Strong winds batter Midpeninsula, knocking out power for thousands of residents

By Angela Swartz

A storm on Sunday, Feb. 4, hit the Midpeninsula hard, with The National Weather Service going so far as to issue a brief tornado warning that day, according to Bay City News Service. The impacts of the weather led to widespread power outages in the Bay Area and throughout the state.

Some Peninsula residents lost power for over 48 hours after heavy rain and high winds struck the region. Others were still without power by The Almanac’s Wednesday afternoon press deadline.

Winds reached up to 50 mph. By 7 p.m. on Sunday, nearly 400,000 PG&E customers were without power in the Bay Area as fallen trees and high winds wreaked havoc on the grid. Some 81,647 of those customers live on the Peninsula.

The utility company reported that 1 million customers experienced outages because of the storm.

Firefighters put out pole fires and moved trees from cars, houses and roadways in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside throughout the week.

Skyline Boulevard, 2.6 miles north of Highway 84 near Bear Gulch West, in Woodside remained closed on Wednesday afternoon because of downed power lines.

Cities opened their libraries and city halls to residents as warming and charging stations, including in Atherton, North Fair Oaks and East Palo Alto.

Beyond Wednesday, Feb. 7, a drying trend will begin with pleasant weather through the rest of the extended period, according to forecasters.

Email Editor Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

Congressional candidates delve into issues in bid for Eshoo’s seat, contend with protesters

By Neil Gonzales

Congressional hopefuls vying to succeed U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo squared off on Jan. 31 in Palo Alto on an array of issues from the environment to the Israel-Hamas war but were ultimately disrupted from speaking further to the standing-room-only crowd by a group of protesters who began shouting and demanding a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip.

Nine of the 11 candidates seeking the District 16 seat participated in the forum, which was sponsored by Embarcadero Media Foundation in collaboration with Palo Alto Neighborhoods, the Midpeninsula Media Center and the city of Palo Alto. The forum was moderated by Palo Alto Online reporter Gennady Sheyner and Mountain View Voice reporter Zoe Morgan.

The candidates present were technology investor Peter Dixon; former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo; Palo Alto City Council member Julie Lythcott-Haims; Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian; climate investor Joby Bernstein; state Assemblymember Evan Low; women’s rights lawyer Ahmed Mostafa; former Menlo Park Mayor Peter Ohtaki; and Palo Alto City Council member Greg Tanaka.

Ohtaki and Ryan are Republicans, while the rest are Democrats. Former Saratoga City Council member Rishi Kumar and business owner Karl Ryan were not at the event.

The forum moderators asked candidates their takes on a range of issues, including their voting history, immigration and the environment.

On banning natural gas hook-ups in new buildings as a strategy to combat climate change, Mostafa said the approach to climate change must be done “in a sustainable way to ensure that our communities can do this and thrive. Oftentimes with regard to climate change, the brunt actually is faced by our most marginalized communities,” he said. “And so if we do this in a way that is sustainable and takes steps to get there,

See CANDIDATES, page 17
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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Summer Jazz heats up

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The Almanac
Domini Hoskins Black History Museum receives $2M from state

State Sen. Josh Becker secures funds for a permanent location

By Nicholas Mazzoni

Ever since Carolyn Hoskins’ grandson asked her who else contributed to Black history other than Martin Luther King Jr., it’s been her mission to educate and celebrate her culture with the community.

The question her grandson posed more than 20 years ago is the reason she started the Domini Hoskins Black History Museum and Learning Center. But what was once a mobile museum and Learning Center is the reason she started the Domini Hoskins Black History Museum. It’s been her mission to educate and celebrate her culture with the community.

“I want people to feel the broad range of African Americans in our society, that breadth of contribution,” Becker said. “My favorite things, entrepreneurship and ideas, music and sports, are all covered. I learned a lot about many African American inventors I didn’t know about.”

With more than 22,000 square feet of artwork and memorabilia, the museum and learning center has thousands of artifacts and display cases.

The forum was comprised of Paul Bocanegra, a juvenile justice advocate and Redwood City resident; Lisa Gauthier, East Palo Alto council member and two-time mayor; Celeste Brevard, Stanford University project manager; Maggie Cornejo, former legislative aide for Supervisor Warren Slocum; and Antonio López, East Palo Alto council member and current mayor.

The residents in attendance wrote questions for the candidates.

Climate justice priorities

One resident asked the candidates how they plan to address climate justice issues impacting underserved communities and how they would engage those plans with community stakeholders if they become supervisors.

Cornejo said that during the summer, many families and senior citizens live in overcrowded apartments with no cooling systems, which she knows firsthand because she’s experienced it. She said she would like to use Measure K funding to create cooling stations for the community. She has also focused her campaign on the mobile home areas along East Bayshore Road that are impacted by flooding.

Gauthier is a founding member of OneShoreline, an independent government agency, and she said she is committed to protecting the Bayfront cities from rising sea levels. She added that the Gardens area in East Palo Alto flooded in 1998 and 2012, and as a council member, she helped work with regional agencies and cities to construct a flood wall that protected the city from a 100-year flood.

Brevard said the county needs to work on flooding and rising sea levels, but creating more green spaces for community members can mitigate the urban heat island effect. She said the county needs to increase transportation systems and electrify them. She added that the county’s policies need to include all the solutions.

Bocanegra said the number one polluter in the Bay Area is emissions, and 30% of that comes from vehicles. He said the county needs to get creative in its solutions to incentivize residents to take alternative modes of transportation.

López said the county must partner with nonprofits to address various issues ranging from rising sea levels to canopy coverage. He echoed Bocanegra’s point and added that residents should be incentivized to be more sustainable by buying hybrid cars.

“East Palo Alto only has 14% canopy coverage. Palo Alto has about 40 plus (%),” López said. “It’s going to (take) a multitude of resources to get us across the finish line.”

Engaging with underserved communities

Gauthier highlighted the significance of inclusive representation.

“Part of it is having people see themselves in the process,” Gauthier said. “How do we talk to residents? It’s getting into the community and making sure we are having dialogues with all communities, not just one community.”

Brevard said many of the voices won’t be heard because many people in the community can’t legally vote. She said she believes the county
Youth cultural dance show by San Mateo County hosted at Filoli
Filoli hosted “Dancing Across the World” on Jan. 28 showcasing cultural dances curated by San Mateo County Youth Cultural Ambassador Amelia Lauren Chen. Dances were performed by students of El Camino Ballet, Noorani Dance, and Dance Vita Ballroom.

“The event is important to highlight intersections of art, culture and society, and the contributions of our youth in our community narrative, and Filoli as a cultural hub,” said Aileen Cassinetto, director of San Mateo County Youth Cultural Ambassadors Program.

Menlo Rotary Community Foundation opens grant applications
The Menlo Rotary Community Foundation invites local nonprofits to apply for grants towards work for seniors and youth in areas of food insecurity, arts and culture, education and human trafficking in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and nearby communities.

Applications are due by Feb. 26 at 5 p.m. and can be found on menlopark-rotary.org. The grants range from $3,000 to $7,000 but requests for up to $10,000 will be considered.

For more information call Tom Gibboney at 650-575-2279.

Town of Portola Valley hosts coffee chat with the mayor
On Tuesday, Feb. 13, the town of Portola Valley will host “Coffee with the Mayor” with Mayor Sarah Wernikoff from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. in the Heritage Room at the Portola Valley Community Center, 765 Portola Road. Community members are invited to join the mayor to talk about town priorities.

Woodside Fire Protection District offers CERT basic skills classes
Classes to learn about the community emergency response team (CERT) are being offered by the Woodside Fire Protection District. The basic skills classes will touch on disaster preparation, medical operations, fire safety and utility controls and more.

Classes run for seven Thursdays from 6:30-9:30 p.m. through Feb. 8 and March 21 and one Saturday class from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on March 23. The registration fee is $35 and scholarships are also available.

For more information on registration visit woodsidefire.org. For scholarships contact Public Information Officer Selena Brown at sbrown@woodsidefire.org.

Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital donates to 7 local nonprofits
Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital granted a total of $439,928 to seven local community based organizations, according to a Feb. 1 press release. These donations come from Dignity Health California’s statewide budget of $5.2 million to provide through community grants to nearly 100 organizations. “Addressing critical health needs is not just a responsibility, it’s our commitment to the present and future of our community,” said Sequoia Hospital President & CEO Bill Graham. “Our mission is to give back and provide access to essential resources to help bridge gaps and support the well-being of every individual.”

Dignity Health assesses the most pressing health priorities of each county every three years. These grants are intended to address challenging public health issues, such as mental health, food and housing insecurity, and domestic violence. Seven San Mateo County nonprofit organizations were awarded grants, ranging from $20,000 to $22,500, including:

1. Acknowledge Alliance, which was granted $20,000 to fund the Collaborative Counseling Program (CCP) to provide mental health counseling to underserved and high-risk students. They offer individual or group counseling sessions guided by licensed psychotherapists Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORCA) is an agency dedicated to helping victims of domestic abuse in San Mateo County. Their awarded grant for $20,000 will fund the Family Centered Mental Health Program (FCMH). Annually, this program supports over 580 individuals that have experienced domestic violence trauma, including children, teens, adults and seniors. Friends For Youth in Redwood City will use their $20,000 grant to fund The Whole Health for Youth (WHY) Collaborative. This program hosts mentorship groups and peer counseling groups to at least 160 youth between sixth and 10th grade. WHY aims to improve youth mental health and wellness through prevention and early intervention services.

Kidpower Teenpower Fullpower is a global nonprofit with services in California that will use the $22,500 grant to fund their project addressing the mental health and safety impacts of COVID-19 and natural disasters. The project will equip at least 300 skilled people to build resilience, take charge of and act towards the interest of mental, emotional and behavioral health. LifeMoves will use their $22,428 grant to fund LifeMoves Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). The HOT works with unsheltered individuals to encourage positive decision making, reduce hospital visits and leave homelessness. They assist a minimum of 50 residents around Sequoia Hospital, working to develop a strategy to move them into stable housing. United through Education-Familias Unidas will use the $22,500 grant for the Familias Unidas Family Engagement Workshop, which will offer engagement classes on educational disciplines such as reading, math, science, technology, art and health through eight-session family workshops. Workshops will also focus on healthy lifestyle practices in exercise, nutrition, diabetes and child obesity prevention.

