

The Almanac

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

FEBRUARY 16, 2024 | VOL. 59 NO. 23



WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM

Celebrating the past, present and future of Black Americans

By Almanac staff

Community members gathered at the Belle Haven Library in Menlo Park on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 10, to pay respect to local heroes of the neighborhood and nearby communities and hear inspiring words of strength, triumph and resilience as part of the Black Liberation Month Celebration.

Event speakers included Betty White, who is 90 years old and has lived in the same neighborhood in Menlo Park for 65 years.

Poet Jamey L. Williams II performed at the celebration.

There was also poster art, created by K-12 students who live or attend school in Menlo Park, on display at the event, part of the Black History Month Youth Poster Exhibition.

The exhibition theme is “Black Culture in the Arts,” inspired by African, Caribbean and Black American lived experiences. The artwork will be displayed at the Menlo Park Library from Feb. 13-29.

You can also view images of the poster gallery on the city website at menlopark.gov. ■



Amaya Edwards

Atherton officer involved in the arrest of M-A student also named in lawsuit over ‘unreasonable seizure’ and use of ‘excessive force’

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

One of the officers implicated in last year’s viral arrest of a Menlo-Atherton High School student, which led to a federal lawsuit last month, was involved in a 2022 lawsuit against the Atherton

Police Department for “unreasonable seizure and use of excessive force,” records show. The department settled with the plaintiff on the case in 2023 for \$45,000.

Jason David Burkleo filed a lawsuit on Oct. 2, 2022, against three police officers, including

Officer Joshua Gatto, one of the Atherton police officers involved in the M-A lawsuit, for mistakenly identifying his vehicle plates for those of a stolen car, leading officers to wrongfully seize Burkleo, according to court documents.

At about 5:30 a.m. on April

16, 2021, an automatic license plate reader (ALPR) had misread Burkleo’s obscured plates and matched them to the ones of a reported stolen vehicle. The dirt on Burkleo’s plates caused the ALPR to read the “H’s” of the license plate as “M’s.” Atherton police followed the vehicle for

several minutes but failed to visually verify what the ALPR had falsely captured, according to the suit.

Atherton, like neighboring towns, installed license plate readers in recent years to deter

See **LAWSUIT**, page 16

INSIDE

CAMP CONNECTION

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**272 Yale Road
Menlo Park**
3 beds, 3 baths | \$3,895,000



**335 Fletcher Drive
Atherton**
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The **Almanac**

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Courtesy Cindie White

Picnic tables at Jelich Ranch in Portola Valley display the farm's apple juice and fruit.

'It was a nod to history:' Cindie White on restoring Portola Valley's Jelich Ranch

By Ashwini Gangal

When Phil and Cindie White, owners of Jelich Ranch, were honored by the Portola Valley Town Council recently for their restoration of the property, it was quite the moment for them.

"I literally burst into tears," said Cindie, who grew up in Portola Valley. "I'd put my

heart and soul into it for 24 years and to know that somebody else saw that, was deeply touching."

When the Whites purchased the 14-acre property in 2000, they became owners of more than just a ranch that affords a stunning backyard view of the Santa Cruz Mountains; they inherited its Croatian ancestry, transgenerational memories and the responsibility to

uphold the legacy of the very land that the Jelich family first started farming in the 1890s.

The restoration process was about "wanting to making a nod to history and the Jelich family," a sentiment they came into only after they bought it. It was a second home for the then Atherton-based family.

"We didn't buy it to restore

See **JELICH RANCH**, page 10

High school student athletes take the next step to collegiate sports on national signing day

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On Feb. 7, National Letter of Intent Signing Day, 13 senior athletes at Menlo-Atherton High School and 10 students at Woodside High School signed to their prospective colleges during an event on campus. This year's colleges include: Georgetown University, Amherst College, University of California at Santa Barbara and University of Virginia.

Parents, friends and classmates attended the signing event to support these students who have committed to NCAA Division 1 through 3 collegiate sports programs in a variety of sports: lacrosse, track and field, baseball and swimming. While sporting their college gear, students took a monumental step in officially signing their national letter of intent (NLI).

"In our league, we have one of the premier athletic programs,"

said Steven Kryger, M-A athletics director, lacrosse coach and math teacher.

Every year, M-A represents 12-20 students a year signing to collegiate sports. There are 10-15 more students are expected to sign in the spring as well, according to Kryger.

These students are known for maintaining high academic scores while also dedicating

See **SIGNING** page 14



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Students at Belle Haven Elementary School write messages and draw on the cafeteria's wall on Feb. 9.

Belle Haven Elementary School celebrates groundbreaking of new campus

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Belle Haven Elementary School celebrated with students, staff and parents in the joyful send off of their school's cafeteria during a groundbreaking ceremony for construction of the Menlo Park school's new campus on Feb. 9.

As a goodbye to the cafeteria, guests were invited to draw and write on the wall under a construction-themed balloon arch — a special surprise for students who usually are told not to draw on school property.

To celebrate the cafeteria's long lasting life, everyone sported colorful hardhats while playing games, eating popcorn and pizza and spending time with their friends and family.

"I'm a little nervous but it's exciting to see what the future comes up with," said Principal Michelle Masuda.

With most of the school's original classrooms closed off for demolition, Belle Haven has turned into what Masuda calls, "the portable city." Classrooms have been relocated into smaller portable classroom buildings as construction has begun on the school.

