

The Almanac

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

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Courtesy Robb Most

Santa lights up the holiday tree at Atherton Town Center

Atherton residents gathered at Town Center on Dec. 7 for a holiday celebration which featured cookie decorating, a dance and story time, and a visit with Santa Claus. Kids sipped hot cocoa and crafted ornaments in the library's makerspace. Santa, with Mayor Bill Widmer standing by, did the honors of lighting the tree on the library deck.

Fan breaks into Curry home to get an autograph, DA alleges

By Angela Swartz

There is a warrant out for the arrest of a man who broke into the Atherton home of Golden State Warriors star Steph Curry in October to ask for an autograph, according to San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe. Curry was not home at the time but the family nanny and his three children were, according to the DA's Office.

Sheng Gao, 19, a Cupertino resident and international exchange student, walked up to Curry's security gate at about 5:50 p.m. on Oct. 15, the DA's Office wrote in a case summary. He pressed the "Call" button and the "Ring" button and the gate opened. He then walked into the home after checking the unlocked front door.

The nanny demanded to know what Gao was doing there and he said he wanted Curry's

See **CURRY**, page 11

Menlo Park council makes changes to boost affordable-housing ownership program

Kindergarten teacher has been on city's below market rate waiting list for 12 years

By Neil Gonzales

Since 2011, kindergarten teacher Kristen Leep has been on Menlo Park's waiting list for those wanting to buy a below-market-rate (BMR) home.

She has gotten close on a couple of purchases through the city's BMR Housing Program but remains a longtime rental

tenant. For teachers and others like her with low-to-moderate income levels, finding and buying a house in the high-priced Peninsula and larger Bay Area is too difficult and challenging.

"I'm able to live here and have a prayer of saving for retirement because I live in a below-market-rate apartment," she said in an interview with The Almanac. "So that's great for now, but it's

not permanent. Of course, I'd much rather purchase. ... I am keeping hope."

Her hopes may have gotten a boost when the City Council approved revisions to Menlo Park's BMR housing policy regarding for-sale units during its Dec. 5 meeting. The updated policy seeks to clarify procedures while strengthening support and opportunities for those

who qualify to buy a BMR home.

The amended BMR guidelines come as housing affordability statewide has dipped. According to a recent report from the California Association of Realtors, fewer than one in five households could afford to purchase a \$843,600 median-priced, single-family residence in the third quarter of this year. This is down from the 18% for

the same period in 2022.

San Mateo County came in at 17% for this year's third quarter — down from the 19% for the same frame in 2022, according to the association. The county continued to require the highest minimum qualifying income (\$516,000) to buy a median-priced house. It was the only

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INSIDE

Help local families in need 12

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Who is overlooked right here in our own community?

We are living through extraordinary and uncertain times with many worthy concerns vying for your attention and support. One that is often overlooked and neglected: **The well-being of our senior adults and their essential daily needs**, even right here in our own community. They are your parents, grandparents, neighbors, and friends—the ones who have contributed so much to the communities we enjoy today. Where would we be without them?

The growing challenges of aging intensify during the holiday season

We hope you enjoy a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. For many local seniors this will not be so. Older adults on fixed incomes are disproportionately **vulnerable to inflation** and **struggling to stay afloat** with rising costs—running out of funds for food each week and **facing impossible choices now** between paying for food, medications, transportation, or other critical needs. **Senior hunger**, widespread **loneliness**, and **social isolation now** reach more deeply into every corner of our diverse community putting more seniors at risk.

Now in our 76th year, PVI is here with meaningful programs for critical needs like these, **enabling seniors to age in place** with essential services that also help to reduce the use of costly health care services. And we cannot do it without you.

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We live in a community that counts on each other and our most vulnerable are looking to you. Because you care, PVI can freshly prepare and home deliver over **179,000 life-changing nutritious meals** annually to seniors in need; re-open our Café for nominal cost **weekday lunches**; offer therapeutic **care to those with Alzheimer's** and Aging Life Solutions for **overwhelmed family caregivers**; provide daily **meaningful activities and social connections** for otherwise isolated older adults; and provide **10,500 essential transportation rides** for daily needs. PVI's fast-growing weekly **"Got Groceries"** program is providing over **450 seniors** per month with a vital **weekly lifeline** of over **6,000 pounds** of protein, dairy, fresh produce, and pantry staples. Please take a moment to visit 1pvi.org to learn more about those whose lives are changed because you care.

Join us as we transform aging and reach more seniors in need

PVI is changing the way seniors are cared for and treated as respected and vital members in our local communities. Together we can fill empty plates with nutritious food and provide Alzheimer's and caregiver support, stimulating wellness activities, and on-demand transportation to your neighbors who need us most. Help us **protect our local seniors and families** and create a future where no senior in our community is isolated or hungry. We are inspired by the community support that can make this possible.

Yes, I want to make a difference today: Your special year-end gift of an amount that is right for you* means everything to the **thousands of local families relying on us** for their daily health and well-being. Please help us close our current Meals on Wheels waitlist and Got Groceries gap this holiday season. You may give securely online at www.1pvi.org/donate or by scanning the QR code. Give this message to friends who share your passion to help extend senior health and independence. We are so grateful for your support.

***\$500 funds** one month of PVI Meals on Wheels for two at-risk seniors; or a fitness membership for one year; or helps fund Aging Life Solutions; **\$700 funds** one week of Adult Day Services; ***\$2,500 funds** an iPad and training for a senior; or Ride PVI transportation services for one month for five seniors.

With hope and gratitude,

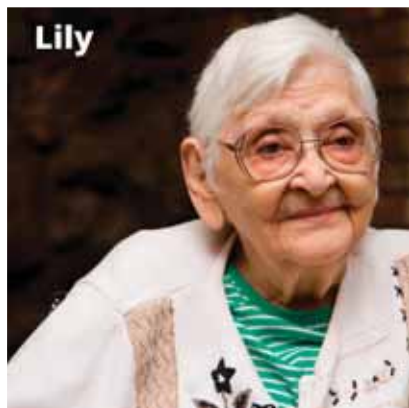
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Lily

When Lily's caregiver daughter moved to Sacramento, Lily found herself relying on soup or costly microwave meals. She was afraid she might have to move from her home and her Redwood City community of 53 years. Now PVI's Meals on Wheels "is a true lifesaver"! Lily is so thankful for the healthy food and those who deliver the meals and talk with her. She can remain in her home and **"now I won't be lying to my daughter when I tell her I have something good for dinner!"**

DAILY SENIOR IMPACT:

1 in 6 seniors is facing hunger

1 in 2 seniors living alone are without the finances for basic needs

1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer's

1 in 4 seniors live alone and feel lonely

Nearly 1 in 5 spousal caregivers passes away before their loved one

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Courtesy city of Menlo Park

A rendering of the entrance of Parkline in Menlo Park.

As SRI redevelopment's impact is evaluated, neighbors worry about potential effects

Environmental analysis for Parkline project is expected next June

By Neil Gonzales

The proposed mixed-use Parkline project to redevelop the aging SRI International research campus in Menlo Park is eliciting both enthusiasm and worry as the developer readies to present environmental impacts of the plan as soon as June 2024.

"Menlo Park has enthusiastically embraced the proposal to open up the SRI campus in our revitalization," Eric Bet, an associate with project developer Lane Partners, said following an open-house event earlier this

month inviting the community to the site.

Community members "have appreciated the approach to open space, tree preservation (and) housing inclusion and focus on pedestrian and bike flow around and through our site," he also said in an email. Developers tout the project as all-electric with LEED Platinum buildings, and pedestrian and bicycle connections to transit.

He noted that the developer has been engaging the community for years now about the project, which would transform SRI's 63 acres at 333

Ravenswood Ave. into a new district of offices, homes and recreational spaces.

"We have received thousands of comments and have had great conversations with our community," Bet said.

However, other residents remain wary of the project's potential size and possible traffic and other impacts.

In an email to fellow residents in the Linfield Oaks neighborhood where the project is situated, Sue Connelly urged them to be aware of how big

See **SRI CAMPUS**, page 11

Cecilia Taylor chosen as Menlo Park's mayor for second time

Councilman Drew Combs picked as vice mayor in annual City Council reorganization meeting

By Neil Gonzales

Cecilia Taylor and Drew Combs are once again Menlo Park's mayor and vice mayor, respectively.

Their fellow City Council members chose the two for the top roles in its annual reorganization during a regular meeting Tuesday night, Dec. 12. The pair are reprising their tandem leadership, having both served in the same roles in 2020.

Taylor takes over for outgoing Mayor Jen Wolosin, who remains on the council.

"I am honored to serve again as the mayor of Menlo Park," Taylor said toward the end of the meeting. "I'm excited for the upcoming year, and I look forward to sharing with all of you what my focuses are in the coming weeks."

A likely focus is shepherding Menlo Park toward a housing plan that finally complies with the state's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) program for the 2023-31 cycle. Similar to many other jurisdictions on the Peninsula and statewide, Menlo Park for more than a year has been striving to garner state approval for a plan to accommodate close to 3,800 units during this current cycle.

Taylor's mayorship will have to navigate as well through some



Cecilia Taylor



Drew Combs

major proposed projects such as the Parkline mixed-use development, which would transform the aging SRI International research campus into a new district of offices, housing and recreational spaces. Also, a towering mixed-used project is eyed on the site of the former Sunset Magazine headquarters.

Taylor's remarks on Dec. 12 elaborated on the significance of being mayor.

"What mayor means to me is ... it is a ceremonial role for the city and establishes the tone of the meeting," she said. "It works with City Council members and the city manager to create a realistic agenda, we hope, for the City Council."

An important task for a mayor is "to ensure certain topics come to policymakers in an adequate time, especially topics that are concerns of not just council members but also members of the public and staff," she said. "Mayors also help to maintain

See **TAYLOR**, page 8

Portola Valley resident enters race for Eshoo's Congress seat

Peter Dixon, raised in Atherton, motivated by looming threat of second Trump presidency

By Joseph Geha / San Jose Spotlight

A political newcomer and Portola Valley resident with a background in the military and tech world is jumping into the race for Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's seat, and has already raised a significant chunk of cash to back his effort.

Peter Dixon, 40, says his experience of service in the Marine Corps, the U.S. Department of State and his work as a co-founder of a cybersecurity company



Via Dixon for Congress website

Portola Valley resident Peter Dixon entered the race for the 16th Congressional District.

gives him a solid foundation to continue serving the country as a member of Congress.

"The greatest honor of my life has been serving my country as a Marine, it's kind of a cornerstone of who I am," Dixon told San Jose Spotlight.

Dixon was born in San Francisco and raised in Atherton. He now lives in Portola Valley with his wife and three daughters. The veteran said a big part of his motivation to run for Congress is his concern for the world his daughters will inherit, with the looming

threat of another Donald Trump presidency backed by "MAGA Republicans."

"It feels like that is getting decided in the next two to five years, not the next 10 to 20 years," Dixon said. "I really do think this is for all the table stakes, everything is on the line here over the next few years, holding the line on the fundamental tenets of democracy. Having fought for it overseas, I'm willing and able to fight for it again here at home."

Dixon hasn't yet announced any endorsements. His team

said his campaign raised \$350,000 in donations within the first 24 hours after he announced his candidacy on Dec. 7.

While Dixon was in the Marines, he had deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq, and later worked in the State Department during the Obama Administration to curtail rapes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and combat cartel violence in Juarez, Mexico, he said.

See **CONGRESS**, page 16

Portola Valley revises its housing plan a fourth time, in hopes of finally winning state approval

By Neil Gonzales

Portola Valley has finished revising its housing plan with hopes this version finally passes muster with state officials.

The plan, published on Dec. 1, is the town's fourth stab for a compliant housing element after the previous attempts fell short. Portola Valley aims to show the state that the town has strengthened its housing strategies involving accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, and potential development sites, among other issues.

Like many other jurisdictions locally and statewide, Portola Valley has struggled with how to comply with its state Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) requirements for the 2023-31 cycle. The state has mandated Portola Valley plan for 253 new units in its housing element during this current cycle — up considerably from the 64 in the last eight-year period.