Villages of San Mateo County will use the $22,500 grant to fund their projects that are focused on the needs of aging adults in communities around Sequoia Hospital to reduce social isolation and increase access to healthcare. Program organizers work to increase the percentage of Village membership and volunteer growth to increase services for transportation, medical equipment loans, home safety evaluations and home improvements to reduce the risk of falling.

—Jennifer Yoshikoshi
Teachers required to release text messages and midst ethnic studies controversy

By Arden Margulis / M-A Chronicle

Late afternoon on Wednesday, Jan. 31, Sequoia Union High School District Associate Superintendent Bonnie Hansen began an email to all staff: "What follows is a notice I never thought I’d have to send." Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) teachers received an email from Hansen instructing them to submit all instructional materials containing the words "Zionism, Zionists, Israel, Israelis, Palestine, and/or Palestinians" taught since September 1st to District lawyers.

In a separate email, ethnic studies teachers were asked to submit all ethnic studies materials as well as any text messages about ethnic studies. The Deborah Project request to these items through a California Public Records Act (CPRA) request. The CPRA is a law that allows citizens to view records and materials made by government employees—including public school teachers and District employees. The Deborah Project is a public interest law firm that claims to "assert and defend the civil rights of Jews who face discrimination in educational settings."

The district is using San Francisco-based educational law firm Dannis Wrolker Kelley to comply with this request. In her email, Hansen assured teachers that the request "is not a request coming from the District and materials submitted will go directly to our attorneys for review and submission."

The district’s additional email asked ethnic studies teachers to submit all of their lesson materials; this includes every lesson plan, assigned readings, and all presented materials. They are also collecting every memo, text message, and electronic communication about ethnic studies since the start of 2022. The district itself will also retrieve all email communications from ethnic studies teachers about ethnic studies to eventually send to the Deborah Project.

In the first email to all staff, Hansen said, "While this is certainly not the district’s first request for information under the Public Records Act, it is the first time we are receiving requests that require submissions from teachers."

I’ve seen a lot of crazy things in my 16 years as a teacher, but this records request is a first.’

M-A History teacher Sam Harris

M-A History teacher Sam Harris said, "I’ve seen a lot of crazy things in my 16 years as a teacher, but this records request is a first."

The Deborah Project’s Legal Director Lori Lowenthal Marcus, who sent the request on Jan. 11, said, "The Deborah Project is trying to prevent educational malpractice by the presentation of wholly inaccurate and divisive material."

These requests come after multiple alleged issues with anti-Semitism in SUHSD including months of coordinated advocacy against a slideshow presented by two ethnic studies teachers.

One of the teachers who presented the slideshow, Chloe Gentile-Montgomery, who is still on leave due to reported threats and harassment against the presentation, said, "These requests are a way to threaten ethnic studies teachers who push their students to think critically and lead with love."

She added, "I was disappointed when I initially saw the records request about 500 years ago. I was badly not surprised. Ethnic studies has been under attack since it came to public universities in the 1960s and even more so now that it is a requirement in California high schools."

Hansen told the M-A Chronicle, "I am saddened that we have reached the point in education where blanket requests can be made of hundreds of teachers to share information from their personal phones and spend the time they don’t have to review lessons and materials going back months and years."

Montgomery said, "This CPRA is a way to distract teachers from doing the work they actually need to be doing, which is primarily in the classroom." She added, "I plan to write a letter about how this violates the academic integrity of our teachers, adding that she will "follow the lead of the Union."

Many other teachers also felt upset and frustrated by these requests. M-A ethnic studies teacher Lan Nguyen said, "There has been a long history of outside agitators weaponizing the public records request process to tear down ethnic studies as a course. It breaks my heart that the sacredness of our classrooms is being violated." Harris said, "I feel somewhat conflicted over this idea that..."

See ETHNIC STUDIES, page 10

St. Michael statue at long-running Menlo Park retreat have vandalized

By Neil Gonzales

For decades, the garden-lush, tree-canopied grounds of the Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park have inspired serenity and reflection.

But recently, a statue of St. Michael near the entrance left broken in shards has brought a very different feeling.

"Sadness," said Dominick Peloso, deacon and director of operations at Vallombrosa, which has served as a haven for religious and spiritual retreats since 1947. "This is a beautiful statue to remind us of St. Michael and his work for the Lord."

Badly damaged, it’s now a reminder of an act of vandalism committed by an unknown interloper. Peloso is seeking the community’s help to find the perpetrator and raise funds to replace the statue.

The center at 250 Oak Grove Ave. was in the process of fundraising to beautify the area around the statue, Peloso said. The project would add a tile path and some benches to create a kind of shrine.

"Now this is a $1,500 setback," he said of the vandalized statue, which measured about four feet in height and depicted the archangel with a sword trampling Satan.

"We would like to have the public assist in finding the perpetrator or persons who did this, whom we pray for, and assist in restoring the shrine," Peloso said.

About a month ago, he said, a Vallombrosa employee found the statue demolished. It looked as if someone took a large tree branch to the statue, shattering it into pieces. The branch was left next to the statue.

"The sword was taken as well," Peloso said. "So if anybody sees somebody wandering around with a sword in their belt, call the police."

That also bothered Peloso was that it appeared the offender first tried to light the statue on fire. "There were some matches there," he said, "but the burning didn't work."

Vallombrosa has had the statue for about five years, he said. "I found it on the Internet. There is a company that produces that particular statue."

An online search turned up the same-looking statue made by specialty-decor company Design Toscano in Illinois.

The company offers a St. Michael Baroque work by Italian painter Guido Reni (1575-1642).

Vallombrosa reported the vandalism to police. Menlo Park police spokesperson Nicole Acker said the case remains under investigation.

Peloso noted that a similar vandalism incident occurred several months ago at nearby St. Patrick’s Seminary & University at 320 Middlefield Road. He wondered if there could be a connection.

But Acker said it’s unlikely. "They do not appear to be related at all," she said. "They're different circumstances."

On Easter weekend last year, a transient allegedly vandalized the statues of Biblical figures Mary and Joseph at the seminary. Vatical was arrested and accused of burning the statue of Joseph by igniting a Duralian log at the base and throwing an egg on Mary.

For those wishing to donate to help Vallombrosa replace the St. Michael statue or pursue its beautification project, email Peloso at dominick@vallombrosa.org.

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

A statue was broken into shards at Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park around a month ago.
should promote Civic Bell, a phone app that lets residents directly communicate with officials. She said it is similar to NextDoor. She imagines having language salons in the county where people could come and practice different languages. She said it’s also important to provide equitable access to information, meaning there needs to be access to information in languages that people in the community speak.

Bocanegra said the decision makers in the county are disconnected from its residents. Last week, the county approved an ordinance, Hopeful Horizons, that will criminalize transients who refuse housing.

“The underserved here continue to be impacted by these policies and resolutions that are passed by people who are disconnected,” Bocanegra said. “We have over 30 kids attending Kennedy Middle School from vehicles.”

He added those kids are at a disadvantage to their classmates living in a $2 million home.

López said that to move people forward and engage with them, they need to have better conversations and be in the places where people are. He said representation doesn’t mean much if it isn’t backed by a conversation, and he plans on having those difficult conversations to understand what the community needs are.

Cornejo said she has gained support from the community because she has been at residents’ doors talking with them and educating them on what the District 4 supervisor does to impact daily life.

She wants to offer citizenship classes in North Fair Oaks and the neighboring cities.

“There are residents out there that are perhaps undocumentated, but there is a pathway and they don’t know that because they are too afraid. So having that education,” Cornejo said.

Housing policies to prevent eviction

Brevard said if she were the supervisor, she would focus on policies limiting rent increases and giving tenants the right to move back into their homes after renovations are completed.

Bocanegra said he believes the county needs to implement a rental oversight program to protect tenants, and he is against the eviction of youth and senior citizens.

“Seniors can’t continue to be bled out by the taxes,” Bocanegra said. “If you are exposing the community to living conditions like those in Half Moon Bay, you will be criminalized.”

López said the county must work with state and regional agencies to prioritize housing over developer’s profits. While he said there isn’t a silver bullet to fix the issue, he believes it will take multiple approaches to ensure everyone in the county is housed affordably, and that will involve passing policies that can move the needle.

“I believe housing is the civil rights of our time,” López said.

Cornejo said passing a tenant protection ordinance is important to protect the most vulnerable community members.

Gauthier said East Palo Alto has a rent stabilization program, displacement ordinances, and policies to protect the community. It also has rent assistance.

“Things are just too expensive, so we have to continue to build housing first of all, and we need to build housing for all,” Gauthier said.

She added that creating jobs that will allow people to stay in the county is important.

Independent Civilian Oversight

The candidates were asked what they think of Independent Sheriff’s Office Oversight. While some of the candidates are taking a wait-and-see approach, others feel like the county’s decision needs to be reevaluated.

Bocanegra said it means partnering and trusting in the community and public. He claims what the supervisors previously passed earlier this month was an advisory committee, he said.

“If you trust your community, you will partner with your public and give the public the trust that they can uphold accountability in the Sheriff’s Department (Office),” Bocanegra said.

López said he echoed Bocanegra’s comments and added that the building blocks of the nation were built on checks and balances, and the community needs the power to hold those institutions accountable.

“So no more Black and brown people are suffering in this community when it comes to police deaths,” López said.

Cornejo said she supports the county’s version of the civilian oversight commission and that she also supports the Sheriff’s Office and Sheriff Christina Corpus who she believes is engaging with the community.

Gauthier said every organization needs transparency. She supports the Board of Supervisors’ decision to engage with the civilian oversight committee as needed. She said it needs to be allowed to see how it goes. But she is glad that there is an opportunity to review the committee after a year to reevaluate.

Brevard said she believes oversight and establishing trust within the community and police is important. She thinks creating partnerships with safety alliance committees is equally important to empower citizens.

‘Hopeful Horizons’ ordinance and alternative

North Fair Oaks Community Council member Ever Rodriguez asked the candidates to take a stance on the county’s decision to issue misdemeanor violations to homeless individuals who refuse to take an available bed in a county shelter. Rodriguez asked the candidates to offer their solutions to the homeless issue.

