000 | 5 Bd | 4.5 Bth
121ParkAve.com

SUNDAY ONLY

3 OLIVER COURT
MENLO PARK
$2,798,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth
3OliverCt.com

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE DETAILS OR VISIT US AT DELEONREALTY.COM

REAL ESTATE SEMINAR

Learn More About Rising Interest Rates And How They May Affect Your Home Value

October 12, 2023
5:30-6:30 PM: Seminar | 6:30-7:30 PM: Q&A
ShowPlace Icon Theatre
2575 California St. #601, Mountain View
Scan to RSVP or Call 650.543.8500

Dynamic Agent Network
DynamicAgentNetwork.com
650.844.2318

Rachel Repka, DRE #01933909 | DeLeon Realty, Inc | DRE #01903224

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

REMODELED AND EXPANDED ON MORE THAN AN ACRE

The lush seclusion of Atherton’s sought-after West of Alameda neighborhood offers a captivating setting for this 7-bedroom home set on more than an acre of land. Luxurious details and finishes abound across ~5,500 square feet of living space that has been meticulously remodeled and expanded to meet the needs of a modern lifestyle, with a bright, welcoming ambiance throughout. Enjoy expansive gathering areas, numerous fireplaces, the spectacular chef’s kitchen, and the added convenience of a gym and office. Comfortable bedrooms encompass multiple guest suites, while the deluxe primary suite boasts two spa-like bathrooms. A true indoor/outdoor lifestyle awaits on the remarkable grounds filled with options for both entertainment and recreation, with a sparkling pool, tennis court, putting green, and more. And though you will feel an incredible sense of privacy, you will still be within easy reach of downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, two country clubs, Sand Hill Road, Stanford University, and esteemed public and private schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE WITH LIVE MUSIC:
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
6Sargent.com
Offered at $9,988,000

Listed by the DeLeon Team • 2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer’s Agent • Waived if DeLeon Buyer’s Agent
Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com | Equal Housing Opportunity
中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
Artists who painted Taylor Swift’s butterfly mural debut 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 ‘what if you 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 Heubein 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 a ladder 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.”

Defying Gravity using 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 murals on the walls of apartment buildings. She was an artist for a time and a makeup artist for another, but she decided to combine all her talents under one roof. “I was done with makeup and I was told ‘you can make a living from doing this’. I was so excited, I had no idea how to do it.”

Montague turned to art and has never looked back. “I love it! I really love it. I love the 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 project,” she said. “They are a symbol of freedom and they are different and unique. Look at everyone — 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, the imagery, anything almost story-like. “It’s gorgeous here. I’m obsessed with the trees.”

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, 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 resonant 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 superstars 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.

“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.

---
Registration is now open: PaloAltoOnline.com/moonlight_run

The Palo Alto Weekly Moonlight Run & Walk is a benefit event for local nonprofits supporting kids and families.
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 months-long 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 SR84slidedupdates@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 rattan 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 receiver 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 Mirken.

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 translated 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 Laothian 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.
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 LCS soft X-ray department head. Scientists can use LCS-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 LCS-II can also drive forward research of more sustainable technologies, clear energy technologies and develop new types of pharmaceuticals, according to SLAC’s press release. The LCS-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 Gutelzon.

Email Staff Writer
Cameron Rehubs at crehubs@almanacnews.com.
Over an acre of land provides feelings of serenity and seclusion with a remarkable location in prime West Atherton. Set away in almost total privacy by an extended driveway, this 4-bedroom home rests on a park-like lot unbothered by the activity of the nearby street, with towering trees lining the perimeter. Awaiting you is a unique chance to enjoy all that an Atherton lifestyle affords: luxuriant surroundings, proximity to Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Stanford University, and Sand Hill Road, the convenience of 2 local international airports, top-ranked public and private schools, a private golf and country club, and commute options that put both San Francisco and San Jose within easy reach. This is a remarkable opportunity to experience Silicon Valley living at its finest in one of the country’s most sought-after towns.

OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
64Fairview.com
Offered at $7,488,000

Listed by the DeLeon Team • 2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer’s Agent • Waived if DeLeon Buyer’s Agent
Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com | Equal Housing Opportunity
中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 | 電話: 650.785.5822 | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
Privacy and luxury converge to offer an incredible living experience in this 6-bedroom home set on a gated lot of more than an acre in prime West Atherton. Gorgeous landscaping and architectural design open to a two-level floorplan of more than 5,500 square feet filled with expansive, elegantly appointed spaces that invite grand entertaining as well as quiet nights at home. Enjoy highlights such as stunning trestle ceilings, multiple fireplaces, the chef’s kitchen with high-end appliances, and multiple bedroom suites for family and friends, including the retreat-like primary suite as well as an attached in-law apartment with its own kitchen. Quintessential Atherton grounds provide the perfect venue to enjoy an indoor/outdoor lifestyle with a sprawling lawn, patio, and built-in fire pit and grill. And as a finishing touch, an exceptional location puts you mere moments to everything the area has to offer, including downtown Menlo Park, Sand Hill Road, Menlo Circus Club, and top-ranked public and private schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

74MonteVista.com
Offered at $12,988,000

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

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com | Equal Housing Opportunity

中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
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 SF Gate.

“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.

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 had recorded in 2005, 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. See MISSION REBELS, page 21

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.
**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.

**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, 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.

**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, Bootsy 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.

**MISSION REBELS continued from page 20**

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 center-piece 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.
Realizing a sweet dream

By Stephanie Gerson

Meredit 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 seadiser, 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 bar on the Coastside the Almanac


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.

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.
Gain a competitive advantage and list your home with DeLeon Realty this fall!

Sign a listing agreement with us this fall, and we will prepare your home NOW for the upcoming spring market. Our comprehensive preparation services encompass everything from essential handyman work, to gutter cleaning, landscaping, and more. Plus, we will capture stunning exterior photographs of your home prior to the inclement weather of January and February. That way, your home will be primed and ready to hit the market as soon as the spring season starts.


Call us today for more information!

MICHAEL REPKA
DRE #01854880
650.488.7325
michael@deleonrealty.com
241 STOCKBRIDGE AVENUE
ATHERTON
Offered at $14,500,000
481Stockbridge.com
Gated grounds of ~1.1 level ac. | 6 bed, 7 full baths, 2 half baths
Office, multiple flexible-use rooms, recreation center with bar, wine cellar, theatre, and fitness center | Pool, vast entertainment terrace, fireplace terrace, outdoor kitchen and playground | Detached 3 car garage with EV charging
Las Lomitas schools

1275 EL CAMINO REAL UNIT B
MENLO PARK
Offered at $3,380,000
Located in the heart of downtown Menlo Park
Penthouse living, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths | 1,917+/- sf
~1,215 sf of terrace | Contemporary Style with to-the-floor windows and continuous expanses of sliding glass doors
Extraordinary wraparound terraces with unrivaled outdoor space | Sleek, modern kitchen
2-car underground parking GULLIXSON.com

29 SHEARER DRIVE
ATHERTON
Offered at $5,200,000 GULLIXSON.com
0.66 acre lot. Build your dream home on this level lot in sought-after central Atherton. Located amid estate properties
Lot surrounded by tall perimeter trees on all three sides for added privacy | Survey and planning study is available.
2 miles to downtown Menlo Park.

The Gullixson Team is ranked #1 Compass small team in the Nation and #5 small team in the nation in RealTrends report of the Top Residential Real Estate Professionals. (June 2023)