Mayor Jeff Aalfs said in an email that the last draft submitted to the state Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in May was a result of a long, robust public process that sought to satisfy the state's conditions while trying to preserve the town's character.

"The May submission reflected the input of a broad swath of our town and involved compromises," the mayor said. "The new draft was modified to respond to HCD's comments



Magali Gauthier

Portola Valley's revised plan tackles the state's request to encourage housing development at the Dorothy Ford Park and Open Space site.

with as few changes as possible, and I hope to approve and resubmit it in January after another round of commentary."

In a July letter responding to the May draft, HCD told Portola Valley that while its housing element addressed many concerns the town still needed to come up with revisions that would make the plan comply with the RHNA program.

The new draft does incorporate the changes necessary to bring the Housing Element "into substantial compliance," town Interim Planning and Building Director Jon Biggs said in a memorandum to Portola Valley leaders and residents.

One of the areas Portola Valley had to revisit pertains to ADUs, which the town identified as a way to increase its housing

numbers. The state wanted Portola Valley to have a backup approach if its ADU growth would turn out slower than projected.

A summary of the changes in the new draft points out that the town would "consider additional efforts to incentivize ADU production and reassess and revise the overall sites strategy" in the event of a potential significant shortfall.

The town would adjust "ADU capacity assumptions with actual permitted units and/or (identify) additional sites for consideration to expand site capacity," the summary said.

Another key revision applies to The Sequoias retirement community and Christ Church as development sites. HCD told the town that it had to have

programs monitoring the effectiveness of housing efforts and improved incentives for affordability at these sites.

To that end, the summary said, the new housing element calls for the town to "work with property owners and maintain annual communication with program members to assess their progress and provide technical assistance."

If in 2027 the number of units at these sites is not keeping up with projections, the summary said, the town will look for additional incentives to promote housing production there.

The revised plan also addresses HCD's request for the town to install strong efforts encouraging and facilitating low-income housing development at the Dorothy Ford Park and Open Space site.

The town's tactics for that include doing outreach with affordable-housing developers, reducing development fees and potentially offering a ground lease at a nominal rate, the summary said.

The town Planning Commission is expected to go over the revamped housing element during its meeting Dec. 20. The Town Council will take it up next before Portola Valley needs to file the updated plan with HCD by the end of January.

View the plan at tinyurl.com/PVhousingrevise. ■

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It looks like Palo Alto's Country Sun may not close down after all

Store, set to close this month, announces that it has been 'saved' and will restock its shelves

By Gennady Sheyner

Country Sun, the grocery store known for its organic fare and its vitamin selection, may not be

closing after all.

The store announced on social media on Monday morning, Dec. 11, that it is "back in business," suggesting that it is no longer planning to shutter at the end of the year. Customers were notified in October that the grocery store will be closing on Dec. 24, a decision that was attributed to declining sales caused by changing consumer habits, General Manager Scott Otte told this publication at the time.

The store tried to find a new buyer earlier this year who would keep the store open but was unable to close that deal — until now, it seems.

Otte was not at the store on

Dec. 11 and did not respond to numerous requests for comment over the weekend and on Monday. When asked about the Instagram post, store employees declined to provide any additional information, with one employee saying that they were instructed not to speak to the media. But numerous Country Sun customers said in posts on the social media site Nextdoor that they were told by employees over the weekend that the store will remain open.

The store's post on Instagram confirmed this. Three days after Country Sun announced that "Everything must go!" it posted on Dec. 11 that "members of our community have

saved Country Sun from closing!" It did not disclose who the new owner is.

"It'll take us a while to get back to normal and fill our shelves again!" the business announced.

The store has been at its current location at 440 California Ave. since 1980, having moved there from a smaller location on the 300 block of California Avenue. It is an offshoot of Earth Sign, an organic store that opened in Menlo Park in the 1970s and then relocated to Palo Alto. ■

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Merry Christmas!

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Woodside Town Council picks Jenn Wall as next mayor

By Neil Gonzales

Jenn Wall, elected to the Woodside Town Council in 2020, is the new mayor.

The council held its annual reorganization during a meeting on Tuesday night, Dec. 12, and chose Wall to lead the town. She takes the reins from outgoing Mayor Chris Shaw, who remains on the council.

"This is really exciting," Wall, the past year's mayor pro tem, said following her selection. "I've definitely been looking forward to this since I joined the council. So pleased to be Woodside's 43rd mayor and the 11th woman to hold the role and the first female mayor since 2016. ... Really excited about this opportunity."

She expressed a bright outlook for challenges and new developments ahead under her mayorship.

"I'm really very optimistic

about what I think we can get done in 2024," she said.

Among those that she believes can get done is a state-compliant housing plan. Like many other jurisdictions locally and state-wide, Woodside has struggled to come up with a plan that satisfies the state's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) program for the 2023-31 cycle.

The state has mandated Woodside prepare for 328 new units during this current cycle — of which 194 must be affordable to low- and moderate-income households. The total number of units for 2023-31 is significantly up from just the 62 in the last period.

"I'm looking forward to completing our RHNA," Wall said.

Wall also noted that the town is "finishing up a number of important capital-improvement projects" such as Glens Path, which will provide a continuous walking route along Glenwood Avenue/Hillside Drive from Cañada to Alta Mesa roads.

"And then we'll be starting a number of new capital improvement projects," she said.

In addition, she said, the town is working on improving communications. "I believe we'll be introducing a new and improved digital newsletter probably around February," she said. "We might even be starting some social media accounts for the town."

Wall's council term ends November 2024. An attorney who moved to town in 2012, she previously served as a planning commissioner and member of the Circulation Committee.

As mayor, Wall said, "I hope to continue some of the best practices" that she observed from her predecessor.

"Whether it's handling public comment and making sure that residents have an opportunity to feel heard or really handling us as a council and making sure that we each get our turn, you're really great at that," Wall told Shaw.

"Chris' dedication to Woodside is really unparalleled," she also said. "When we get emails to the council, which we often do, Chris is inevitably or often the first to respond to try to come

up with a solution or to try to help out on the big issues like fire safety and housing. He shows up prepared and knowledgeable and is always a tremendous thought partner on those trickier topics."

Shaw thanked fellow council members and town staff for their support and efforts when he was mayor the past year.

"You guys have always been very candid and forthright with what needed to be done or what needed to be said or how to handle things," Shaw told his council peers. "Your guidance and your intellect and your attention to detail really drove me to make sure that every time we sat down to do one of these meetings that I was really fully prepared."

He added: "It's been a great year working with you guys. I think it's been productive. We've sparred, we've laughed, but we got a lot of work done this year. And I think you should all be very proud of the work that you all did."

Also Dec. 12, council members picked their colleague Ned Fluet

to be the next mayor pro tem. A lawyer as well, Fluet was first elected to the council in 2018 and served as mayor a year later. His current council term also ends November 2024.

When Fluet became mayor, he was given an orange mayoral sash by former Council member and Mayor Daniel Yost. Fluet handed that sash to Wall, who donned it over her shoulder.

"You are required to wear it all times," Fluet told Wall amid smiles and applause.

Fluet mentioned that previously he passed the sash to Brian Dombkowski when he was named mayor — but only in symbolic fashion.

"I virtually handed it to Brian when he became mayor because we were in COVID times," Fluet said, "so he didn't get it. And then it quickly went to the bottom of my sock drawer and was forgotten about until Daniel reminded me of it. So I thought I have it here tonight." ■

Email Contributing Writer Neil Gonzales at ngonzales92@yahoo.com.

County's revamp of Flood Park gets \$1.3M grant

By Angela Swartz

A \$1.3 million grant will go toward revitalizing 86-year-old Flood Park in Menlo Park near North Fair Oaks in a project dubbed "Realize Flood Park."

During a Dec. 5 meeting, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with neighboring San Mateo County to grant the funds to the 21-acre county park located at 215 Bay Road through money designated to seven projects in 2020 being funded by the \$10.3 million Santa Clara County Stanford Mitigation Fund (SMF). A construction timeline will be announced in 2024 once a contractor is selected for the project.

"Clearly, the impacts of the campus development extend beyond the county line," said Simitian, whose District 5 includes Stanford University, in a Dec. 5 press release. "I'm delighted Santa Clara County can make this contribution, which will help Flood Park become an ever-better recreational amenity."

Funds will go toward improvements to the park. Projects include a new baseball field with a multi-use field in the outfield, a second separate multi-use field, picnic and reservation areas, sports courts, utility infrastructure, walking paths

and a new parking lot.

A pump track — a mountain/dirt bike course — opened in October near the Iris Lane entrance to the park.

According to previous Almanac reporting, the plans have faced pushback from neighbors who expressed concerns about the added noise and traffic the new playing fields and renovations could bring, while many youth and families in the community, especially young athletes from North Fair Oaks, argued that they need more fields for sports like soccer and don't otherwise have reliably accessible places to play.

The SMF is restricted to projects that aim to mitigate the loss of recreational facilities for campus residents and facility

users due to development on the Stanford University campus resulting from approval of the 2000 Stanford general use permit (GUP).

History of the Flood Park project

A revamp of Flood Park has been in the works for years.

A 2015 assessment of the park found that many of its features and infrastructure needed to be repaired or replaced. At the same time, demand grew from the community for additional uses and sports fields. As a result, the San Mateo County Parks Department launched "Reimagine Flood Park" to identify community goals and uses for the park's redesign.

The resulting concept plan,

which reflected the desires of the public, went through environmental review in 2017 through 2019, according to the project website.

In 2020, Simitian proposed that Santa Clara County staff explore ways to use remaining funds from the SMF. The board allocated \$1.5 million of funds for Palo Alto's Adobe Creek/Highway 101 overcrossing project, which was in addition to \$4 million previously awarded, and for the remainder of the funds were allocated to projects in San Mateo County.

Other projects, locally, included in the mitigation funds include:

■ Holbrook-Palmer Park (Atherton): Construction of new accessible pathways along the park entry and exit drives to access park recreation amenities as identified in San Mateo County's park master plan;

■ Middle Avenue pedestrian/bicycle undercrossing (Menlo Park): Construction of a tunnel to provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access underneath the Caltrain railroad tracks, providing a direct connection between Burgess Park on the east side of the tracks with Middle Avenue on the west side of the tracks at El Camino Real;

■ Martin Luther King Park Lighting (East Palo Alto): Installation of fixed lighting to allow for nighttime sports

activity at Martin Luther

King Park. Mobile lights are also included as part of this proposal (thus allowing East Palo Alto to light other city parks with active sports facilities);

■ Alpine Trail (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District): Conversion of a closed portion of Alpine Road to a multi-use trail, south of Skyline Boulevard with the repair of washouts from major storm events and shoring up of other stream crossings that are at risk of failing. This trail would directly link with other Midpeninsula Open Space regional trails in the Coal Creek and Monte Bello Open Space Preserves, including the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Call for bids

In November, San Mateo County called for bids for the Flood Park project.

Once a contractor is selected in early 2024, a construction timeline will be announced, according to the county.

Requests for information on bidding begins Jan. 5 at 5 p.m.

Bid information can be found at tinyurl.com/floodparkbid.

More information

For more on the Flood Park project, go to smcgov.org/parks/realize-flood-park. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.



Courtesy Robert Most

Children play a casual game of soccer at the picnic area at Flood Park.

Negotiators talk barricaded man out of Palo Alto home

Five-hour incident brought in tactical teams, other law enforcement departments but was resolved without violence

By Sue Dremann

Palo Alto police responding to a domestic violence call at a Palo Alto residence spent nearly five hours negotiating with a man who barricaded himself inside a home, Lt. Con Maloney said on Tuesday night, Dec. 12.

Officers responded to the home in the 2900 Block of Bryant Street at around 2:56 p.m. on Dec. 12 and found the man, in his 50s, would not exit

the home. Police set up a negotiating team and called in law enforcement from Sunnyvale and the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, Maloney said.

"While we evacuated a couple of adjacent homes out of an abundance of caution, there is no danger to public safety," Maloney said.

The man reportedly had firearms in the home, but Maloney said police hadn't yet confirmed if that was the case. The man did not display, nor did he use a

weapon, he said.