Brevard said she disagrees with the ordinance. She said it creates another barrier and makes it more difficult for people to receive the help they need. She said in Austin, Texas, the community has created a tiny house community for the formerly unhoused and she thinks it’s a model that she would like to see recreated in the county.

Bocanegra said the community needs home buyer programs and tenant protections, not the criminalization of the poor.

López said it’s not only morally wrong, he also believes it will be ineffective.

“Racking up misdemeanors doesn’t seem like it’s going to prove effective, and if anything it’s going to be a barrier to the resources they desperately need,” López said.

Cornejo said the Board of Supervisors was trying to be innovative in coming up with its solutions, but she disagrees with its decision. She thinks it would be better for the county to invest its time in more interim housing, such as the Navigation Center in Redwood City.

Gauthier said the way East Palo Alto provided wrap-around services to people who were living in the park. Figuring out what services they need, providing them, and then giving them opportunities to find housing.

The primary election is set for March 5, with a possible general election on Nov. 5 if no candidate secures more than 50% of the primary vote.

“Watch a video of the candidate forum at tinyurl.com/SMC-D4-forum.”

Email Staff Writer Nicholas Mazzoni at nmazzoni@rwcpulse.com.

Woodside Elementary School campaign finance reports are in

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Yes on E for Woodside School, the campaign in support of a $36 million bond measure on the March 5 ballot to raise funds for the Woodside Elementary School District, didn’t receive any contributions or spent any funds for the period of Jan. 1 to Jan. 20, according to a campaign finance report.

Measure E for Woodside Elementary School has a $36 million bond measure to fund for creek stabilization, fixing building damages and improving classrooms and facilities. Woodside Elementary school board President Jenny Hayden is running the campaign.

Those in opposition to the measure did not file a report.

The next round of campaign finance reports are due on Feb. 22.

The County Elections Office began mailing Vote by Mail ballots for the primary election to all registered voters on Monday, Feb. 5.

email Staff Writer Jennifer Yoshikoshi at jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.
Much ado over ADUs: How accessory dwelling units are giving rise to new cities of longevity

By Bay City News Service

Toast on a napkin, a cluster of pill bottles, extra reading glasses, a candy bowl full of cough drops. These are the traces of life found in the dwelling of someone in their senior years. Someone’s parents are cooking less, going to the doctor more and avoiding talk of the future. Gathering of grown children start to feel more like meetings. They share fears about everything that might happen if mom and dad go on living in the old house with increasing disabilities. They brainstorm, they argue, they research options, which are few.

Residential assisted living facilities can cost around $7,000 a month. In-home health care providers are in extreme short supply. How can grown daughters and sons possibly manage to care for ailing parents in the same home where they are raising babies, building careers and searching for fleeting intimate moments?

One solution may lie in accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, which are playing a bigger role in the lives of seniors and their adult children in California. For decades, cities largely obstructed their development due to suburban codes and attitudes. In-law houses, garage buildouts, attic and basement additions are all more in numbers since the 1960s, when the spotlight of popular culture shifted from the ballrooms of Guy Lombardo in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Description: The purpose of the amendments is to adopt Atherton Municipal Code amendments to Chapter 8.28 bringing it in compliance with state law. A copy of the City Council staff report and draft amendments to the Ordinance can be found online, by Friday February 16, 2024 here: https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing to consider amendments to Atherton Municipal Code Chapter 8.28 related to Swimming Pool Fences. The public may participate via: Zoom Meeting or in-person.

Remote Public Comments: Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. The following email will be monitored during the meeting and public comments received will be saved for the record.

Date Published: February 9, 2024
Date Posted: February 9, 2024

By Bay City News Service

In the 1960s, the spotlight of popular culture shifted from the ballrooms of Guy Lombardo to the love-ins of John Lennon. The artistic mood was futuristic, utopian, which permanently changed social and political narratives. Baby boomers are more likely to own homes and have finance capital, and they may be more open to the idea of living in ADUs that ADUs can offer.

Parents rent ADUs to grown children who want to start families but cannot afford to buy homes of their own. Seniors rent to tenants for extra income and have some flexibility in a fixed retirement budget, maybe travel. Grown children can build ADUs for parents who can in turn help to reduce another spiraling cost — childcare.

Architectural critics point to other countries, where age-disparity neighborhoods have more safe places within walking distance, more opportunities for multi-generational engagement and more accessible buildings and streetscapes. The troubles of aging may not magically disappear with ADUs, but their ripple effects in architecture and urban planning could make cities more livable for everyone. Physical changes done well could ignite behavioral changes and create cities of longevity.

Whether or not these housing arrangements contribute to a longer life is hard to measure. A 2023 working paper published by the Hoover Institution showed that relief from financial anxiety can improve mental health, perhaps adding years to life. Research from Stanford’s Center on Longevity indicates that loneliness and lack of a sense of purpose can subtract years.

For three San Francisco Bay Area seniors, ADUs have reduced financial stress and social isolation. Carol Nemiro, Castro Valley:

Carol Nemiro, age 74, earns a teacher’s pension from Hollister Public School District and describes her economic status as lower middle class. She lives in a one-bedroom ADU in her son’s backyard in Castro Valley. Big windows face a courtyard where grandchildren ride trikes. “I had a lot of friends in Hollister. It was hard to leave them,” Carol said. “It’s hard to see them now because most people my age don’t like to drive a lot anymore.” Her roommates live in four cages that frame the living room. They are two macaws, 8-year-old Tapestry and 17-year-old Hearsey. Then there is Lightening, an 18-year-old cockatoo, and Irony, a 12-year-old African grey parrot who talks to her when she’s on the phone with someone else. Carol’s birds are clearly the souls with whom she is spanning time. They have been with her through it all.

Her younger son died in a car crash in 2017, the same year her first grandchild was born. The following two years, her children’s father died and then her second husband. She and her second husband were great travelers. They once flew to Venice, Italy, and bought exotic glass birds.

Carol said she was in charge of her husband’s Social Security because of her teacher’s pension, and she began to accumulate debt. She contracted a melanoma in 2020. Immunotherapy damaged her lungs. She was alone in the four-bedroom family house surrounded by the memorabilia of a full life. That old house, where she once hosted parties where everyone and the dog ended up in the pool, had to go. It sold at the market peak for $765,000. “I am still getting rid of that stuff,” Carol spoke from her new ADU. “It was hard going through it all. I filled two dumpsters. I had a garage sale. You know, people want stuff for nothing. A lot of it was stuff I hated to get rid of. They want to pay you $2 for it.”

After paying off the mortgage, Carol had $225,000 to invest in a new home. Her son, Brandon Kemp, 47, was a paralegal and good at research. He started to piece together a vision.

“November 2021 is when things took off,” Brandon said. He got $40,000 from the California Housing Finance Agency to cover pre-development costs. They found Hello Housing, an ADU developer, and started to design and build. To finance it, Brandon took out a $125,000 line of credit on his house, which his mom is paying back like rent for $1,500 a month. The ADU was a $300,000 investment, but Brandon said his property, which he purchased in 2017 for $665,000, is now worth $1.2 million.

“By the time we get through all the permits,” Brandon said, “the sale value of the ADU will be a lot more than what we invested.” It was hard going through it all. They once flew to Venice, Italy, and bought exotic glass birds.

Carol Nemiro

In the decades after WWII, California legislated to remove roadblocks to cities more livable for everyone. Architecture and streetscapes. The troubles of aging may not magically disappear with ADUs, but their ripple effects in architecture and urban planning could make cities more livable for everyone. Physical changes done well could ignite behavioral changes and create cities of longevity.

Architectural critics point to other countries, where age-disparity neighborhoods have more safe places within walking distance, more opportunities for multi-generational engagement and more accessible buildings and streetscapes. The troubles of aging may not magically disappear with ADUs, but their ripple effects in architecture and urban planning could make cities more livable for everyone. Physical changes done well could ignite behavioral changes and create cities of longevity.

Whether or not these housing arrangements contribute to a longer life is hard to measure. A 2023 working paper published by the Hoover Institution showed that relief from financial anxiety can improve mental health, perhaps adding years to life. Research from Stanford’s Center on Longevity indicates that loneliness and lack of a sense of purpose can subtract years.

For three San Francisco Bay Area seniors, ADUs have reduced financial stress and social isolation. Carol Nemiro, Castro Valley:

Carol Nemiro, age 74, earns a teacher’s pension from Hollister Public School District and describes her economic status as lower middle class. She lives in a one-bedroom ADU in her son’s backyard in Castro Valley. Big windows face a courtyard where grandchildren ride trikes. “I had a lot of friends in Hollister. It was hard to leave them,” Carol said. “It’s hard to see them now because most people my age don’t like to drive a lot anymore.” Her roommates live in four cages that frame the living room. They are two macaws, 8-year-old Tapestry and 17-year-old Hearsey. Then there is Lightening, an 18-year-old cockatoo, and Irony, a 12-year-old African grey parrot who talks to her when she’s on the phone with someone else. Carol’s birds are clearly the souls with whom she is spanning time. They have been with her through it all.

Her younger son died in a car crash in 2017, the same year her first grandchild was born. The following two years, her children’s father died and then her second husband. She and her second husband were great travelers. They once flew to Venice, Italy, and bought exotic glass birds.

Carol said she was in charge of her husband’s Social Security because of her teacher’s pension, and she began to accumulate debt. She contracted a melanoma in 2020. Immunotherapy damaged her lungs. She was alone in the four-bedroom family house surrounded by the memorabilia of a full life. That old house, where she once hosted parties where everyone and the dog ended up in the pool, had to go. It sold at the market peak for $765,000. “I am still getting rid of that stuff,” Carol spoke from her new ADU. “It was hard going through it all. I filled two dumpsters. I had a garage sale. You know, people want stuff for nothing. A lot of it was stuff I hated to get rid of. They want to pay you $2 for it.”

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teachers are being asked to ‘turn over’ their lesson materials, and it feels like a violation of our public trust to be the arbiters of educational knowledge. But I also believe that as public school teachers, we should be transparent with parents and community members who have every right to know what we’re teaching students in our classrooms.”

In reference to teachers who feel their classrooms should be private, Lowenthal Marcus said, “That’s not a correct response. When you’re a public school teacher, you work for the government, which means you work for the people. It’s really quite astounding that some teachers feel that way; they probably shouldn’t be working as a public school teacher.”