Negotiators and tactical teams swarmed the area, blocking off the intersection of Bryant and El Carmelo Avenue. The man came to the front door at about 7:30 to 7:40 p.m. and was taken into custody. He was transported to a nearby hospital. Maloney said he did not know the man's condition or whether he had any injuries.

The incident occurred just as students were leaving El Carmelo Elementary School, parent Nicole Macuil said. The

students usually take the bike bridge home on Bryant Street, a busy designated bicycle boulevard, but due to the police activity and roadblock students living on the north side of the bridge couldn't get home, she said.

Isabella Macuil, 10, an El Carmelo fourth grader, said she was just leaving the school when she noticed many police with drawn guns on Bryant Street and police vehicles blocking the street.

"My school was terrified. Students were asking me what was going on. Kids were calling their parents to come to the office to pick them up because they couldn't get home. Fourth graders and up all bike or walk to school and most people don't know the car routes," she said.

Police continued to remove items from the residence after the man was taken away. ■

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

TAYLOR

continued from page 5

a safe space for all residents in our city to share their concerns, suggestions and joys with the City Council and the public at each meeting."

Furthermore, she said, the mayor "can provide some cohesion to the City Council, the city attorney, the city manager and our police chief."

Taylor, who served as vice mayor the past year, also acknowledged the work of others involved with City Hall.

"When we look at our leadership positions, we also include our commissioners and our committee members," she said. "Although they are not the governing body that creates policy, they do provide input and recommendations and a place for the public to discuss issues and make suggestions. Public service is a place for residents who usually are committed to change, real change, even though most of us are not compensated for our time. We are still happy to serve in our capacity."

Taylor represents District 1, the city's Bay side of Highway 101, which includes the Belle Haven neighborhood. Combs represents District 2, which covers the Willows, Flood Triangle and Suburban Park neighborhoods on the other side of the highway.

Both Taylor and Combs were first elected to the council in 2018, and their current terms end December 2026.

Taylor thanked Wolosin for her tenure as mayor, citing "your service to the city, your diligence and your commitment

to truly understanding topics that have come before us and consistently connecting with residents."

Before giving way to the new leadership, Wolosin reflected on what she described as a busy, productive past year.

In response to last winter's storms and flooding, she said as an example, "the city really came through, providing warming centers and hotel rebates to residents, and we kept our residents warm and dry."

She also highlighted the

city's development accomplishments. "We saw lots of housing come on line at Middle Plaza and Springline, and at Springline we also got a lot of new, delicious restaurants," she said. "Gateway Rising on Willow Road was completed, and that's 140 affordable units. We approved 123 Independence Drive, which has 432 units, including 66 affordable units." ■

Email Contributing Writer Neil Gonzales at ngonzales92@yahoo.com.

COMING DEC. 22

Don't miss our special END OF YEAR DOUBLE EDITION!

Just like Santa, we're planning to deliver something special later this month.

We will wrap up the year with a special double edition combining the Dec. 22 and 29 issues.

The Dec. 22 edition of The Almanac will be the final newspaper delivered in 2023. We'll be back in print on Jan. 5.

Unlike Santa, though, our journalists will not rest for long after the big day. Just because there will be no paper delivered Dec. 29, our staff will still be working and you can **keep up with the local news on AlmanacNews.com.**



Happy Holidays!

The Almanac





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**SATURDAY
& SUNDAY**
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Happy Holidays

The holidays are a time to show appreciation to those who are important to you. Here at DeLeon Realty, our thoughts turn to our amazing clients. You are a huge part of our success and have helped make us Silicon Valley's top real estate team.

We sincerely wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season and a healthy, prosperous New Year. Cheers to a great 2024!

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Stanford residents, fellows secure historic agreement after 13 months of negotiations

The agreement includes a 21% increase in compensation and access to full-funded ride-share services

By Isha Trivedi

After a long negotiation process, resident physicians and fellows at Stanford Health Care announced they reached a tentative agreement on their first contract as of late last week.

The deal, which residents are describing as historic, includes a 21% increase in compensation, a \$50,000 annual stipend for a “resident wellness committee,” ride-share services for fatigued and a new grievance

and arbitration process, according to a Dec. 11 statement. The resident physicians and fellows have been negotiating for a new agreement for 13 months, and will now present the proposal to the union’s members to ratify in the coming weeks.

David Dupee, a third-year psychiatry resident, said the new contract will help reduce financial concerns for resident physicians and fellows and help them focus their attention on their patients.

“We organized because we knew the exploitative nature of medical training needs to change — for both us and our patients,” he said in the statement. “We are proud of the precedent this sets, not only for current and future residents at Stanford but also for our colleagues unionizing and negotiating at hospitals across the nation and the patients we all serve.”

A spokesperson for Stanford Health said in a statement on Dec. 13 that the organization

worked hard to reach an agreement that reinforces its commitment to education and clinical training for its residents and fellows.

“We are extremely appreciative of the work by both negotiating teams, and we look forward to the outcome of the vote,” it said.

The residents and fellows voted to join the Committee of Interns and Residents (CIR-SEIU) last May. They have been organizing since December 2020 after protesting Stanford

Health’s COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan largely excluded residents from the first round of vaccine availability.

The group has also held demonstrations during the negotiation process, one in July and one in August. They criticized Stanford officials for using stalling tactics during their negotiations, ignoring their needs while making a \$788 million profit. ■

Email Assistant Digital News Editor Isha Trivedi at itrivedi@paweekly.com.

Stanford Medicine-led study predicts which organs will fail first

Research could help identify advanced aging organs in seemingly healthy people and lead to early treatment

By Sue Dremann

Stanford Medicine-led study has found a way to predict which organs in individuals will fail first, which could lead to early interventions that would improve health and extend lives, according to newly published research in the journal *Nature*. The study was published online Dec. 6.

The study of 5,678 people found that human organs age at different rates. Comparing an organ with its counterpart in other people of the same age, researchers can predict if a person is at a higher risk of diseases associated with the organ and at greater risk of dying, according to the study.

Senior author Tony Wyss-Coray and lead authors and graduate students Hamilton Oh and Jarod Rutledge developed a new way of thinking about organ aging. They looked at the biological age of organs as opposed to the person’s chronological age.

The findings are striking. About 1 in every 5 reasonably healthy adults 50 or older is walking around with at least one organ aging at a strongly accelerated rate, the study found.

“We can estimate the biological age of an organ in an apparently healthy person. That, in turn, predicts a person’s risk for disease related to that organ,” Wyss-Coray, a professor of neurology, said.

Many previous studies have come up with single numbers representing individuals’ biological age, which is determined by various biomarkers in the blood as opposed to

chronological age, which is represented by the number of years a person has lived since their birth.

The new study took these numbers a step further and designated distinct numbers for each of 11 key organs, organ systems or tissues: the heart, fat, lungs, immune system, kidney, liver, muscle, pancreas, brain, vascular system (blood vessels in an organ) and intestine.

“When we compared each of these organs’ biological age for each individual with its counterparts among a large group of people without obvious severe diseases, we found that 18.4% of those age 50 or older had at least one organ aging significantly more rapidly than the average. And we found that these individuals are at heightened risk for disease in that particular organ in the next 15 years,” Wyss-Coray said.

Only about 1 in 60 people in the study had two organs undergoing aging at the accelerated rate, but those who did had 6.5 times the mortality risk of somebody without any pronouncedly aged organs, he said.

The researchers used commercially available technologies coupled with an algorithm they designed to assess the levels of thousands of proteins in people’s blood. They determined that nearly 1,000 of those proteins originated within one or another single organ, and tied abnormal levels of those proteins to corresponding organs’ accelerated aging and susceptibility to disease and mortality.

In the brain, for example, an increase or a decrease in certain synaptic or neuronal proteins in the blood and sampled brain

tissues above or below what a particular age group might typically have could indicate a biologically rapidly aging brain.

They first checked the levels of nearly 5,000 proteins in the blood of about 1,400 healthy people ages 20 to 90 (but who were mostly in mid- to late stages of life). The researchers flagged all proteins with genes that were four times more highly activated in one organ compared with any other organ. They found nearly 900 organ-specific proteins, which they whittled down to 858 to be reliable, they said.

A machine-learning algorithm they developed guessed people’s ages based on the levels of the nearly 5,000 proteins. The algorithm tried to pick proteins that best correlate with a trait of interest, such as accelerated biological aging in a person or in a particular organ.

The scientists verified the algorithm’s accuracy by assessing the ages of another 4,000 people who were somewhat representative of the U.S. population. They used the proteins they’d identified to hone in on each of the 11 organs, measuring levels of organ-specific proteins within each individual’s blood.

The team came up with an “age gap” for each of the 11 organs, which is the difference between an organ’s chronological age and its estimated biological age based on the organ-specific proteins found in the researchers’ calculations.

The age gaps for 10 of the 11 organs studied — with the exception of the intestine — were significantly associated with future risk of death from

all causes over 15 years of follow-up, the researchers found.

A single, standard deviation higher than the biological age of the organ compared to that of other people in the same age group carried a 15% to 50% higher mortality risk over the next 15 years, depending on which organ was affected.

“We found that among people with no active disease or clinically abnormal biomarkers at baseline, every 4.1 years of additional (biological) heart age (one standard deviation) conferred an almost 2.5-fold increased risk of heart failure over a 15-year follow-up,” the study found.

They made similar findings regarding other organs. Those with “older” brains were 1.8 times as likely to show cognitive decline over five years than those with “young” brains. Accelerated brain or vasculature (blood vessels in an organ) aging — either one — predicted risk for Alzheimer’s disease progression as well as the best currently used clinical biomarkers, the study found.

There were also strong associations between an extreme-aging (more than two standard deviations above the norm) kidney score and developing hypertension and diabetes; and also between an extreme-aging heart score and developing atrial fibrillation and heart attack.

The age difference in organs between those who have organs that aren’t aging rapidly and those with rapidly aging organs also doesn’t have to be wide to be detrimental.

“The two most significant associations between disease

and age gap were between the kidney age gap and metabolic disease traits. Individuals with hypertension had kidneys that were approximately one year older than their same-aged peers, while individuals with diabetes had kidneys approximately 1.3 years older,” the study found.

But it’s not all bad news. It might be possible for a blood test to determine which, if any, organs in a person’s body are aging rapidly, the researchers said.

“If we can reproduce this finding in 50,000 or 100,000 individuals, it will mean that by monitoring the health of individual organs in apparently healthy people, we might be able to find organs that are undergoing accelerated aging in people’s bodies, and we might be able to treat people before they get sick,” Wyss-Coray said.

Identifying organ-specific proteins that best indicate excessive organ aging could also lead to new drugs, he said. The trio of researchers have co-founded a company, Teal Omics Inc., to explore commercializing their findings. Stanford University’s Office of Technology Licensing has also filed a patent application related to their work.

Researchers from Washington University; the University of California at San Francisco; the Albert Einstein College of Medicine; and Montefiore Medical Center contributed to the study. ■

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

SRI CAMPUS
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Parkline could get and express their concerns about building heights, traffic congestion and other issues.

The project is exploring two development options. One would feature 550 residential units in buildings rising up to four stories. The other would provide 800 units in buildings going up to six stories.

Connelly said the neighborhood's issues are with the 800-unit option.

"It's a density that is really hugely out of context for the surrounding area," she said. "You suddenly have these very urban, super-tall buildings in an area that only has one- and two-story homes."

The larger version of the project would "add 2,000 to 2,500 residents" to the neighborhood and increase the number of vehicle trips, she also said.

"It's just infinitely more traffic gridlock where we already have problems," she said, "so the chief concern is really the safety of all who are trying to walk, bike or even drive" in the area.

In her email, Connelly told residents that key points to make to the developer include:

- Moving 100 units of affordable housing to Middlefield Road and Ravenswood Avenue to reduce the height, density and traffic at Laurel Street and Ravenswood.

- Making sure there is enough parking per housing unit and office worker to prevent traffic

congestion for those looking for parking in the neighborhood.

- Keeping a buffer of two-story townhomes to protect the privacy, noise level and sunlight of families living adjacent to SRI.

Connelly also contended that their part of the city is seeing more than its fair share of possible developments, including a proposal for a towering mixed-used project on the site of the former Sunset Magazine headquarters at 80 Willow Road.

'Our district is bearing an unfair and unequal amount of development, traffic, higher density and the resulting drops in property values.'

SUE CONNELLY, LINFIELD OAKS
NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENT

"Your voice is vital," Connelly said in her email to neighbors. "Our district is bearing an unfair and unequal amount of development, traffic, higher density and the resulting drops in property values."

Connelly and her neighbors do acknowledge that creating new housing is important, she told The Almanac, "but it also needs to be equitably spread out throughout Menlo Park."

The developer is listening to the concerns, Bet said.

"We have also heard the community's significant desire to include more housing," he said.

"The larger number of units is to help meet the city's housing mandates and a significant request we have heard from the city and the community through our outreach."

Lane Partners will strive "to balance the various desires of the community with a plan update that seeks to reach consensus on the land plan next year," he said.

Mayor Jen Wolosin agreed with that objective.

"I've met with people who are interested in reducing the density and people who are interested in increasing the density," the mayor said. "So I think the desire is to strike a balance."

As for Connelly's contention that her area is bearing the brunt of development interest, the mayor said the council has looked to distribute new dwellings throughout town as Menlo Park has continued to work on a long-range housing plan that complies with state requirements.

Wolosin also pointed out that Linfield Oaks has key transit corridors and is near downtown, making the area a good candidate for future housing.

A draft environmental impact report is being prepared for Parkline. It could be ready to go before the city Planning Commission in June 2024.

The developer eyes breaking ground on Parkline in 2026 and finishing it in a phased approach over approximately a three-year span, Bet said. ■

Email Contributing Writer
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CURRY

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"signature." He left after the nanny told him to leave, according to Wagstaffe. The nanny called the police.

Atherton police officers found Gao walking along El Camino Real. The nanny and surveillance footage helped confirm he was the man in the Curry home, Wagstaffe said.

Gao had taken a bus to Atherton to look for Curry's house, according to the DA's Office. A woman pointed out to him which house belonged to Curry.

Nothing was taken from the home, Wagstaffe said.

Gao signed a trespassing citation promising to appear in court for a misdemeanor arraignment on Dec. 7, but was a no show. San Mateo County Judge Donald Ayooob issued a bench warrant for his arrest with bail on the warrant set at \$500, according to the DA.

The Palo Alto Daily Post first broke the news on Curry's intruder. ■



Dorothy Helen Forsythe

August 4, 1931- November 24, 2023

Dorothy Helen Forsythe passed away peacefully in Menlo Park, California, on November 24, 2023. She was surrounded by her family after a diagnosis of cancer just two weeks prior; she was 92 years old. Dorothy was born to Edna and Edward Ohlemutz in San Mateo, California, on August 4, 1931. She leaves behind three children, Beverly (John) Hickey, Susan Ebert, and John (Reagan) Forsythe, seven grandchildren, Greg Hickey, Scott (Kate) Hickey, Andrew Ebert, Haley (Tyler Cobian) Ebert, Dillon Forsythe, Blaine Forsythe, and Audrey Forsythe as well as three great grandchildren, and her niece, Carolyn McCune.

Dorothy graduated from San Mateo High School, and attended community college. She married John Currie Forsythe in 1951. They were married for thirty-seven years. They lived in Arcata, California, where John was a high school teacher and in 1953 they moved to Eureka, where they had their first child, Beverly. The family then moved to Yuba City where they experienced a devastating flood in 1954, right before Christmas. Four and a half feet of water filled their home. In 1956, they were able to move back and had their second child, Susan. In 1957, the family returned to the Bay Area, where John started his long tenure teaching at the College of San Mateo and then at Cañada College. Dorothy was active in Faculty Wives and was a Girl Scout leader and room mother. On the 4th of July, 1965, John Edward joined the family. This is also the year when the family became active at Bethany Lutheran Church in Menlo Park where Dorothy was a member until her passing. During her time at Bethany she held an office in the Altar Guild, filled and washed communion cups, cut down and decorated Christmas trees, prepared and served lunch to the Youngster's group, often made goodies to serve at coffee hour and helped count offerings for many years.

Once the girls went off to attend college and John Edward was more able to be on his own, Dorothy started a retail career. She worked for a few years at Bullocks in Palo Alto. When it closed, she went to I. Magnin at the Stanford Shopping Center until it closed in 1995. Missing retail, Dorothy then began volunteering at the Filoli Garden Shop in Woodside, CA. for 20 years.

With long time friends, Dorothy was able to have some wonderful travel adventures during her lifetime. These included cruises to Alaska, Mexico, the Mediterranean, the South Pacific, China and the Amazon.

Dorothy loved spending time with her dogs, time in her garden, and time with her family. They held yearly reunions in Sunriver, Oregon, for over 30 years. The last gathering was in 2021, to celebrate her 90th birthday.

Dorothy was a regular member in a variety of exercise classes, including those offered at Little House in Menlo Park. Since COVID she and her neighbor met three times a week to do a Zoom class at home.

A memorial will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 13, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Menlo Park. Contributions can be made to Filoli, <https://filoli.org/> Bethany Lutheran Church <https://bethany-mp.org/>, or Mission Hospice <https://www.missionhospice.org/>.

PAID OBITUARY

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

William Critzer, 89, a Menlo Park man and longtime resident of the Bay Area who served as the director of finance and administration at Avenidas in Palo Alto, and also as the founding president of the Menlo Park Library Foundation, on Nov. 15.

Doris Reiner, 98, who had a passion for interior design, spent time in the film industry playing roles as an extra in multiple films, and in retirement served as a dedicated volunteer for TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, on Nov. 21.

Alfred Dau, 94, who served in the U.S. Air Force before moving to the Bay Area and building his home in Atherton in 1960, later working a long career as a stockbroker, and who was a longtime member of the Sharon Heights Country Club in Menlo Park and the Fellowship Forum in Palo Alto, on July 23.

Karen Gopen, 77, a longtime

Palo Alto resident who worked at Fairchild Semiconductor and later volunteered for many years at schools and for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, on Dec. 2.

Richard Ittner, 88, a life-long Menlo Park resident who served in the U.S. Navy after high school prior to working for the U.S. Geological Survey, and whose hobbies included cars, woodworking and building his own sailboat in his backyard, on Nov. 7.

Joseph Brugler, 86, an electrical engineer whose research and work was influential during the early days of Silicon Valley, and who pivoted to a life of volunteer work during retirement including driving for Care-A-Van for Kids, working for Friends of the Palo Alto Library and volunteering for the Sea Ranch Trails Committee, on Nov. 28.

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

Give back locally

WITH A GIFT TO THE HOLIDAY FUND

Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$310,000 from more than 170 donors for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed on this page.

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Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula

Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, college and career access, and mental health programs to more than 5,000 low-income youth at 29 locations from East Palo Alto to Daly City.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

Fair Oaks Community Center

This multi-service facility, serving the broader Redwood City community, provides assistance with child care, senior programs, citizenship and immigration, housing and employment, and crisis intervention. Programs are available in Spanish and English.

LifeMoves

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

Literacy Partners

Supports literacy programs and projects through fundraising and community awareness. Helps community members enhance their reading, writing and related skills and education to improve their economic, professional and personal wellbeing.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded by voluntary contributions and community grants, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers take-home bags of food, as well as emergency food and clothing assistance.

StarVista

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people and families, with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

Upward Scholars

Upward Scholars empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher-paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

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Nancy Stevens.....*

* Donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.

Second Harvest says need for food assistance has spiked to peak levels

Nonprofit food bank is serving an average of 500K people every month

By Sara Todd

In this area of vast wealth, record numbers of neighbors will rely on Second Harvest of Silicon Valley for food this holiday season as the hunger crisis stretches on. With high prices and reduced government support, a staggering one in six people in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties are turning to Second Harvest for support.

Brendan, a Second Harvest client, is working hard to care for his three sons while struggling with debt after a financially devastating divorce. At a farmers market-style grocery distribution, Brendan picks up food for his family and two neighbors. He pulls two wagons he fills with free fresh produce and other groceries.

Brendan recalls what his life was like before he was in debt. He would purchase \$300 worth of food from grocery stores and farmers markets without thinking twice. He went from living in a big house with his family to being in an apartment struggling to make ends meet.

"It's literally lifesaving for my kids to have healthy food," said Brendan. "Just an amazing feel-good experience, again without the probably \$300 grocery bill. It's just magical."

Second Harvest of Silicon Valley is one of the beneficiaries of The Almanac's Holiday Fund. Donations are divided equally among this year's 10 nonprofit organizations and 100% of the funds raised go directly to the recipients. Donations to the Holiday Fund can be made at almanacnews.com/holiday_fund.

In a recent client survey, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley found that more than 70% of respondents are worried about being able to pay all of their bills next month.

Tereza is a mother of three and grandmother of six living with her husband and daughter. They struggle to stretch her husband's



Photos by Erik Castro

Above: A Second Harvest client picks up food from the walk-up distribution site at the San Mateo County Event Center in San Mateo on August 24. Below: Tereza and her granddaughter Tereza (2 years) are regular recipients of free groceries from the walk-up distribution site.



income as a dish washer at a local restaurant. She bundles up to stand in line at her local food distribution on Thursday mornings so she can provide much-needed staples for her family. The fresh food has also helped Tereza's health. She is currently in remission, having survived cancer last year.

"I'm here standing, thank God, and the cancer is gone with good nutrition," said Tereza. "I cook using what they give us here. I prepare the food for my children. This is very helpful, especially in times when things in the supermarket are very expensive. I go to the store and it's like \$100 and we bring home a little bag."

Second Harvest CEO Leslie Bacho said that the organization knows that when people are under financial strain, they have to prioritize expenses like rent, utility bills and car payments, so the first thing they often have to cut is their food budget.

"For many people, planning

a holiday meal isn't as simple as making a grocery list and heading to the store. But with the help of donations from the community, we can make an immediate difference."

Donations to Second Harvest help power Silicon Valley's entire charitable food system from Daly City to Gilroy. Second Harvest supplies food free of charge to almost every nonprofit in this region that provides groceries and meals, through its network of nearly 400 nonprofit and agency partners across more than 900 sites — such as food pantries, meal programs, schools and churches. Last year, Second Harvest distributed enough food for more than 104 million meals.

While the majority of the food is acquired through food rescue and large-scale donations, Second Harvest relies on its world-class bulk purchasing and sourcing power to obtain the rest. That's how it can turn \$1 into two nutritious meals. However, the organization has been dealing with increased food, fuel and labor costs while donations and government support have decreased — taking a toll on its operating budget.

"The bottom line is we can't do this alone," said Bacho. "You can make an immediate, tangible impact right here in your own community. There's no reason for empty tables, especially in Silicon Valley."

Visit SHFB.org for information on donations and volunteering — \$100 helps provide enough food for 200 meals. You can also donate your time by sorting fresh produce, volunteering at one of the distribution sites, or making deliveries to homebound seniors and adults. ■

Sara Todd is a PR consultant for Second Harvest of Silicon Valley.



DONATE ONLINE:
[AlmanacNews.com/
holiday_fund](http://AlmanacNews.com/holiday_fund)

HOME OWNERSHIP

continued from page 1

county in the state that required a minimum qualifying income of more than \$500,000.

The council's approval without discussion followed the Housing Commission's recommendation Nov. 27.

"The city has in the past some difficulties with some potential sellers in that the current guidelines for new sales were not that clear," Menlo Park Housing Manager Tim Wong said during the commission's meeting last month. "There were steps,

but they weren't as clear or detailed as staff would like. So these are very focused revisions that pertain specifically to new sales or condo conversions that developers convert from apartment rentals to condominiums for sale."

The policy refinements include requiring a BMR administrator to help in the sales process.

The ins and outs of purchasing a house are "already complex enough, especially as a first-time homebuyer," Wong said. "So we hired a BMR administrator, who has experience dealing with first-time homebuyers, and also the

'I'm able to live here and have a prayer of saving for retirement because I live in a below-market-rate apartment. So that's great for now, but it's not permanent. Of course, I'd much rather purchase. ... I am keeping hope.'