English Department Chair Liane Strub, who has taught at M-A for 29 years, said, “When you’re being your authentic self in the classroom as a teacher, maybe even revealing your own feelings or your own thoughts about things, it’s very personal. And then, to feel like ‘Oh my god, am I going to get a call or email, get called into the front office because I said something today’ is really uncomfortable.”

She continued, “It’s a factor for me in whether or not to retire this year. It’s that disturbing. There is this sense of insecurity, which I guess I’ve lived with all my career, but now I feel more insecure than I ever had before. And it’s not just because of the CPRA request, but it’s the entire atmosphere of cancel culture, of critique, and of the glee people have if they ‘catch’ you.”

Lowenthal Marcus said, “If teachers feel like they need to hide the materials they are teaching, they should not be teaching it.”

Strub concluded with, “I love the classroom and I love my students, but I don’t know that I want to be exposed in that way.”

In July, The Deborah Project sent similar PRA requests to Mountain View-Los Altos High School District (MVLA) and Hayward Unified School District (HUSD). They claimed to have filed the request to MVLA to “seek information about the use of overtly antisemitic ethnic studies teaching materials.” In the lawsuit against HUSD, the request sought to learn what is “actually being taught ... relating to the subject of ethnic studies in general, and about the Jewish commitment to Zionism, and Israeli-Americans, in particular.”

Marcus said, “We have found at other schools lots of jaw-dropping materials that should not be distributed or taught in any way to public school children.”

At MVLA, the district delayed its response to the request, leading The Deborah Project to file a lawsuit alleging that the district did not comply with its records request.

Although The Deborah Project can receive communication between parents and students with staff members, whether emails between teachers can be released depends on the content. The Supreme Court of California ruled that public agencies do not have to provide communication between government officials that are part of a “deliberative process.”

In all records the district releases, they must censor all “personally identifiable information” of students in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This includes student names, addresses, ID numbers, and other similar information.

For teachers, however, if the district decides not to share the names of the educators who submitted each material, then it is up to the courts to decide whether or not to release them. To keep teachers’ names private, the district will have to prove in court that the harm to the district in its public duty “clearly outweighs” the public’s benefit from including teachers’ names. Throughout the email, Hansen made it clear that support would be given to teachers by site and district administrators. She wrote in her email to all teachers, “district and site administration are available to support, so don’t hesitate to ask for assistance.”

Museum

continued from page 5

of artifacts and collectibles from genres ranging from music, politics, toys, history, inventions and sports memorabilia. Most of the collectibles are items Hoskins has collected. And they all have a story.

An hour before the check presentation event, Domini Hoskins, the museum’s namesake, walked the aisles of the museum. He points out one of his toys, a play doll, which he said he named C.J. Years later, he had a son and called him C.J. In the next few weeks, C.J.’s gift corner will open with memorabilia and little trinkets for kids to buy. Domini Hoskins said he is proud of his grandmother and what she has built. While he could never have imagined 25 years ago that a question for his grandmother would blossom into a museum, he chuckled and said it wouldn’t surprise him.

More than a dozen people celebrated the event, and Carolyn Hoskins said she wanted it to be an intimate gathering to share the moment with her family. She said she wants everyone in the museum to leave having learned something about Black history.

“The whole point is education,” she said. “I am here to toil and tell my story about my history, which is so rich, and to let people know that African Americans have contributed so much to this great country.”

The museum and learning center is located at 890 Jefferson Ave. It is open from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Tickets for the exhibit are $10 for adults, and $5 for children under 12 or seniors over 65. Visit hoskinsblackhistorymuseum.org for more information.

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visible upgrades occurring above the tracks.

Caltrain installed 2.5 million feet of overhead wire, as part of a catenary system, that will supply electricity to 19 seven-car trains, replacing 75% of Caltrain’s existing diesel fleet.

“Children that are growing up on the Peninsula now will never see a diesel train again after September 2024,” said Caltrain Executive Director Michelle Bouchard, who spoke to a crowd at San Jose’s Diridon Station on Thursday, Feb. 2.

Bouchard, who spoke to a crowd on Thursday, Feb. 2, said Caltrain expects to roll out 30 electric trains, replacing 75% of Caltrain’s existing diesel fleet.

San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan drew attention to the importance of children growing up on the Peninsula now will never see a diesel train again after September 2024, said Caltrain Executive Director Michelle Bouchard, who spoke to a crowd at San Jose’s Diridon Station on Thursday, Feb. 2.

San Jose Council member Devora ‘Dev’ Davis presents the new electric Caltrain cars at Diridon Station in San Jose on Feb. 2.

The crowd convened at the station to get a first-hand view of an electric train that will be running as part of Caltrain’s regular service, starting in September. The ride will be faster than before, with trips between San Jose and San Francisco taking less than 60 minutes. The top speed, however, will remain the same at 79 mph.

The big difference will be improved acceleration and deceleration, according to Caltrain, making it possible to add more stops to the service schedule without needing to add more trains to the tracks.

For Nancy and Kobad Bugwadia, who own a math learning center in Mountain View, the faster and more frequent service was especially welcome news, as it meant they could tap into a wider pool of employees. Right now, they have one employee who commutes from San Francisco. “Anything that helps speed up the commute for people or makes it easier for them is great,” said Nancy Bugwadia.

But not just about convenience, the Bugwadias also noted the environmental benefits of the electrified service.

The trains produce zero greenhouse gas emissions, and further reduce emissions by relieving traffic congestion. The sound of the engines is about 20 decibels lower than diesel-powered trains, reducing noise pollution too, according to Brent Tietjen, Caltrain’s External Affairs Manager.

The transit agency also touted the comfort and convenience inside the trains, as a highlight during the tour. The trains can accommodate between 800 and 1,000 passengers and include dedicated bike cars, Tietjen said.

Wi-Fi will be available on the trains, and each seat is equipped with electric outlets. Other amenities include onboard digital displays, more storage space and accessible bathrooms that have baby-changing stations.

Jessica Burton, who attended the Caltrain tour as part of a LinkedIn delegate, said she was excited about the upgrades and intended to promote the new train service to company employees.

San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan drew attention to the importance of the business community in promoting Caltrain’s electrified fleet, while also describing its wider significance.

“It’s a visionary, generation-al investment that will help us achieve our climate goals, will help people get to their jobs (and) will make life more convenient and productive for our workforce. This is the commuter rail for Silicon Valley,” he said.

Caltrain eventually plans to extend its electrified service area further south, from San Jose to Gilroy. Until then, it will pilot a dual electric and battery-equipped train to help facilitate the change-over from diesel-powered engines, Tietjen said.

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The local’s guide to the Bay Area food scene.

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

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Adrienne
Editor, Peninsula Foodist

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New bill proposes all businesses carry opioid antidote in first aid kits

By Bay City News Service

It’s a scene that is growing more common. Someone slumps over in a public place, say a nightclub or a city park. They have intentionally or accidentally taken an opioid like fentanyl which can be deadly upon first use for some people.

As their pupils constrict and they struggle to breathe, people scatter for help, call the cops or an ambulance, but the response is too late.

On Jan. 31, state Assembly-member Matt Haney, D-San Francisco, introduced Assembly Bill 1976, a bill that would require all employers to keep naloxone spray in first aid kits. Current regulations require all businesses who employ people to have a first aid kit in the breakroom or common space. Its contents are checked by inspectors from the city or county health department and regulated by the California Emergency Medical Services and Safety, and Cal/OSHA.

“If I see somebody who looks like they’re overdosing, I can run into a store and ask for the first aid kit and pull it out,” said Haney’s spokesperson Nate Albee. “Hopefully using that one to two minutes that they have to get someone naloxone before they die.”

Naloxone is the life-saving ingredient in the overdose antidote brand Narcan. It has no significant side effects, even when mistakenly given to a person who does not need it. In today’s prices, it would cost $40 for the required two doses, which have a shelf life of four years.

According to Albee, that price may drop when the state begins to create their own supply, along with insulin, in the next five years.

It’s very similar to what happened with condoms in the 80s around the HIV epidemic. Previously, you had to go to the pharmacist and ask for the condoms, Albee said. “We decided as a culture that we needed condoms to be ubiquitous and get them everywhere.”

If AB 1976 is signed into law by the governor later this year, it would go into action Jan. 1, 2025. Businesses would then have another year to abide by the new law before any penalties go into effect.

Accounting is a potent synthetic opioid drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use as a pain reliever and anesthetic. It is approximately 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin. According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, California reported 7,510 deaths from synthetic opioids in a 12-month period ending August 2023, a dramatic rise from 1,175 in 2019.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration reports that more than half of the counterfeit prescription pills being trafficked in communities across the country now contain a potent amount of fentanyl.

The bill does not yet have co-sponsors, but Haney’s office feels it is a no-brainer.

“Traditionally opponents of this kind of bill would be special business organizations like the chamber of commerce. But to be honest, at this point in the process, people are pretty much all in agreement that this is something that we need to do,” he said.

ADU continued from page 9

that specializes in fast, accessibly designed, affordable units for families in crisis, like his.

Bob Grant, Dublin:

Bakari’s father, Bob Grant, 72, sat up straight when his 12-year-old granddaughter Naomi entered the room. She began talking about exercises. Perched at the foot of his bed, she spoke in a mature voice.

“She’s deep, just like her mother’s,” he said.

In 2012, Bob was living in Las Vegas, where he moved to get a divorce from his wife. Then there was another younger. Then some business involving loans and dishonest men. Then the stroke.

"I didn’t know I had a stroke until years later,” he said. “I can’t even remember that I was hospitalized in 1979.” It happened in 1979.

By 1979, Bob and his wife were living in Oakland, raising five children. He worked as a lab tech for Chevron.

His oldest child, Bisa, grew up to become an engineer. Bob’s ADU now stands in her backyard in the East Bay suburb of Dublin. His youngest child, Bakari, Grant, grew up to become a professional athlete, a wide receiver for the San Francisco 49ers. He studied interior architecture at UC Davis and knew enough about the materials to design an ADU. The family had previously lost a grandmother to mistreatment in a nursing home. So together, for less than $100,000, the siblings constructed the ADU from scratch in Bisa’s backyard while “Pops” recovered in the house.

Connecting the ADU to the same water lines as the big house saved money, but city permits and electrical hookups cost another $15,000.