KRISTEN LEEP, MENLO PARK TEACHER

BMR administrator is familiar with the city's BMR process. (Not having an administrator) could lead to, let's just say, inefficiencies in the sale."

Leep could have used a BMR administrator in her case, she said. Recently, she signed a purchase agreement for a BMR condominium on Florence Lane, but the seller changed the terms and eventually sought to terminate negotiations.

Having a BMR administrator would have been beneficial to support her would-be purchase, she said.

The revamped policy also calls for the list in which Leep has been on for years to be regularly updated.

The list has not been updated for a few years, a city staff report said. Moving forward, staff plans to reach out to households on the list on an annual basis to check if they remain interested in buying a BMR residence.

Housing Commission Chairperson Chelsea Onap wanted the policy to make sure developers provide BMR units comparable to market-rate ones.

Onap recounted her experience 20 years ago buying an affordable unit that she thought would be on par with the market-rate homes a developer was selling, but it was not.

"So who protects the BMR buyers because (in Onap's case) we were told one thing and we got something else?" she asked last month.

Wong noted that the retooled policy does cover her concern, requiring that a BMR unit be comparable in size, design and other elements to market-rate homes in a given development.

The BMR Housing Program aims to increase Menlo Park's housing supply for households that earn extremely-low, very-low, low and moderate incomes compared to the median income

in San Mateo County.

Mayor Jen Wolosin told The Almanac that the policy update speaks to the city's overall efforts in fostering affordable housing.

"Obviously, we want to maintain all of the affordable-housing stock that we can and make sure it stays affordable," the mayor said. ■

Email Contributing Writer
Neil Gonzales at
ngonzales92@yahoo.com.

Employment

The Almanac offers
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The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

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For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.

CRIME BRIEFS

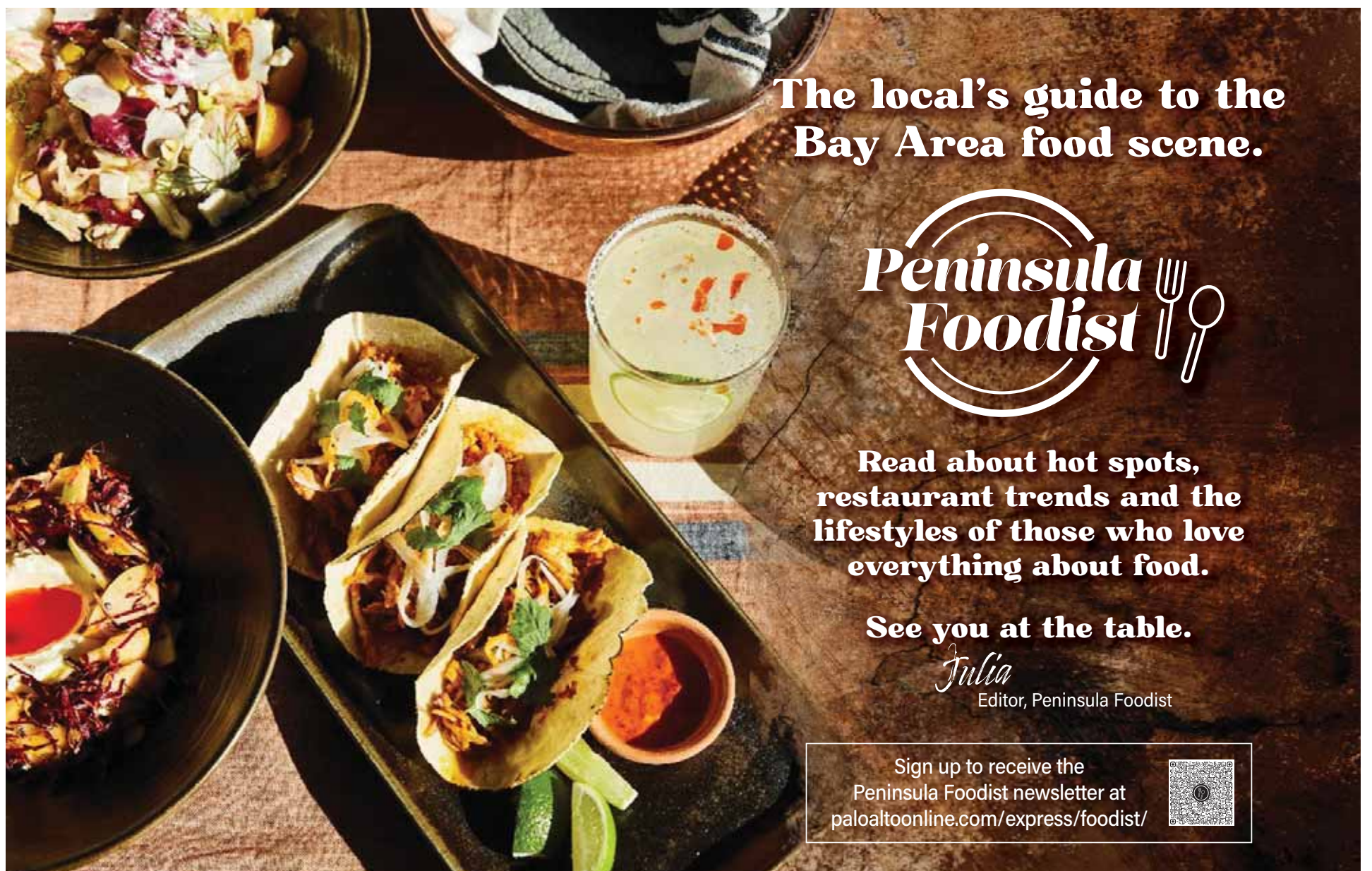
Burglary at West Atherton home

There was an attempted burglary in Atherton on the first block of Fairview Avenue in Atherton on Tuesday evening, Dec. 12, according to a police news bulletin.

The suspects tried to get into the home through a broken window in the master bedroom on the ground floor of the house at 6:12 p.m., police said.

Additional information was not available as of The Almanac's Wednesday press deadline.

—Angela Swartz



**The local's guide to the
Bay Area food scene.**

**Peninsula
Foodist**

**Read about hot spots,
restaurant trends and the
lifestyles of those who love
everything about food.**

See you at the table.

Julia
Editor, Peninsula Foodist

Sign up to receive the
Peninsula Foodist newsletter at
paloaltoonline.com/express/foodist/





Photos courtesy Lulu Jane Photography

Clockwise from above: The menorah is lit during the Grand Chanukah Festival in Portola Valley on Dec. 10; A crowd gathers at the festival; A table full of donuts for event attendees.



Locals gather for Grand Chanukah Festival in Portola Valley

The Woodside and Portola Valley community illuminated a giant menorah made out of flowers symbolizing unity, strength and kindness during the Village Chabad's annual Grand Chanukah Festival on Dec. 10 at the Portola Valley Town Center, according to Rabbi Mayer Brook.

Attendees pledged acts of kindness, called mitzvahs, during the event and wrote their resolutions on flower-shaped paper before sticking them to the menorah. ■

As California's appetite for organics expands, local growers see a new role in fighting climate change

By Ruth Dusseault/
Bay City News Service

It's hard to find a job fighting climate change. But the organic farming industry is one place where a person can make a living making a difference. Food systems account for 20% to 30% of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to data from the World Bank. The reinvention of farming could impact the future as much as the electric car.

At the Organic Grower Summit last week, organized by Western Growers and the Organic Produce Network, over 600 growers and industry leaders, mostly from California, met in Monterey to share problems, solutions and business cards.

Big topics included new technologies and new government regulations that could raise costs. Underlying almost every discussion was the regenerative health of soil and its potential for fighting disease, repelling pests and capturing carbon.

California leads the country in organic farming, with over

3,000 certified farms, according to 2022 figures from the United States Department of Agriculture, or USDA. In 2021, the state's organic sales topped \$14 billion. That's the equivalent of \$43 per person in the U.S. buying organic. Just in the greater Bay Area region, spanning from Monterey to Sonoma counties, there are over 1,550 organic producers generating nearly \$1.4 billion in annual gross sales.

Gradually, more conventional farmers are moving into organics, some transforming their multigenerational farmlands. They bring business experience, innovations and capital to what was once a niche economy.

"I'm in it for the money," said Carlos Amaral, a grower from San Mateo County who said he is willing to front the higher production cost because the buyer is willing to pay more in return. Today's younger shoppers, he said, are more environmentally conscious.

But by March 2024, organic prices might rise as new USDA rules for organic certification take effect. The Strengthening

Organic Enforcement rule, or SOE, will set new standards for everyone involved in production. All the way up the supply chain — growers, distributors, shippers and importers — will need to be organically certified.

"You're verifying that they understand how to keep things organic," said Danny Lee, inspector with the California Department of Food and Agriculture. "You will be sure that they're not comingling organic produce with non-organic products, which may have different pesticides or other inputs."

It is going to be more expensive, he said, but whether it gets passed down depends on who is willing to absorb those costs and what the final retailers are willing to pay.

The summit centered on the unique challenges of specialty crops, things like leafy greens, berries and carrots. They are different than commodity crops, like corn and soy, which are farmed at mass scale using herbicide-resistant seeds and industrial harvesting methods.

Specialty crops need a lot of intense hand labor, and synthetic herbicides like Roundup are not allowed on organically certified farms.

"The thing I see that we have oversaturated is the weeding market," said Bart Walker, who runs an equipment rental company.

Walker was referring to the array of mechanical weeders on display at the summit. Rather than ask labor to do the back-breaking work of pulling weeds by hand, engineers have designed a variety of machines to do it. Pulled by a tractor, whirling paddles, blades and spikes disrupt the ground between crop rows and keep weeds from taking root.

"The thing that I'm excited to see is more lasers," said Walker.

"It turns out that having people walk through your field and pull weeds out with hoes and tools will damage part of the structure of the plant," said Paul Mikesell, inventor of the LaserWeeder by Carbon Robotics. "By the time the weed is tall enough for your person to pull it, the root structure is deep enough that

it's disrupting the roots of the crops, too."

The LaserWeeder uses artificial intelligence to identify weeds when they are just sprouts. At a cost of \$1.4 million, it uses flash photography to make thousands of high-resolution images of the ground as it crawls across a field. Onboard computers interpret that image information and send it to robotic mirrors at the back of the machine, which swivel to direct a laser beam. Weeds are zapped in a puff of smoke.

"It's not tearing at the topsoil, not damaging to the ecosystem and it's also good for the environment," said Mikesell.

For centuries, farmers ploughed fields between seasons, but now they are told to use a tender touch. Exposing topsoil to the air releases trapped carbon. The sunlight burns important nutrients and good fungi that organic farmers use to fight pests and disease. Capturing carbon is a new role for farmers, as evidenced by two awards presented at the summit — an Ag Shark

See **ORGANICS**, page 17

Worried about wage theft, county supervisors create office to enforce labor laws

By Joshua Picazo/
Bay City News Service

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday, Dec. 12, to create an office of labor standards enforcement that aims to combat wage theft.

The office will initially be used to educate workers, supervisors said, but will in time also enforce labor laws.

The resolution was introduced by Supervisors David Pine and Ray Mueller, who will work in a subcommittee to iron out more details on how the office will be used going forward.

Wage theft is essentially fraud. It happens when employers pay less than minimum wage, or do not pay overtime, or do not allow breaks.

"Having an in-house Office of Labor Standards Enforcement will allow the County to strengthen worker protections, especially for our most vulnerable and at-risk

workers," Pine said.

Pine added that the county's economy often relies on industries with lower-wage jobs such as food service, janitorial maintenance and other service industries, which he and other people during public comment said often face wage theft and lack any paper trails to prove it.

During the board meeting, Enrique Lopezlira, director of the Low-Wage Work program at the University of California at Berkeley Labor Center, commented that in 2015, half a million California workers experienced minimum wage violations.

"Specific attention would be paid to low-income workers, workers from vulnerable populations such as women, people of color, immigrants, people who identify as LGBTQIA+, refugees and individuals with disabilities," a press release by the county stated after the vote.