Transitioning Bob from a hospital in Las Vegas to an independent home in Dublin was a three-year family ordeal. But the work they put into solving that crisis was repurposed as a new business model.

“If you need an engineer, we’ll do that for you. If you need house cleaning, maintenance or any of those things, we will do that too,” said Bakari’s spokesperson Nate Albee. “Hopefully using that one to two minutes that they have to get someone naloxone before they die.”

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Hawthorne worked 14 years as the architectural critic for the Los Angeles Times. He left the paper in 2018 to join the mayor’s office as the city’s first chief design officer, where he worked for four years before joining the faculty at Yale University. When he arrived at the mayor’s office, he said, nearly 20% of all new permitted residential units were ADUs, with the number likely reaching over 25%.

To propel the city’s enthusiasm for ADUs, Hawthorne called a national competition for architects to design ADUs that could be pre-approved through the Department of Building and Public Safety, which covered the bulk of the required codes. Through a city website, people could connect to architects and use their plans. The city eventually offered a set of drawings for free.

L.A. was once, age-friendly, according to Hawthorne. In the late 19th and early 20th century, it had an excellent public transit system, for example.

“We had a really rich tradition of innovative multi-family housing, particularly small-scale apartment buildings, starting with courtyard apartment bungalow courts and other complexes wrapping around gardens,” he said.

After World War II, due to changes in federal housing and transportation policies, demographic change and some local policy shifts, Los Angeles became synonymous with freeways, single family neighborhoods and privatized backyards.

With ADUs, seniors can stay in their communities and live on the same piece of property, Hawthorne said. They can even move to the smaller ADU and rent out the main house, maybe allow their children to move into

See ADU, page 15
the larger house while they're building a family.

Spring Verity, Orinda:

“My daughter had just given birth to her second child, and she could not afford to live in Oakland,” said Spring Verity, 83, from her one-bedroom ADU in Orinda, where every room was adorned with floral prints and patterns. “It was just after the banks had made that ridiculous move and everybody’s house had dropped in value, so they had no equity.”

Spring’s house is sited in a parallel relationship to her daughter’s, not behind it. They sit balanced across an eastern slope and face the morning. In the courtyard between their homes is a sheltered dining table, autumn-blooming azaleas and a fallow garden. The outdoor bridge creates a third space, making the whole arrangement feel like a world within a world.

“We see some lovely hawks and we have deer, a lot of rabbits and skunks,” Spring said in an English accent. “And we have a cougar who’s decided recently to take up his residence here, which is rather tiresome because he wants to eat the chickens.”

Moving to the property in Orinda brought back memories of her childhood in England, close to nature.

“The last part of my childhood we lived in Henley-on-Thames,” she said holding up her iPhone to show a photograph someone had recently sent her of the same house today. “It was a house by the river. We had ponies, and we were about a mile from the Henley. We could walk along the towpath to the grocery or to go rowing and boating.”

Spring was a 23-year-old bride when she moved to Chicago in 1963. Her first husband, the father of her three children, was studying to become a doctor. Her education brought them to Boston, then California in 1971.

“Back in those days, you know, if you wanted to go to Yosemite, you didn’t have to have a reservation or anything,” she said. “You drove in, you chose your campsite or anything,” she said. “You didn’t have to have a reservation brought them to Boston, then California in 1971. You didn’t have to have a reservation brought them to Boston, then California in 1971.

The Pacific Palisades house sold high, for $1.25 million, which rendered a handy down payment for a new life with her grandchildren.

In 2010, she suggested to her daughter, age 78, on January 29, 2024, she lives on $6,000 a month, which pays for a cleaner and other needs.

“I made the down payment, but they took on the mortgage,” she said. By the time they all moved to the new place, her daughter and son-in-law had full-time jobs and two young sons.

“I could help with babysitting and chauffeuring,” she said. “Gabe was just a baby when we came. He was just one. And Toby was five. It was lovely.”

Having such an important role in her daughter’s family may have given Spring some additional years. A 2020 study published by Preventive Medicine shows evidence that a higher sense of purpose in life is associated with lower risk of chronic conditions and premature mortality. People with purpose might have more incentive to do the time-consuming and difficult activities of health screenings and exercise regimens, because sustaining their health might help meet their purpose.

Alternatively, the health risks of loneliness and social isolation can increase a person’s risk of premature death from all causes, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Social isolation was associated with about a 50% increased risk of dementia, 29% increased risk of heart disease and a 32% increased risk of stroke.

“When I moved up here, I didn’t know anybody. And it’s really difficult to get to know people when you’re my age,” she said. “When you’re younger, you have children, and you take them to the park and you meet people. Or you’re working and you meet people and so on. But it’s very difficult when you’re retired to meet anybody.”

Spring said the COVID-19 pandemic increased her isolation. No more mahjong club. No more volunteering at the Tilden Park Botanical Garden. As the grandkids became teenagers, babysitting tapered off.

“Toby’s started college now, so we miss him very much,” she said. ADUs, of course, cannot eliminate the encroachments of age. Health issues limit Spring’s ability to go out and she easily tires.

“I seem to be getting weaker all the time, and it’s getting harder and harder to do all the simple things. I go down and take care of the chickens every day, and that’s pretty much my exercise.”

But she’s taken up knitting and likes to read. She sees her daughter daily and comes over for dinner sometimes. Overall, Spring said, her spirits are good.

“I’m very happy. I’m very content.”

Carolyn Cutler Riches
June 9, 1945 – January 29, 2024

Carolyn Cutler Riches passed away peacefully at age 78, on January 29, 2024, at St. Bartholomew Catholic Hospice, and Donehoo-Lewis Funeral Home for their love, tenderness and loving care. They were members of the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP) for their tender and loving care.

Carolyn was a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints where she loved to serve. During her life she and her husband lived in many ways both individually and at her husband’s side. Her service had a great impact on many in her community. She will be remembered for reaching out to the one, as the Savior did. She provided meaningful and personalized care to many of Heavenly Father’s children.

Carolyn loved collecting beautiful things. She had a keen eye for color, design, and detail, drawing inspiration from her travels. Everything she touched became beautiful. She and her husband Vic made an incredible team, enjoying working on grand projects together.

Over the years they helped to give special thanks to all her caregivers at the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP) for their tender and loving care. Carolyn’s final resting place is at Alta Mesa Memorial Park near her parents and son, Kevin, who passed before her.

In lieu of flowers, family and friends are welcome to consider making a donation in Carolyn’s honor to the American Cancer Society.
Menlo Park Police Department asks for community's help in investigation

A man reached out through his car window to try to grab a 15-year-old girl when she declined to be taken toward her across the passenger seat, according to police.

The incident immediately called her dad on her cell-phone and the driver never made physical contact with her, according to police. He was seen driving off, in a car described as older and black, northbound on Santa Cruz Avenue.

Police are investigating the incident and will be patrolling the area during the hours before and after school. The police department encourages parents to remind their children to be aware of their surrounding, and to call the police if an adult they see or experience something that is out of the ordinary.

To report any information regarding this incident call the police department at 650-330-6300 or the Anonymous Tip Hotline at 650-330-6395. —Jennifer Yohsoki

Burglary reported in Atherton on Fletcher Drive

Someone broke into a home on the 300 block of Fletcher Drive on Jan. 31, according to an Atherton Police Department news alert.

Around 9:08 a.m., burglars smashed a rear window to gain entry into the house.

The vehicle and suspects are still outstanding, according to police.

The resident reported that nothing was taken, Sgt. Dan Larsen told The Almanac in an email. The house was alarmed, but there is no surveillance footage, he said.

Police ask those who live in the area to check their surveillance video and report any possible leads by calling 650-688-6500. —Angela Swartz

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CRIME BRIEFS

January 12, 2024.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 08, 2024. (ALM Feb 9, 16, and 23, 2024)

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on September 16, 2023. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 08, 2024. (ALM Feb 9, 16, 23 and Mar 1, 2024)

Mr. G. HANDYMAN

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. M-296315

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Mr. G. HANDYMAN, located at 3740 ROLLISON RD, #3, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063. Registered owner(s): GONZALO HERNANDEZ

3706 ROLLISON ROAD #3

REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/12/2024. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 13, 2024. (ALM Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

Tech BIZ ADVISORS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. M-296263

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) Tech BIZ ADVISORS, located at 14 Somersault Lane, Belmont, CA 94002. Registered owner(s): LAURENT K. GHARDA

14 SOMERSALTO LANE

BELMONT, CA 94002

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/1/2023. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 08, 2024. (ALM Jan 26, Feb 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Case No.: 24CIV00158

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Anne Dieffert Bipes filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows:

ANNE DEIFFERT BIPES to ANNE MARIA TERESA DEUFFY

The COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING 01/31/2024; 9:00 a.m., 12th Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

ALMANAC

Date: 01/17/2024

Hon. Elizabeth H. Lee

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

.ALAMANAC

Date: 01/17/2024

Heisen Ladani

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(ALM Jan 26, Feb 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Case No.: 23CIV06120

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Cara Patricia Vitnes filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows:

CARA PATRICIA VITNES to CARA PATRICIA DOE

The COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING 03/04/2024; 9:00 a.m., MC of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

ALMANAC

Date: 01/09/2024

Case No.: 23CIV06120

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Cara Patricia Vitnes filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows:

CARA PATRICIA VITNES to CARA PATRICIA DOE

The COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING 03/04/2024; 9:00 a.m., MC of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

ALMANAC

Date: 01/09/2024

Case No.: 23CIV06120

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Cara Patricia Vitnes filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows:

CARA PATRICIA VITNES to CARA PATRICIA DOE

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NOTICE OF HEARING 03/04/2024; 9:00 a.m., MC of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
then we can actually protect those very communities that are precisely affected by the harms of climate change."

Ohtaki also saw climate change as a high-priority issue. "I believe climate change is real. It’s an existential threat," Ohtaki said. "But I also believe that climate change incentives are far more powerful than climate change mandates. ... I believe as a congressman we have to do federal incentives to get renewable energy in our grid."

Bernstein, meanwhile, called for a nuanced approach in contendng with climate change. "The problem is that people who are still on gas pipelines, they will see their gas prices skyrocket," Bernstein said. "So we have a grid that’s reliable."

Due to my diligent approach and outreach and community engagement, I can happily say that every decision I made I’ve got no regrets," he said. "... In public service, it’s vital to avoid hasty decisions. "My commitment to supporting federal incentives and considering diverse opinions is critical."

The candidates got through most of the prepared questions posed by forum moderators before protesters in the packed audience erupted in shouting. The clamor in the City Council chambers went on for minutes before the forum was able to resume.

However, jeers and cheers from protesters and other audience members continued depending on how the candidates addressed the question of whether they support a congressional call for a ceasefire, for which negotiations seem to be advancing overseas.

"Regardless of which side you’re on, I stand all here as Americans are coming from a place of wanting to make sure that civilian lives are not lost in the battlefield," Dixon said. "I think all of us as Americans and praying that these negotiations go well that the Israeli and American hostages can come home."

Liccardo expressed similar sentiments. "One thing I’m confident everyone in this room should agree on is that we want to end the fighting for the sake of 2 million Palestinians who’ve been rendered homeless — 600,000 of whom are on the brink of starvation — and 9 million Israelis, who fear for their lives," Liccardo said. "I support the continued negotiation and hope and pray that there will be an immediate cease to all hostilities."

Lythcott-Haims denounced the Hamas attack on Israel but also criticized Israel’s response in Gaza. "(Hamas) butchered people, murdered people, raped people," Lythcott-Haims said. "I am also grieved by what the Netanyahu government has chosen to do in response to innocent Palestinian civilians, raining devastation down upon innocents, who now face starvation, disease and surgery without anesthesia, and bombing people in their homes does not set Israel on a long-term path of peace."

While removing the protesters seems like it would have been a logical natural consequence for their behavior, no laws were being broken. Our staff was told not to touch any protester or attempt to escort them out by force. So that left our available options as persuasion and stopping the debate.

It is obviously disappointing that the candidates did not have the opportunity to make their closing statements. But I hope the 15 minutes of discussion that took place before the protest provided useful insights into the candidates and their views.

As an organization, we are committed to the idea of live, in-person political debates. Zoom can only go so far in connecting voters with candidates. Events such as the Zoom last night are an important democratic and community-building purpose. We believe these town-hall style debates can and must continue peacefully — to be part of the fabric of our community going forward."

The Almanac offers employment advertising. If you wish to learn more about the employment advertising options, please visit AlmanacNews.com/employment_ads.
What’s at the root of local antisemitism?

By Claude Ezran

On Jan. 11, I attended a meeting of the Palo Alto Human Relations Commission. The main agenda item was “Voices of Our Community: Local Jewish Experiences in the Face of Rising Anti-Semitism.” About 45 people spoke, a record for an HRC meeting.

I was stunned.

I never expected to hear what I heard, not in Palo Alto! Speaker after speaker testified about their newfound fear of being a Jew in Palo Alto or at Stanford. Many described how, after the events of Oct. 7, they had been verbally assaulted with antisemitic slurs, harassed on social media and ostracized by some of their friends.

These attacks were not even triggered by disagreements about the origins of the conflict; they were caused by one thing only, the fact that the aggressors knew they were encountering Jewish people. Other participants talked about their profound distress in discovering local antisemitic acts in Palo Alto such as swastikas displayed in public places or bomb threats targeting local synagogues.

The numerous testimonies concerning the antisemitism experienced by Jewish students from Palo Alto schools and Stanford University were particularly disturbing. Palo Alto and Stanford are supposed to be beacons of enlightenment, places where people are highly educated and therefore, so I thought, much less likely to descend into the abyss of antisemitism.

Therefore, one critical question begs a response: What caused some seemingly smart, nice and socially conscious young people that may have never engaged in antisemitism before Oct. 7 to suddenly behave in such aberrant ways towards their Jewish classmates? To be clear, it is not known how many students were involved in these acts and whether it is a vocal minority or the problem is more pervasive.

So what might have caused this unexpected turn of events? I believe that three distinct root causes combined to prompt it: extreme wokeness, ignorance and latent antisemitism in society.

Extreme wokeness

I believe that much of this new phenomenon is due to wokeness having progressively gone out of control, especially among a few young people. These people are probably, for the most part, well-intentioned and might have accomplished many positive things in their lives, but some aspects of their personality are causing their new antisemitism.

Some of the young people on the radical left are obsessed with the concepts of identity and victimhood. They want to combat racism against African Americans, fight for LGBTQ+ causes, defend Native Americans’ rights, improve the fate of immigrants — all worthwhile causes, of course. But sometimes good intentions can be pushed so far out that they progressively cross into a domain paved with a lack of judgment and a form of extremism.

I have then heard idiotic proclamations such as “Defund the police” and “Abolish borders.” The oppressive language policing also kicks in: Do not say “homeless” anymore, say “unhoused”; do not say “pregnant women,” say “pregnant people,” and please note that nobody is “illegal.”

In the 21st century, there are not that many idealistic causes left standing that are worth fighting for when you are young and want to put your energy to good use. Socialism, communism — all of the “isms” are pretty much dead in the Western world. The only important idealistic causes left are identity/victimhood and climate change, causes which happen to go very well together since poor people are often the first victims of climate change.

California

California is one of the 10 sunniest states in the country and we’re fortunate to be part of the western electrical grid that includes many other sunny states. This gives California an unparalleled opportunity to generate far lower cost power than any other means from solar farms located within the western grid on inexpensive non-agricultural land. It would produce a vast amount of cheap power to lower everyone’s power bills, and not just those who can afford rooftop solar.

For when the sun doesn’t shine, we can use excess solar power on sunny days to make and store hydrogen for later use in existing power plants to generate power until battery prices become affordable. California’s new “gold rush” could be for inexpensive solar power.

Ed Kahl
Whiskey Hill Road, Woodside

ignorance

Students who commit antisemitic acts may in fact be ignorant of the extreme complexity of Middle Eastern history and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They may not understand the very long and convoluted chain of events that led to the present situation. If their knowledge of other important world events from the past is limited, it would be no surprise that their critical thinking skills when applied to Middle East matters are mediocre.

For them, things may seem easy to understand; they could view the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Manichean terms: good guys vs. bad guys. They may even assume Israelis and therefore all Jews (ignoring that important distinction between the two) are the oppressors. They may see Jews as members of the dominant and oppressive white race; assuming they are affluent, capitalists, colonizers, etc., and the darker-skinned and poor Palestinians the obviou victims. I doubt that these students even know that many Jews around the world, as well as many Israelis, are appalled by the extreme policies of Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government.

Latent antisemitism in society

Therefore, the mission for these students may now seem obvious: Condemn, vilify and attack the despicable oppressors and defend the oppressed. The latent antisemitism that has always existed in our society, sometimes half-asleep, is thus re-awakened and provides all the ammunition that they may feel they need.

Stunningly, these genuine antisemites are now turning into anti-Semites. Moreover, these people are also confusing belonging with identity, which leads to racism. People belonging to the Jewish faith are being reduced to that one and only fact of their identity. They are just Jews and nothing else, and in these antisemites’ hideous logic, all Jews are perpetrators who need to be dealt with.

The task now at hand is complex and time-consuming. It involves responding to the root causes of this deplorable situation by pushing back against extreme wokeness, improving the teaching of world history as well as of critical thinking skills in schools and fighting antisemitism wherever it raises its ugly head.

Claude Ezran is a resident of Palo Alto, the founder of Palo Alto World Music Day, and a former chair of the Palo Alto Human Relations Commission. He can be reached at cezran@gmail.com.

LETTERS
Our readers write

California’s coming ‘gold rush’ of inexpensive solar power

Solar prices decreased 170% in the last 20 years and will decrease far more in the future if we take the right steps to expand solar.

If I asked you to go to the store and pick up a bag of lentils, would you disappear into South America and assume a new identity, or would you just bring me lentils?

What’s on your mind?

From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the Almanac aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you.

Tell us what’s on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

Questions? Email editor@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6537.
The Pear Theatre tackles existential questions in ‘For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday’

By Karla Kane

To die,” according to J.M. Barrie’s “Peter Pan,” “will be an awfully big adventure.”

Death — that ultimate, unknowable and indeed “awfully big” endeavor — along with the complicated business of growing up and growing old — is a major theme of playwright Sarah Ruhl’s “For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday,” which the Pear Theatre will present with a six-person cast Feb. 9 through March 3.

“The play is about facing death, finding joy in life and what happens when we die,” director Austin Edgington said. The plot follows Ann (Monica Cappuccini) and her fellow adult siblings as they grapple with the dying of their father, amidst their sometimes conflicting religious philosophies and political views. Ann’s memory of playing Peter Pan — the boy who refuses to grow up — on stage long ago links Barrie’s tale to her own childhood past, as well as to her and her siblings’ emerging feelings and thoughts on some pretty big existential questions.

Ruhl. Edgington said, wrote the play as a gift for and tribute to her own mother, who played the role of Peter Pan in a local community theater production.

“It’s a really interesting show to work on because it blends different styles and different philosophies,” he said. Ruhl’s show draws on Eastern and Western theater styles, as well as Eastern and Western religious elements, he explained. In particular, it takes influence from Japanese Noh drama, with its tradition of a ghost character that engages with the protagonist, as well as the Western idea of a guardian angel helping to shepherd one through life and death.

“It’s a very complex play,” Cappuccini said. “Very tender, very emotional ... I think people are going to be very, very moved by this play.”

The character of Ann at the play’s start, according to Cappuccini, is a proud intellectual and an agnostic who, unlike her siblings, lacks faith in an afterlife.

“She doesn’t want to die; she can’t wrap her mind around it,” she said. “She misses her father tremendously and she wants to believe that he still exists in some way, shape or form.” And while the siblings butt heads and disagree philosophically and politically, ultimately, family love shines through.

“They all come together to support their dying father and each other, and then they become characters in ‘Peter Pan’ and they support each other there too,” she said. “They fly together, they fight together, they laugh together; it’s wonderful.”

“Peter Pan” is a rip-roaring adventure for kids, of course, but for grown-ups, with its idea of a land outside the normal bounds of life and time, it can bring up questions of innocence and maturity, the inevitability of aging, and the shadow of death.

“I think you get more out of ‘Peter Pan’ as you get older, the underlying themes of it,” Cappuccini said. “You don’t think about these things when you’re small; you take it on a literal level.”