The new office is expected to begin work on July 1, 2024. ■

CONGRESS

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He later co-founded Second Front Systems, a cybersecurity company aimed at helping the U.S. government adopt newer technologies and services faster, to increase efficiency.

Dixon said he has first-hand experience seeing the damage that can be inflicted by assault weapons, and plans to advocate for gun control and other key Democratic issues, such as protecting reproductive rights.

He said he hopes to use his experience in technology and national defense to help the government save hundreds of millions of dollars, through more efficient use of new services and elimination of outdated bureaucratic processes. He wants to redirect those dollars back into efforts to support housing, education and ending homelessness in the region.

Dixon is one of several candidates fighting for votes in California's 16th congressional district, including longtime local politicians like Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and state Assemblymember Evan Low, among others.

Dixon said he is ready to take his message directly to voters.

"Growing up here in the valley, you really learn two things. One is you have to have the big idea, which everybody knows. The second part of that comes down to execution and just shoe leather, you've got to put in the hours and the hard work, and that's what this campaign is going to do," he said.

Larry Gerston, a political observer and San Jose State political science professor emeritus, said there is "a plethora of tremendously qualified" candidates in the race for Eshoo's seat. He said there are a variety of reasons someone might run for Congress, even with no prior political experience.

"There are some candidates who are not very well known at all, and it may well be that their motive is not to get elected, as much as it is to get their name out there, perhaps for a future office, a lower office, whether it be in a city, county, or state Assembly," Gerston said.

Eshoo announced plans to retire after three decades representing the Midpeninsula in the House of Representatives. Her district includes the communities of Menlo Park, Atherton, Palo Alto, Portola Valley, Woodside, Mountain View and Los Altos.

This story originally appeared in San Jose Spotlight. ■

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Courtesy SamTrans

Art featured on a SamTrans bus during the 2022 competition.

Submit your entry for Art Takes a Bus Ride contest

SamTrans, in partnership with the San Mateo County Office of Education and San Mateo County Office of Arts and Culture, is hosting the 16th Annual Art Takes a Bus Ride contest. The theme this year is "Exploring Nature with SamTrans."

Winning artwork will be displayed on the side of a SamTrans bus for a year. Student art also will be displayed on ad cards inside SamTrans buses.

The contest is open to first through 12th graders. Submit an application at samtrans.com/rider-info/art-takes-bus-ride.

Holbrook-Palmer Park playground survey

The town of Atherton is surveying residents on how to revamp the playground at Holbrook-Palmer Park that is in need of repairs because of structure problems.

Take the survey at survey.monkey.com/r/Atherton-playground.

New Trinity head of school named

Kate Benson will serve as head of school for Trinity School in Menlo Park during the 2024-25 school year.

Benson, a lead fourth grade teacher at Trinity from 2006-2010, has been a primary school principal at the Vilnius International School in Lithuania for six years, according to Trinity's website.

"Trinity is one of those special places that, no matter where you go, it just sticks with you," she said in a statement on the website.

Benson visited the school in October and engaged actively with students and held meetings with parents, faculty, and staff, making a significant impression on the Trinity community, according to a press release.

Matt Allio, who has served as head of school for six years, will retire at the end of the 2023-24 school year.

"The search process was comprehensive, and the candidate pool was remarkably talented," said Joel Conkling, co-chair of the Head of School

Search Committee, which was made up of current and former school board trustees and faculty members. "Kate Benson joins us with a robust and forward-thinking vision for the academic program and outstanding leadership skills. We look forward to her joining our community, and we welcome passion for building on Trinity's track record of academic excellence in a setting where every child is known and loved."

—Angela Swartz

Menlo Park: Residential overnight parking enforcement takes a holiday

Residential overnight parking enforcement in Menlo Park will be suspended from Dec. 18 this year until Jan. 2 next year, the city and police announced recently.

The deferment will be implemented as a courtesy in time for the holiday season, the announcement said.

Enforcement will resume 2 a.m. of Jan. 3, 2024, according to authorities.

Under the city's existing overnight parking ordinance, parking of any vehicle is prohibited between 2 and 5 a.m. in any residential street, or within 300 feet of any residential area in Menlo Park.

To avoid being issued a citation, vehicles must display an overnight parking permit, have a virtual permit issued to its license plate number, or have a DMV-issued disabled person placard or disabled person license plates, according to the city's official website.

Temporary and annual overnight parking permits are offered in Menlo Park.

—Bay City News Service

Menlo Park City Hall closing between Christmas and New Year's Day

Menlo Park's city offices will be closed from Dec. 25 through Jan. 1, reopening on Tuesday, Jan. 2, according to an announcement posted on the city's website on Dec. 11. Police and emergency services will not be impacted.

The city's two libraries, the Menlo Park Library located at 800 Alma St. and the Belle Haven Library at 413 Ivy Drive, will close on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, but otherwise will be open during their regular hours through the end of the year, the announcement said. Likewise, Menlo Park Shuttles will not run on the two holidays, the city said.

—Andrea Gemmet



Courtesy Trinity School

Trinity School's incoming head of school Kate Benson reads to students at the Menlo Park school.

Negotiators talk barricaded man out of Palo Alto home

Five-hour incident brought in tactical teams, other law enforcement departments but was resolved without violence

By Sue Dremann

Palo Alto police responding to a domestic violence call at a Palo Alto residence spent nearly five hours negotiating with a man who barricaded himself inside a home, Lt. Con Maloney said on Tuesday night, Dec. 12.

Officers responded to the home in the 2900 Block of Bryant Street at around 2:56 p.m. on Dec. 12 and found the man, in his 50s, would not exit the home. Police set up a negotiating team and called in law enforcement from Sunnyvale

and the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, Maloney said.

"While we evacuated a couple of adjacent homes out of an abundance of caution, there is no danger to public safety," Maloney said.

The man reportedly had firearms in the home, but Maloney said police hadn't yet confirmed if that was the case. The man did not display, nor did he use a weapon, he said.

Negotiators and tactical teams swarmed the area, blocking off the intersection of Bryant and El Carmelo Avenue. The man came to the front door at about 7:30

to 7:40 p.m. and was taken into custody. He was transported to a nearby hospital. Maloney said he did not know the man's condition or whether he had any injuries.

The incident occurred just as students were leaving El Carmelo Elementary School, parent Nicole Macuil said. The students usually take the bike bridge home on Bryant Street, a busy designated bicycle boulevard, but due to the

police activity and roadblock students living on the north side of the bridge couldn't get home, she said.

Isabella Macuil, 10, an El Carmelo fourth grader, said she was just leaving the school when she noticed many police with drawn guns on Bryant Street and police vehicles blocking the street.

"My school was terrified. Students were asking me what was going on. Kids were calling

their parents to come to the office to pick them up because they couldn't get home. Fourth graders and up all bike or walk to school and most people don't know the car routes," she said.

Police continued to remove items from the residence after the man was taken away. ■

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



A Palo Alto police officer collected evidence at a Bryant Street home where a man barricaded himself for five hours on Dec. 12.

ORGANICS
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innovator award and Grower of the Year.

Jason Aramburu is the founder of Climate Robotics and inventor of a small mobile biochar incinerator. Picture a pottery kiln on wheels. It can be moved around a processing plant or pulled behind a tractor. It digests waste, like corn stalks, wheat, straw and nut shells, and deposits biochar right there onto the ground.

"Biochar is a very pure form of charcoal made from agricultural waste that we burn at a very high temperature and apply back into the soil," Aramburu said upon receiving his Ag Shark investment award. He cited university studies that showed biochar can result in 16% more plant production compared to fields without biochar. It has increased soil water retention by 51% and fertilizer retention by 95%, he said.

"If we do this on a large enough scale, studies indicate we can sequester about 2 billion tons of CO2 annually into the soils of our farms," Aramburu said.

The USDA is offering about \$2,000 per acre per season to growers who apply biochar to their soil.

"Agriculture is seen as the second leading industry producing CO2, right behind fossil fuels," said Rod Braga of Braga Fresh Farms, upon accepting the Organic Grower of the Year Award.

"The pressures are really coming from the top down," he said about the push for farming to adopt conservation measures. "I don't mean retailers. I mean the United Nations, the World Economic Forum, the European Union."

Braga talked about ways agriculture has tried to be carbon neutral — using less diesel fuel, planting one crop over the other rather than tilling, and investing in carbon sequestration elsewhere to offset the carbon generated on farms at home.

"Now, they're talking net zero," he said referring to the theory of an economy that emits no more greenhouse gases than are permanently removed and stored.

"How do we farm getting to zero without cutting crops and starving millions? We can do carbon capture while farming," Braga said. "We're still growing vegetables and other crops. We need to be the answer. More farming acres is what we will need in the world and not less." ■

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. M-280316
The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):
ART MY HEART
741 Manzanita Road
Woodside, CA 94062
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:
02/07/2019
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):
JEANNE A. GOLDMAN
741 Manzanita Road
Woodside, CA 94062
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY An Individual.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 28 2023.
(ALM Dec 15, 22, 2023, Jan 5 and 12, 2024)

METROPOLITAN HOTEL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-295773
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) METROPOLITAN HOTEL , located at 220 Linden Ave, South San Francisco, CA 94080.
Registered owner(s):
SF10, LLC
1252 Mission Rd
South San Francisco, CA 94080
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
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 November 01, 2023.
(ALM Nov 24, Dec 1, 8 and 15, 2023)

KYLTEN ENTERPRISES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-295988
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) KYLTEN ENTERPRISES , located at 140 FLYING CLOUD ISLE, FOSTER CITY, CA 94404, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
HERMAN WAN
140 FLYING CLOUD ISLE
FOSTER CITY, CA 94404
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 December 01, 2023.
(ALM Dec 15, 22, 2023, Jan 5 and 12, 2024)

TAO AUTO GROUP
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-295957
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) TAO AUTO GROUP , located at 315 HARBOR WAY, SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080.
Registered owner(s):

LOTSO GLOBAL, INC.
315 HARBOR WAY
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/01/2023.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 28, 2023.
(ALM Dec 8, 15, 22, 2023 and Jan 5, 2024)

PACIFIC PLACE MEDIA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-295908
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PACIFIC PLACE MEDIA , located at 2918 Fernwood St., San Mateo, CA 94403 .
Registered owner(s):
DAVID LOUIE
2918 Fernwood St.
San Mateo, CA 94403
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
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 November 20, 2023.
(ALM Dec 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2023)

DEVONSHIRE LITTLE STORE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-295903
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) DEVONSHIRE LITTLE STORE , located at 20 Devonshire Blvd, San Carlos, CA 94070.
Registered owner(s):
SHEILA WANG, TRUSTEE, DAVID AND SHANG LING HUANG IRREVOCABLE TRUST
125 Sheridan Way
Woodside, CA 94062
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Trust.
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 November 20, 2023.
(ALM Dec 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2023)

BAY 1 DRIVING SCHOOL INC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-2956005
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) BAY 1 DRIVING SCHOOL INC , located at 795 4th Ave Suite 204, Redwood City CA 94063.
Registered owner(s):
BAY 1 DRIVING SCHOOL INC
795 4th Avenue #204
Redwood City, CA 94063
State of Incorporation/Organization: Ca
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
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 December 05, 2023.
(ALM Dec 15, 22, 2023, Jan 5 and 12, 2024)

PARC AGENCY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-295948
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PARC AGENCY , located at 704 Oak Grove Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
PARC AGENCY CORPORATION
704 Oak Grove Ave
Menlo Park, CA 94025
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/19/2018.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 28, 2023.
(ALM Dec 8, 15, 22, 2023 and Jan 5, 2024)

OCG SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-295991
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) OCG SERVICES , located at 140 FLYING CLOUD ISLE, FOSTER CITY CA 94404.
Registered owner(s):
OCG SERVICES
140 FLYING CLOUD ISLE
FOSTER CITY CA 94404
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/05/2017.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 01, 2023.
(ALM Dec 15, 22, 2023, Jan 5 and 12, 2024)

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A new **break** for a classic

Company's unique spin on 'The Nutcracker' becomes a new tradition

By Heather Zimmerman

The Nutcracker" ballet has become a staple of the holiday season, and every company that presents it has their own special version. Nowhere might that be truer than at Peninsula Lively Arts. The company, which recently changed its name from Peninsula Ballet Theatre, is just about as close to "The Nutcracker" as Herr Drosselmeyer, the creator of the ballet's titular doll.