She hadn’t been particularly attached to the story as a child, but “after I found I had been cast in this show, everything I came across was Peter Pan,” she said, from the pantomime production running in London during a visit to her family to the Peter Pan BMW dealership on the side of the freeway in Burlingame. Now, she’s watched every adaptation she could find, plus, “I love the green tights,” she said.

“It’s a lot of joy to work with these actors,” said Edgington of his “dynaomite” cast (joining Cappuccini are Bill Davidovich, Ronald Feichtmeir, Tannis Hanson, John Mannion and Ray Renati). “For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday” is a challenging show in some ways, he said, because of its near “non-stop dialogue,” but that makes it “truly an actor’s dream. Everyone’s on stage pretty much all the time and there’s always a conversation that everyone’s in and out of.”

“At this stage of my life I love to be in an ensemble play, where everybody’s there having your back all the time,” Cappuccini added.

This is Edgington’s first production with the Pear, whereas Cappuccini has history with the Mountain View theater company, which she credits with helping her get back into the game after taking a two-decade break from acting. Years ago, Pear founder Diane Tasca “cast me as a dominatrix outside a virtual sex store,” she recalled. “My career took off after that; what can I say?” she joked. Recently, she wrapped up a stint on the Pear’s board of directors. “I love that little theater,” she said.

Email Assistant Lifestyle Editor Karla Kane at kkane@almanacnews.com.
Peninsula cities, libraries and community groups are celebrating the arrival of Lunar New Year. From music and dance performances and martial arts demonstrations to special meals and hands-on crafts, here’s a variety of ways to celebrate the Year of the Dragon.

San Mateo County Libraries, ongoing

The San Mateo County Library hosts events at various branches, including presentations on Lunar New Year customs, Urisawe performing traditional Korean dances (Feb. 11 in Foster City), calligraphy classes (Feb. 15 in Atherton and Feb. 27 in Brisbane), storytimes, puppet shows and crafts. Plus, an online art talk (Feb. 12) with an Asian Art Museum docent about the meaning of Lunar New Year symbols and traditions. Throughout February at various county library locations. smcl.bibliocommons.com.

South San Francisco Library, Feb. 9-10

The Cultural Arts Commission hosts its first art gallery event of the new year with artworks reflecting themes related to the moon, Lunar New Year and the Year of the Dragon. A two-week extended exhibit will follow the show. Feb. 9, 6-8 p.m. and Feb. 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the South San Francisco Library, 901 Civic Campus Way, South San Francisco. Exhibit schedule to be announced. Free. tinyurl.com/ssflibraryexhibit.

Sunnyvale Library, Feb. 9

Elementary schoolers can celebrate Lunar New Year by making dragon puppets. Feb. 9, 4-5 p.m. at the Sunnyvale Library, 665 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale. Free. No registration required but space is limited. tinyurl.com/sunnyvalepuppets.

Linden Tree, Feb. 9

The bookstore hosts a party with authors Gene Luen Yang and LeUyen Pham, celebrating the launch of their new graphic novel, “Lunar New Year Love Story.” They’re featured in
conversation with bestselling author Abigail Hing Wen. The event also includes a signing, Q&A and appetizers from Palo Alto’s Tai Pan.

Feb. 9, 6 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley, Palo Alto. $25 admission includes copy of book. bit.ly/3HRQ2jn.

Redwood Shores Branch Library, Feb. 10


Palo Alto Library celebration, Feb. 10

Chinese opera singer Cathy Pan performs, local martial arts studio Taekwon Tigers present a special demonstration and Joyous Spring Lion Dance Troupe performs a two lion dance. Plus crafts and light refreshments. Suited for families with children ages 3-11, but all ages welcome. Feb. 10, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Palo Alto Art Center auditorium, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Free. Advance registration is required at gamblenear.org.

Mountain View, Feb. 10

The city of Mountain View’s Lunar New Year celebration includes live performances, games, crafts and food trucks. Feb. 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Mountain View Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. Free. tinyurl.com/LunarNewYearMV.

Hillsdale Shopping Center, Feb. 10

Head to San Mateo for an afternoon of lion dance and acrobatic performances, fortune-telling readings, calligraphers, red envelope giveaways and more. Feb. 10, noon-3 p.m. at Hillsdale Shopping Center, 60 31st Ave., San Mateo. Free. tinyurl.com/hillsdale-ly.

Belle Haven Library, Feb. 11

Wayne Huey of Red Panda Acrobat performs feats of acrobatics, balancing and contortion. Feb. 11, 11-11:45 a.m. at Belle Haven Library, 413 Ivy Drive, Menlo Park. Free. menlopark.gov.

Stanford Shopping Center, Feb. 17

The center hosts performances by local community groups, including Viet Steps, Stanford Taiko and Lion Dance Me! Feb. 17, 2-4 p.m. at the center pavilion, Stanford Shopping Center, El Camino Real and Sand Hill Road, Palo Alto. Free. simon.com/mall/stanford-shopping-center.

Millbrae Lunar New Year Festival, Feb. 17

Millbrae Cultural Committee hosts an all-day celebration that brings together arts and crafts and food vendors, dragon and lion dancers, Chinese martial arts and traditional dance performances. Feb. 17, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at 300 Broadway, Millbrae. Free. bit.ly/48ERNA4.

Palo Alto Children’s Library, Feb. 20

Kids 5-11 can participate in a step-by-step craft workshop making a puppet to celebrate the Year of the Dragon. Feb. 20, 3-4 p.m. at the Palo Alto Children’s Library, 1276 Harriet St., Palo Alto. Free. Registration is required. tinyurl.com/tinyurl/paloaltolibrarycrafts.

Downtown Redwood City, Feb. 24

Redwood City’s 13th annual celebration includes performances by lion dancers, martial artists and taiko drummers. The event also includes free admission to the San Mateo County History Museum, which is hosting children’s activities. Feb. 24, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City. Free. redwoodcity.org.

Rotary Club of Millbrae banquet, Feb. 29

Enjoy a 10-course Chinese banquet from Yan Peninsula Restaurant and watch the colorful Gee Yung Lions dance. Enter a raffle for a chance to win prizes. Proceeds benefit the Rotary Club of Millbrae’s programs for youth. Feb. 29, 6-9:30 p.m. at Yan Peninsula Restaurant, 11900 El Camino Real, Millbrae. An individual ticket is $88 per person or $850 for a table of 10. tinyurl.com/millbraebanquet.

Music@Menlo Launch

Summer seems months away right now, but Music@Menlo is looking ahead to that sunniest time of year. The group holds a concert Feb. 10 unveiling what’s ahead for its monthlong chamber music festival held each summer. Festival founders and artistic directors Wu Han and David Finckel will announce the festival’s theme and lineup. Audiences will also get to hear Music@Menlo International Program alumni perform works by Edward Grieg and César Franck and enjoy a reception with refreshments afterward.

Nefesh Mountain

Singer Doni Zasloff and multinstrumentalist Eric Lindberg, the married couple and driving forces behind the band Nefesh Mountain, write and perform songs that incorporate Americans, folk, blues, bluegrass and jazz influences, along with infusing “Jewish tradition and soul into the beautifully diverse tapestry of American roots music,” according to their website. Touring year-round with their collective of instrumentalists, they’ve performed at the Grand Ole Opry and at many other venues and festivals across the country. On Feb. 9 they’ll roll into town to perform at an Earthwise Productions event at the Palo Alto Art Center, part of a series of four California shows. Their most recent release is this month’s EP “The Cabin Sessions,” a collection of covers and re-recorded originals. Feb. 9, 8 p.m., Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. $4.25-$18, eventbrite.com.

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Nefesh Mountain plays Feb. 9 at Earthwise Productions.

Nefesh Mountain

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Jazz Mafia

Valentine’s Day gets most of the love this time of year, but there’s another holiday that falls right before Feb. 14 on the 2024 calendar: Mardi Gras. To mark that famously over-the-top celebration, The Guild hosts Jazz Mafia’s Annual Fat Tuesday Git Down on Fat Tuesday itself. And what could be better for Mardi Gras than a New Orleans staple, the brass band? San Francisco-based musical collective Jazz Mafia brings its 10-piece brass band to the Peninsula, with guest artist Nicki Bluhm and featured vocalists Yvette Pylant, Erin Honeywell and Sólás B. Lalgee. It’s a fusion of Bay Area and Crescent City traditions, beads and king cake optional. Honeymoon Knuckles opens.

Feb. 13, 7 p.m., Books Inc. Palo Alto, 855 El Camino Real #74, Palo Alto. booksinc.net.

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Feb. 13, 7 p.m., Books Inc. Palo Alto, 855 El Camino Real #74, Palo Alto. booksinc.net.
Hurrica Restaurant & Bar features waterfront dining, a floor-to-ceiling jellyfish aquarium and a menu featuring seasonal modern American cuisine. From left to right: The current menu includes yuzu kosho cured king salmon, broiled live sea scallop, big eye tuna sashimi and kombu-wrapped 1.5-pound lobster.

By Adrienne Mitchell
Photos by Magali Gauthier

A waterfront restaurant with a floor-to-ceiling jellyfish aquarium, custom 6-foot hearth, glass kitchen and second-floor clubhouse is now open at Westpoint Harbor in Redwood City.

For a restaurant boasting all the bells and whistles, Hurrica Restaurant & Bar is not trying to be an exclusive dining experience — it aims to build community and give back to local organizations while keeping prices more affordable.

“We want everyone to be able to come, whether you own a boat or you’re a member of a yacht club or not, but be on the water and have fun and have a great destination for your family and your friends,” said co-founding partner MeeSun Boice.

Departing from traditional yacht club culture, Hurrica is not owned by The Club at Westpoint, a nonprofit club for boaters and water sports fans operating out of Westpoint Harbor. Instead, Hurrica is open to the public and run by the same team behind San Francisco restaurateurs Waterbar, EPIC Steak and Mersea Restaurant and Bar. The classic Hurrica V sailing yacht, which was featured in the movie “The Great Gatsby” and is the namesake of the restaurant, was docked in front of the restaurant for the opening Jan. 26.

Hurrica serves seasonally evolving modern American fare, with many dishes cooked over live fire. While you won’t find the menu on Hurrica’s website due to frequent changes, entrees on the current dinner menu go for $38-$55. It’s not a seafood restaurant; it’s a restaurant for water lovers.