Since 2017, the company has staged two full-scale "Nutcracker" productions: one a traditional performance featuring classical ballet, choreographed by the company's artistic director Gregory Amato, and one that recounts the familiar tale through hip-hop dance, choreographed by hip-hop dancers Stuck Sanders and Aleé Martinez.

Sanders said that before this production came about, although he had heard of "The Nutcracker," he wasn't familiar with the ballet because he hadn't grown up with it.

"In our first hip-hop Nutcracker, it was chaotic, like the ins and outs of it. However, it was so different from the original that I had no clue that people would love it like they did and it

just became a great thing to do," Sanders said in an interview. "Now I really try to take the story and make it relate to us."

The show grew out of hip-hop classes that the company's school was offering, taught by Martinez, who brought on Sanders to teach as well. Peninsula Lively Arts Executive Director Christine Leslie said she asked Martinez and Sanders to create some hip-hop performances set to holiday tunes to showcase their work during the intermission of the company's traditional production of "The Nutcracker."

"Well, Stuck and Aleé being creative geniuses as they are, came back and actually used some of the dances from 'Nutcracker,'" Leslie recalled.

The concept of a full-length hip-hop version of "The Nutcracker" took off quickly from there, she said.

Sanders said that he and Martinez started out focusing on highlighting the hip-hop element, but that the show has evolved to embrace the story.

"If you think about the Russian dance, and you think about them doing candy cane jumps and splits, we just take that and flip it on its head with a break dancer. So then the break dancer is also throwing his legs and doing candy canes and flips, but it's just in a different style," Sanders said.

"We take the Sugar Plum Fairy, who was en pointe, and we replaced them with a glider who's also en pointe. So to see gliding en pointe, but in street shoes from a person who's never done ballet is pretty unorthodox. I think the more we stick to the story, but flip it to ours, the more that people understand it as 'The Nutcracker' but see it as a new one."

"The Hip-Hop Nutcracker" keeps the ballet's story, adapted for Tchaikovsky's 1892 ballet from E.T.A. Hoffmann's 1816



Courtesy Peninsula Lively Arts

"The Hip-Hop Nutcracker" stays faithful to the story of "The Nutcracker" while adapting the show with hip-hop dance.

novella "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King." The show also keeps Tchaikovsky's score, but adding in hip-hop beats.

"I love when you put our movement to classical music because it's something that's so unorthodox and people don't usually connect it," Sanders said. "And it allows theater-heads to see us and really appreciate us I don't think they knew that (classical) music could be danced to like this. So it's a way that people really learn to really appreciate hip-hop."

Another unique element of the "Hip-Hop Nutcracker" is that the performance is followed by a session dance on the sidewalk outside the theater.

"We like to just create a huge circle and give everyone the opportunity to just vibe with us and dance with us," Sanders said.

This after-event reflects hip-hop culture and welcomes everyone to join in. It has even brought some new dancers to the cast in subsequent years.

"We met our Clara in one of our sessions outside of the theater," Martinez recalled.

"She was just beginning, but she was just so inspired by the show that she immersed herself in not only the choreo aspect of it with us, but battle and freestyle and it's two different worlds. And the more that you balance both, the more that you can really, really thrive through both. So Clara and the Nutcracker are not only freestylers but they are great choreography dancers. It's just something that we can now teach dancers to be more all-around so that you can actually work as a dancer."

As with a traditional production of "The Nutcracker," the production casts student dancers in the large ensemble scenes, in a Christmas party and as part of the mouse army, for instance — an experience, whether in classical ballet or hip-hop, that often offers the young dancers their first appearance on the stage. Inspiring those young performers to go forward and igniting that same passion in audience members is a driving force of the production.

"A lot of people walk in there

and they're just shy to even see the show," Sanders said. But when they walk out they're just screaming — they're talking to their friends, they're just *alive*. A lot of parents have actually messaged me afterwards to say, 'you know, I've taken my kid to a lot of shows, and this one they came out of there like, 'more, more, more.' So as long as I can inspire the kids, I think that the parents can appreciate that. And I think that the parents can also be inspired along with them by watching their kids." ■

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



Courtesy Peninsula Lively Arts

Stuck Sanders is co-choreographer of Peninsula Lively Arts' "Hip-Hop Nutcracker."

The Hip-Hop Nutcracker takes place Dec. 16, 7 p.m. and Dec. 17, 2 p.m. at the Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway, Redwood City. The company's classical Nutcracker takes place Dec. 15, 7 p.m. and Dec. 16, 2 p.m., also at The Fox. Tickets for either show are \$35-\$60. peninsulalivelyarts.org.

Simply scenic

Bryant Street Gallery presents Tony Huynh's painted homage to the Bay Area

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

During a drive from the East Bay into San Francisco, novelist John Steinbeck observed, "...this gold and white acropolis rising wave on wave against the blue of the Pacific sky was a stunning thing." Decades later, San Francisco (and its environs) is still a breathtakingly beautiful place, as the paintings of Tony Huynh remind us. "Bay Vistas," Huynh's first solo show at Bryant Street Gallery, features the artist's personal reflections on landmarks as varied as Angel Island, the Presidio and the Great Highway. It is a colorful and upbeat tribute to the unique and varied geography of the Bay Area, at the time of year when the notion of "home" is celebrated and cherished.

Huynh was born and raised in San Francisco and claims that he was destined to become an artist. "I was a distracted individual growing up and was not interested in many things other than art," he said. He studied illustration at the California College of Fine Arts, graduating in 2009, but made the decision to become a painter a few years ago.

Bryant Street Gallery owner Karen Imperial saw his work online and invited him to join her roster of artists. She explained, "We all travel around the Bay Area and see so many images around us. Tony captures these images and depicts them in a very fanciful, colorful way."



Courtesy Bryant Street Gallery

"I think paintings should be personal and being too literal might take some of that juice or magic away," Tony Huynh said of his approach, as seen here in "Point Bonita."

It must be noted at the outset that Huynh does not work in a literal, realistic manner. His landscapes are pared down, almost primitive, representations that rely heavily on the use of basic geometric shapes. "Presidio Row" is a good example of this simplistic approach with its three white houses, exactly the same and lined up like toys. Their cubist uniformity is offset by the sketchy outline of trees, sky and city in the background. Even lacking in details, we know exactly where this is.

Huynh takes a similar approach to "Fort Mason Center," a landmark site that has spectacular Bay views. As he often does, Huynh has chosen to take an atypical perspective, that of the rooftops. Using broad planes of contrasting colors, he has focused his efforts on the rectangles, squares and triangle shapes that make up a part of the building that most of us would never look at or notice.

When asked how he selects his subjects, Huynh said that he does not have any one favorite place to paint but explained his choice of Angel Island. "It gave me a chance to play with rhythm in nature, the shadows on the house, the sea, the sky, the land on the horizon and a boat."

He further explained that he does not work in plein air, preferring to take photographs which he then refers to in the studio. "I embrace a painting as it unfolds



Images courtesy Bryant Street Gallery

Above: Tony Huynh's landscapes are pared-down representations that rely on geometric shapes, as seen in his painting "Presidio Row." Below: In "View of Diebenkorn," Huynh pays homage to one of his inspirations, artist Richard Diebenkorn.

and accept it and work with it," he said, adding "sort of like a wabi sabi in terms of approach."

This aesthetic, which accepts transience and imperfection, can be seen in "Angel Island" in the rough, almost childlike, manner that Huynh has portrayed an old house in the foreground, the Bay in the center of the painting and the very rudimentary line of trees that serve as the horizon line. Like folk artist Grandma Moses (who Huynh cites as an inspiration) everything has been distilled to its simplest level, yet it is still recognizable and pleasing.

Another example of how the artist gets right to the essence of things can be seen in "Point Bonita" in which perspective is achieved through broad, horizontal bands. We peer through a white picket fence and the eye is carried beyond a small field to two low-lying houses. A small strip of ivory denotes a beach, which leads to the ocean and sky. From a strictly technical approach, it should not work, but our mind fills in the gaps and it becomes an enchanting scene.

"I think internalization is important," Huynh said. "It's not so much what the place looks like exactly, but what it represents to me or what I am trying to get across. I think paintings should be personal and being too literal might take some of that juice or magic away."

Huynh's depiction of the Great Highway, a dramatic merging of land and sea, is certainly based on his own unique experiences, rather than a stereotypical picture postcard. Here, swaths of blue, green and tan create the water/land border, but this is not the focal point of the painting. Huynh has included the houses that line this important byway, rendering them in contrasting



primary colors and compact alignment. The matte colors in this painting are reminiscent of Japanese wood-block prints, which happens to be another inspiration for the artist.

There are also examples of how Huynh has had fun with working abstractly. One painting, at first glance, looks like a study of variously painted squares and rectangles. But look closely — and read the label — and it becomes obvious that Huynh has painted an homage to another one of his inspirations, Richard Diebenkorn. In "View of Diebenkorn," the artist has taken the position of standing in a museum, looking from one gallery into another, where a rectangular abstract painting by the famed California artist is hanging. Separating the blocks of color, we now discern a wall, then another, then the gallery where the painting is hung. The visual puzzle becomes complete when we realize the red, blue and green blocks in the foreground are actually the reflection of the Diebenkorn painting on the shiny gallery floor.

Texture is also a hallmark of Huynh's work, with broad brush strokes visible and, quite often, a layering of colors. In "Sea Cliff to the Headlands," the rough, stucco-like surface really adds to the solidity of the architectural structure from which we gaze out at the iconic Golden Gate Bridge.

In an email interview, Huynh expressed the hope that people would come to see the show in person in order to really appreciate this aspect of his work.

"I know we spend most of our lives behind a screen, the entrance into a digital world, and have access to what seems like the library of Alexandria in our pocket, but the images online will never do justice to a physical work like a painting." ■

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Bay Vistas is on view through Jan. 27 at Bryant Street Gallery, 532 Bryant St., Palo Alto. The gallery will be closed Dec. 24 to Jan. 1. bryantstreet.com.

Review: TheatreWorks stages a winning 'Spelling Bee'

Everybody wins, in a way, in 'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee'

By Heather Zimmerman

Tis just about the season for winter break, but at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, a cutthroat, academically rigorous contest is playing out this holiday season, with some audience members getting in on the act as well.

The company is staging "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" through Dec. 24 at Palo Alto's Lucie Stern Theatre.

A regional spelling bee may not sound like an obvious subject for the most wonderful time of the year, but the production's high-energy numbers, warm humor and empathetic characterizations are well-suited to the season, helped along with some holiday decor bringing extra cheer to Andrea Bechert's brightly colored set.

The show offers more thoughtful lessons beyond the spelling of tricky words like "syzygy" — though you'll get that, too — but more than anything, it's a warm-hearted trip through

the hopes, dreams and fears of the middle-schooler contestants, their families and even the contest organizers.

Director Meredith McDonough helms a buoyant production that captures the youthful fun in a tale of tween misfits (played by adult actors) vying for the top spot in a regional spelling bee and a place in the national contest. Shepherding them through the process are adults who sometimes have as much growing up to do as the young spellers. The delightful cast plays well off each other, clearly having fun with these charming characters and all their quirks.

They also welcome a handful of audience members up on stage to take their turn at the microphone and it looks like the cast does a great job of making these guest spellers at home.

The show strikes a smart balance between being playful, but never childish, comic but also kind — witness contestant Chip Tolentino's lament about a common source of embarrassment

for teen boys. As Chip, Dave J. Abrams pulls off the song, and Chip's spelling bee run, with an appealing exuberance.

Speller Olive Ostrovsky has one of the more fraught back stories, but Maia Campbell infuses the character with heart and joyfulness. Campbell has a wonderful voice, and several moments harmonizing with other members of the ensemble were particularly beautiful.