“I love just doing anything on the water, but I’ll probably never be able to afford a boat,” Boice said. “How cool is it that if you want to go kayaking, come on out and go kayaking and then have a beer at Hurrica?”

Boice, co-founding partner Parke Ulrich and executive chef and partner Justin Baade all share a love of water sports, a connection that led them to the opportunity to open Hurrica. Ulrich and Boice met Mark Sanders, who built the Redwood City marina, through the West Point Regatta, an annual yacht-racing event in the San Francisco Bay. Sanders wanted to have a yacht club and a restaurant on his marina, but he didn’t want the restaurant exclusive to the club.

“The culture of the yacht club is they don’t even want to be called a yacht club,” Boice said. “They call themselves The Club at Westpoint because they didn’t want to have that sense of exclusion where, ‘You don’t have a boat, you can’t be part of our club.’

Boice, who focuses on sales and marketing, designed Hurrica and also co-founded Mersea with Ulrich. While Ulrich is the executive chef of EPIC Steak, Waterbar and Mersea, he is not taking on the role at Hurrica, leaving that to Baade.

For executive chef Baade, who has been cooking in San Francisco for the last 20 years, coming to Redwood City is an exciting opportunity to partner with farms in Santa Cruz, Salinas and Half Moon Bay.

“I just went and toured a ranch in (San Gregorio), Pomponio Ranch, that does a super regenerative agriculture model for beef and pork,” Baade said. “I’m new to this area, so I’m looking for those partnerships, but that’s the exciting part of it for me.”

He defines modern American cuisine as local ingredients cooked with techniques used throughout the world. Hurrica’s signature dishes include kombu-wrapped 1.5-pound lobster ($110), seared yellowtail jack ($39) and pan-roasted black cod ($42). Small plates include warm milk bread ($8), Mendocino uni ($10) and shellfish chowder ($16).

“There’s this misconception about fine dining and elevated cuisine that it needs to be stuffy and formal in order to be good,” Baade said. “And my approach to it is very simple: Find the best ingredients and cook them simply, but with intention and technique…we want our food to be approachable, but have the level of quality and ingredients and technique that you would find in much higher-end and fancier places.”

A custom-made 6-foot hearth stands behind a glass wall separating the kitchen from diners. Many of the dishes on the menu feature components cooked on the hearth, ranging from beets to dry-aged tomahawk steaks.

“That hearth was custom designed to Justin’s exact specifications,” Boice said. “So Justin can’t leave or he’ll have to take the hearth with him because that’s his hearth right there.”

And speaking of customization, Hurrica is happy to accommodate all types of diets and create made-to-order dishes.

“We will accommodate anybody,” Baade said. “Servers will be trained to engage with the guests and say, ‘What do you like? Are you looking for something richer and satisfying?’ And we will pull from different aspects of the menu to create whatever we need to create for somebody…That’s part of the fun of cooking.”

The main dining room overlooks the marina through large patio doors, and diners can also watch chefs behind the glass kitchen. The dining tables are custom-made from redwood as a nod to Redwood City. The jellyfish aquarium separates the main dining room from the bar and currently has 100 baby jellyfish. Another 100 will be added to the tank, and the jellyfish will grow in size over time. A secondary dining room and patio seating are also available.

Just outside of the restaurant, construction is underway for a harborfront pool for The Club at Westpoint. The second floor clubhouse, also exclusive to yacht club members, has its own bar, floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the marina and ample skylights. The clubhouse is opening soon, awaiting final elevator checks.

Private dining and events will be available to book starting Feb. 15. Built in a corner of Hurrica is a to-go cafe, cleverly named the H2Go Cafe, which is expected to open in mid-February. The reasoning behind this cafe is threefold, said Boice: to serve those who live on their boats in the marina, people who dock at the marina as a destination and don’t have a car and the large youth community that uses the marina, like the Peninsula Youth Sailing Foundation and the LEMO Foundation.

Hurrica plans to partner with investor the LEMO Foundation, a nonprofit that provides resources to student athletes, to run food education programs.

Giving back to the community isn’t new for Ulrich and Boice. Waterbar has raised over $132,000 for the Marine Mammal Center since 2009, EPIC Steak continues to host its annual fundraiser for Guide Dogs for the Blind, and Mersea Restaurant and Bar partnered with One Treasure Island to provide meals to struggling residents during the pandemic.

“When you’re in the restaurant and you’re about feeding, you’re not just feeding the stomach, you’re feeding the soul and the spirit,” Boice said. “Being an orphan, if it were not for the kindness of strangers, I wouldn’t even be in America building this crazy restaurant.”

Whether you arrive by land or sea, love fish or hate it, have a boat or don’t, Boice welcomes everyone to come by.

“We really want people to know that Redwood City is not Deadwood City,” Boice said. “We wanted to create a place that everyone feels included and to give back. And that’s what we hope to build in the heart of Redwood City.”

Email Food Editor Adrienne Mitchell at amitchel@almanacnews.com.

Hurrica Restaurant & Bar
150 Northpoint Court, Redwood City
650-499-4858, Instagram: @hurricarestaurant, Open Wednesday through Sunday from 5-9 p.m. Lunch service starting soon.
How to spend SF Beer Week in Silicon Valley

Special events are taking place across the Bay Area Feb. 9-18. Here’s what’s in store for the Peninsula.

By Zack Fernandes

S an Francisco Beer Week is back with a bang. The celebrations, which run from Feb. 9-18, will see tap takeovers, special releases and more taking place all across the Bay Area.

After a prolonged pandemic-induced hiatus, SF Beer Week’s massive kickoff gala returns to San Francisco this year, taking place on Friday, Feb. 9, at Pier 35 from 6-10 p.m. Tickets to the gala start at $85 and get you access to beers from over 100 craft breweries. A VIP ticket is available for $140, which includes commemorative Beer Week merchandise and a dedicated check-in line for entrance, while a top-tier $275 ticket guarantees early access to the festival at 4 p.m., plus entrance to the Astro Lounge, featuring limited-edition beers and wine.

Throughout the week, bars and restaurants in the 650 are host- ing a wide range of events that demand space on your calendar, from a pet adoption drive to a bread-baking class and beer-themed trivia. Here’s our roundup of all of the Beer Week events on the Peninsula.

Cheers!

**Alpha Acid Brewing Company, Belmont**

Alpha Acid is kicking off SF Beer Week on Saturday, Feb. 10, with the release of Barrel Constrictor, a heapy imperial stout. In past years, the brewery is offering a bevy of limited-edition beers and wine.

**Gourmet Haus Staudt, San Mateo**

On Valentine’s Day, Alpha Acid is offering a palate-cleansing break from beer with a selzer and cider celebration. The brewery will release four different hard ciders, along with a raw loaf they can finish baking at home. Tickets are available on Eventbrite for $50 and include access to 4-ounce tastes of any beer, plus a 16 ounce commemorative pint glass and non-drinkers get access to the event for $20, which includes an unlimited supply of Devil’s Canyon’s housemade root beer. If you’re hungry, there will be a selection of food trucks in the outdoor beer garden.

**Devil’s Canyon Brewing Company, San Carlos**

This year will mark the 10th annual West Coast Craft Can Celebration at Devil’s Canyon Brewing Company Feb. 10. As the name suggests, the event will feature cans from over 30 craft breweries pouring more than 75 different beers.

Tickets are available on Eventbrite for $50 and include access to 4-ounce tastes of any beer, plus a 16 ounce commemorative pint glass and non-drinkers get access to the event for $20, which includes an unlimited supply of Devil’s Canyon’s housemade root beer. If you’re hungry, there will be a selection of food trucks in the outdoor beer garden.

**The Almanac**, 3736 Florence St., Redwood City, 650-365-2337, Instagram: @freewheelbrew

F reewheel Brewing Company is releasing Doom Bloom, a triple IPA made with prickly pear cactus, on Feb. 10. The limited-release beer will be available on draft and in cans to go.

On Feb. 14, Barebottle is celebrating Valentine’s Day with Swee the Night, an event featuring a Saison with blood orange — as well as a selection of food trucks in the outdoor beer garden.

Devil’s Canyon will be donating proceeds from the event to the Code 30 Foundation, a nonprofit benefitting the families of San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office officers who are injured or have died.

On Feb. 16, Devil’s Canyon is hosting Grainsavers, a pop-up beer-making class, which teaches you how to bake loaves with spent grain, a byproduct of the beer-making process that usually goes to waste.

During the class, students will learn how to prepare a rosemary and sea salt, dark chocolate and cherry or Italian tomato and herb loaf and will leave the class with a loaf they can finish baking at home. Tickets are available on Grainsavers’ website for $50 and also include a recipe and instruction guide, as well as some extra grain to bake more bread at home.

Devil’s Canyon Brewing Company, 935 Washington St., San Carlos, 650-592-2739, Instagram: @devilscanyon.

**Gourmet Haus Staudt, Redwood City**

Gourmet Haus Staudt has lined up a dizzying list of events throughout Beer Week, celebrating both domestic and international breweries.

On Feb. 9, Gourmet Haus Staudt will feature beers from over 30 craft breweries, including East Bay breweries Cellarmaker Brewing Company, Ghost Town Brewing, Original Pattern Brewing Company, and Shred Beer Company, which will be pouring beers from their respective breweries.

On Feb. 11, it’s time for Gourmet Haus Staudt’s Lambic Extravaganza. The event will feature lambic-style beer from a number of other breweries.

On Feb. 13, Gourmet Haus Staudt will be hosting its annual tap takeover including new and vintage releases of their beers.

**Barebottle Brewing Company, Menlo Park**

Barebottle Brewing Company is releasing Doom Bloom, a triple IPA made with prickly pear cactus, on Feb. 10. The limited-release beer will be available on draft and in cans to go.

On Feb. 14, Barebottle is celebrating Valentine’s Day with Sweetheart Night, an event featuring a Saison with blood orange — as well as a selection of food trucks in the outdoor beer garden.

**Gourmet Haus Staudt**, 2615 San Carlos Ave., San Carlos, 650-365-9676, Instagram: @gourmethausstaudt.

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The Almanac is ranked #3 small team in the Bay Area and #18 in the nation in RealTrends report of the Top Residential Real Estate Professionals. (June 2023)

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**Approx. 0.98 acre level lot**

**Approx. 1 acre level lot**

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