Molly Bell brings a comic zeal to her role of real estate agent Rona Lisa Peretti, a former bee champ who's now a judge, with endless energy and enthusiasm that recalls Amy Poehler's "Parks & Recreation" character Leslie Knope (and not only because the actors do resemble each other a bit — both Rona and Leslie have the same glint in their eye and dogged passion for their work).

All of the characters are broadly drawn and sometimes a bit silly, in a likable way. Beau Bradshaw grounds William Barfée, a character, who, with know-it-all tendencies and a particularly



Courtesy Kevin Berne

Logainne (Jenni Chapman), Leaf (Blake Kevin Dwyer), Olive (Maia Campbell), William Barfée (Beau Bradshaw), Marcy (Mai Abe), and Chip (Dave J. Abrams) are ready to win in TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."

dramatic way of spelling with his foot, could've been closest to caricature, but Bradshaw finds his appeal.

"Putnam" is short and sweet, subbing quick musical interludes for the more traditional series of full-scale production numbers as the bee participants and organizers alike retreat into fantasies, flash back to formative memories — or explain personal "bee" techniques that help keep their spelling true.

The show demonstrates that not every song has to be an all-out showstopper to make an effective musical. That said, its handful of larger numbers offer a good time, particularly

the perfectly controlled chaos of "Pandemonium."

Maybe best of all, "Putnam" celebrates kindness and empathy for others while also championing the idea that it's OK sometimes to take the pressure off yourself and have self-compassion — an especially refreshing theme for this season of high expectations. ■

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

Through Dec. 24 at Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets start at \$27. theatreworks.org.

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WorthaLook

'Holiday Extravaganza'



Courtesy Sue Yeon Choi

The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra will bring together all five of its ensembles of young musicians for its Holiday Extravaganza concert on Dec. 17.

The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra (PACO) — an award-winning youth orchestra for regional string musicians — will feature all five of its ensembles in a holiday concert. Special guest trumpeter Chad McCullough and his jazz trio (also including Aaron Germain on bass and Jason Lewis on drums) will perform his arrangement of Vince Guaraldi's music from "A Charlie Brown Christmas." PACO will also be joined by special guests the Cantabile Youth Singers. The concert is a fundraiser for PACO, supporting such programs as the PACO Academy, the PACO student leadership council, professional coaching and more. A pre-concert reception will be held at 2:15 p.m. featuring refreshments and caroling.

Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. at Smithwick Theater, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Tickets are \$25-\$50. pacomusic.org.

'The Golem of Brooklyn'

Adam Mansbach, author of "Go the F**k to Sleep," "Rage is Back" and "Angry Black White Boy," among other publications, will discuss his new novel, "The Golem of Brooklyn," with moderator and author Zack Bodner at an event at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center. "The Golem of Brooklyn," according to the event website, is "an epic romp through Jewish history and the American present that wrestles with the deepest questions of our humanity." It follows a Brooklyn art teacher who manages to create a golem (a figure from Ashkenazi Jewish folklore made from clay or mud and brought to life by secret prayers).

Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$25. eventbrite.com.

Bayer Ballet's 'Snow Queen'

Hans Christian Anderson's "The Snow Queen" comes to life on stage with Bayer's Ballet's annual production, based on the Danish fairy tale. The two-act ballet is the story of Kai, captured by the titular evil queen's icy spell, and brave and loving Gerda's quest to save him. Choreographed by Inna Bayer, the show, a tradition since 2014, includes hand-painted sets and original costumes.

Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. and Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Tickets are \$38-\$60. bayerballet.com.

Pamela Walsh Gallery Art Bash

Downtown Palo Alto's Pamela Walsh Gallery marks its fourth anniversary with a group exhibition showcasing works by its roster of contemporary artists, including Andrew Faulkner, Anna Sidana, Fernando Reyes, Ellen Richman, Danielle Eubank, Larry Horowitz and new artists Natalie Ciccoricco and Yoko Kubrick. A party celebrating the anniversary and the exhibition's opening takes place Dec. 16, with music from DJ Miles.Wav and drinks.

Dec. 16, 5-7 p.m. at Pamela Walsh Gallery, 540 Ramona St., Palo Alto. pamelawalshgallery.com/.

Pops' Family Christmas Special

The California Pops Orchestra, with vocalists Dana Bauer and Peter Vilkin, brings together the best-known musical tales of the season, from "Frosty the Snowman" to "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer" and even the Grinch, in a concert celebrating the holidays. The show includes other favorites such as "White Christmas," "Winter Wonderland" and "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town," and a Christmas carol sing-along. Plus, the kids in the audience are invited to come up on stage for the orchestra's performance of "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," narrated by Bauer.

Dec. 17, 3 p.m. at San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 600 N. Delaware St., San Mateo. Tickets are \$20-\$55. californiapopsorchestra.com.

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Food & Drink

New in town

Head to these Midpeninsula spots serving a diverse array of cuisines, from jar cakes to Nepalese food

By Sophia Markoulakis

While many of us are looking to wrap up 2023 with holiday parties and last-minute shopping, new restaurants are hoping for an end-of-the-year holiday rush. Palo Alto saw a flurry of new places to dine in late fall and we wanted to put them on your radar as the year comes to a close.

Though Stanford is technically its own census-designated place, we're grouping two new Stanford restaurants under the Palo Alto umbrella. The other three eateries listed below are located within the California Avenue business district. Walk, bike or drive your way to these new spots and spread some holiday cheer.

Hummus Mediterranean Kitchen

The newly opened Hummus Mediterranean Kitchen at Stanford Shopping Center is the brand's fourth location and third with new partner Amir Hosseini. Hosseini, who founded Curry Up Now, knows a thing or two about growing a restaurant's brand and joined partners Onur Alkanoglu and Yasar Bulutoglu in 2021. "I saw a great vision for Hummus; I like to build things," he said.

Since coming on board, Hosseini and the team have opened restaurants in San Francisco and Mountain View and refreshed the original San Mateo location. The team chose Stanford Shopping Center as their model for fine-casual dining moving forward as they develop new spaces, though that's not to say that each location will be identical. Currently, this is the only location with full table service, and Hosseini acknowledged that they wanted this location to showcase great service. "We are very focused on warm service at all of our restaurants," he said.

No dark woods and heavy woven textiles for this modern Mediterranean brand. Instead, the light, airy space feels more Aegean beachfront than Istanbul's iconic Grand Bazaar. Even though both Alkanoglu and Bulutoglu are Turkish, Hosseini explained that the menu reflects a broader Mediterranean vibe.

Meze dishes have quickly

become a popular option, and the restaurant just started serving weekend brunch with many traditional Turkish breakfast items. Look for a breakfast board for two that includes sweet and savory spreads, sliced soujouk (cured beef), marinated boiled eggs, fresh pastries and a pot of traditional tea; a shakshouka with eggplant and peppers; and a pide (Turkish flatbread) with Turkish-spiced minced lamb, vegetables and egg.

Hummus Mediterranean Kitchen, 715 Stanford Shopping Center, Stanford; 650-331-4516, Instagram: @eatathummus. Open Monday-Thursday 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. eatathummus.com.

Birdie's at Stanford Golf

Though Stanford University's golf course is private, the incredible views at its new public restaurant, Birdie's, can be had for the price of a sammie, burger or salad. Perched next to the elevated 18th tee and surrounded by state-ly oak trees, Birdie's is now open with new ownership, a remodeled kitchen and dining room, and a menu featuring American classics like the Cardinal Club (club sandwich), the Old School Tuna Melt, the Clubhouse Cobb and a signature rib-eye steak.

The course was designed by George C. Thomas Jr. and William P. Bell in 1930 and has been through a couple of upgrades since. Likewise, the ownership of its restaurant has changed hands quite a bit. The folks behind Bodega Hospitality Group, the same ones who operate Winner Winner at San Mateo's Hillsdale Shopping Center and Suavecito Birria & Tacos out of the company's catering storefront on South Amphlett Boulevard in San Mateo, took over the course's dining program at the beginning of 2023 and recently opened for the public, members of the course and Stanford community.

Co-owner Bridgette Cheng spoke about the kismet connection with the course and said, "Both my husband Jeremy and our partner Randy Magpantay are big golfers, so when we learned that the space was available, it was a no-brainer."



Courtesy Birdie's at Stanford Golf

The menu at Birdie's at Stanford Golf includes classics such as a club sandwich and Cobb salad.

With an extensive catering background (William Jay Catering), the team was more than equipped to handle the course's needs. The university's learning center and driving range, which is open to the public, has a Birdie's Express where you can grab a burger or a birria taco. Next spring, the team will be launching Birdie beverage carts to keep players quenched.

Birdie's at Stanford Golf, 198 Junipero Serra Blvd., Stanford; 650-521-0714, Instagram: @birdies_at_stanford_golf. Open Tuesday-Sunday 11 a.m. to sunset. birdiessg.com.

Rara Restaurant

There are some similarities between Nepalese and Indian cuisine, but for Ishav Dawadi, manager of Rara Restaurant, the majority of restaurants don't do a good job defining the differences. "My family and I all come from Nepal and every time we would dine at a Nepalese place, we would find Indian dishes on the menu. We were so frustrated that we decided to open Rara to show diners how fresh and different Nepalese food is," he explained.

In Nepal, water buffalo contributes to more than a third of the country's meat consumption, and the ingredient is used in several dishes. The spicy, stir-fried dish, Buff Choila, is one of several dishes on the menu that use the meat. Chicken 8848 highlights the unique spices that are sourced in the Himalayas. Dawadi said, "We source our spices from Nepal, which makes our dishes unique. The dried Akabare chile peppers we get from Nepal are used as the base spice for our chicken wings."

The intimate dining room feels like an oasis, with soothing music

and art-filled walls. Staff wear traditional Dhaka topi, brimless hats that match their formal uniforms, an indication of the pride that staff and ownership take in their country and cuisine.

Rara Restaurant, 201 California Ave., Palo Alto; 650-485-1055, Instagram: @rara.restaurant. Open Tuesday-Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch and 5 to 10 p.m. for dinner. rararestaurant.com.

GK Pastry

After several years of running successful farmers market stands up and down the Peninsula, the Musabaev family has opened their first brick-and-mortar location in Palo Alto. Situated on Park Avenue within the Palo Alto Central building, GK Pastry now has a permanent place to sell its popular jar cakes. Formerly a spa, the space is tranquil, with a living wall that greets customers. Packaged cookies are also available, and coffee service and an expanded assortment of baked goods will be added soon.

Brothers Osman and Hasan Musabaev run the bakery with their mother, Gulnoza, who oversees the recipes and baking. The family are Uyghurs, and though the baked goods don't necessarily reflect their heritage, co-owner Osman Musabaev said, "Our commitment to only using the freshest and highest-quality ingredients comes from our background."

"Our next location at Mountain View's Blossom Valley Shopping Center should be open by mid-December and in that space, we'll be offering an assortment of freshly baked breads and pastries in addition to our jar cakes and cookies," Musabaev said. "People love our pistachio jar and crepe cakes and they are our top sellers."

GK Pastry, 2417 Park Blvd., Palo Alto; 650-521-0714, Instagram: @gkpastry_ca. Open Monday-Sunday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. gkpastry.com.

Imperial Treasure

The former Peking Duck restaurant inside the mixed-use Palo Alto Central building is now Imperial Treasure, an elegant Chinese dining spot specializing in the foods of Beijing and Shanghai. One of the specialties is Peking duck carved tableside. If you're going for this special dish, plan to place your order in advance by calling the restaurant.

Authenticity seems to be rewarded, as diners have been flocking to the new spot and enjoying dishes like xiaolongbao (steamed buns) with crab roe, dry pot pork ribs, baked fish in red oil and cold platters of fish and meat. An elegant dining room matches the elaborately plated dishes.

Imperial Treasure, 151 California Ave. Unit E, Palo Alto; 650-656-9597. Open Monday-Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch and 5 to 9:30 p.m. for dinner. yelp.com. ■

Email Contributing Writer Sophia Markoulakis at sophiamarkoulakis@gmail.com.

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GULLIXSON

The Gullixson Team is ranked **#3 small team**
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RealTrends report of the Top Residential
Real Estate Professionals. (June 2023)

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