In a speech, Ravenswood School District's superintendent, Gina Sudaria expressed excitement for the school's construction gratitude toward all the teachers and Will Eger, the district's chief business officer.

"This is all possible from

the community's support," said Sudaria to The Almanac, referring to the passing of the \$110 million Measure I bond in 2022.

Construction to rebuild the school began in late January and is expected to be completed in phases over the course of three years.

As the oldest school in the eastern part of Menlo Park, they are expecting to have new buildings open for students during the 2025-26 school year. With the full modernization of the school, they will have an HVAC system, full size gym with bleachers, a new field, a makerspace and a family health center.

During the signing on the wall, second-grader Kayden, drew a smiley face.

"I'm excited for a brand new school," said Kayden. Kayla Livingston, Kayden's mother, said she was excited for the health center and makerspace.

After Belle Haven finishes its renovations, Masuda said she expects enrollment rates to increase. Sudaria added that with the a new modernized school, she wants Belle Haven's exemplary staff to be reflected in the school's outward appearance.

After a round of a game they called, "pass the toolbox," Belle Haven officials closed off the event with their regularly scheduled family board game night — leaving an echo of laughter and joy in the last event to be held in the cafeteria. ■

San Mateo County District 4 Board Supervisor: Here are your candidates

By **Nicholas Mazzoni**
and **Michelle Iracheta**

With the primary election just around the corner, political candidates are ramping up their campaigns and doing final neighborhood canvassing, ensuring no stone is left unturned.

Five candidates are running for San Mateo County District 4 Board Supervisor, hoping to replace outgoing supervisor and board president Warren Slocum, who has reached the end of his term limit.

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.

Candidates

Maggie Cornejo, Director of Government and Community Relations at Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula

Paul Bocanegra, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commissioner and Legislative Coordinator for San Mateo County

Celeste Brevard, Project Manager at Stanford University

Lisa Gauthier, Councilmember of East Palo Alto

Antonio López, Mayor of East Palo Alto

For more information on county elections, visit the San Mateo County Chief Elections Officer website. ■

Maggie Cornejo

Hailing from North Fair Oaks, Maggie Cornejo is vying for a seat on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors District 4, with a campaign that prioritizes the housing crisis and public safety as her key areas of focus to address what she said are the community's most urgent needs.

With a solid decade of working behind the scenes in county government, Cornejo is setting her sights on making huge improvements in San Mateo County.



Her campaign is all about tackling big issues head-on: making housing more affordable, protecting renters, opening doors to homeownership, and beefing up public safety. Cornejo said her deep ties to the community and her extensive professional experience are fueling her push for a San Mateo County that's fairer and safer for everyone.

Cornejo's campaign for the board supervisor is rooted in her life experiences, from her

See **CANDIDATES**, page 7

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Menlo-Atherton celebrates completion of ethnic studies mural

On Feb. 6, Menlo-Atherton High School held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their new mural commemorating the school's new ethnic studies class.

The mural was designed by junior Celine Chien who won the competition to design the mural in 2021. Chien took part in bringing the mural to life alongside M-A alumni Jose Castro.

The mural now lives in between the school's G-wing building and the soccer field.

Canyon Ranch in Woodside appoints new general manager

James Wardell is the new general manager at Canyon Ranch, a health and wellness resort in Woodside. He was most recently the general manager at the Calistoga Motor Lodge Resort and Spa and has previously worked for Staybridge Suites, IHG-Sonesta, Candlewood Suites, and The Island Hotels.

In his previous work in Calistoga, he spearheaded a construction project that added 39 rooms to the resort, while strategically reducing food costs and managing finances. At the Island Hotel in Newport Beach, Wardell helped in the hotel's transition away from a Four Season property.

Born to Be Wild with Jess Shatkin

Adolescent psychiatrist and educator Jess Shatkin will be discussing the research from his book, *Born to Be Wild* in an online event on Feb. 27 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

He will be explaining various topics including:

- Why "scared straight," adult logic, and draconian punishment don't work
- Why the teen brain is "born to be wild," shaped by evolution to explore and take risks
- The surprising role of brain development, hormones, peer pressure, screen time, and other key factors
- What parents can do — in everyday interactions, teachable moments, and chosen activities — to work with teens' need



Courtesy Menlo School

Fifteen Menlo School students set to play NCAA athletics: Top row, from left, Bradford Tudor, Eric Yun, Cormac Mulloy, Willis Johnson, Mikey McGrath, Sam Warman. Front row: Logan Wilson, Sage Huddleston, Bella Chen, Cleo Hardin, Summer Young, Kenya Cassidy, Joelle Kim. Inset: Evan Burnett, Brady Jung.

for risk, rewards and social acceptance, not against it

Parents, students, educators, mental health professionals, and community members are invited. Spanish interpretation will also be available.

Register for the event on The Parent Venture's Eventbrite page.

Menlo School student athletes commit to collegiate sports

Fifteen student athletes from Menlo School committed to continue their athletic careers in college, representing 10 sports at 12 schools across the nation.

These students are:

- Evan Burnett (Texas tennis)
- Kenya Cassidy (UCLA water polo)
- Bella Chen (Colorado College volleyball)
- Cleo Hardin (Northwestern volleyball)
- Sage Huddleston (Middlebury swimming)
- Willis Johnson (Puget Sound football)
- Brady Jung (Amherst football)
- Joelle Kim (Amherst golf)
- Mikey McGrath (Williams football)
- Cormac Mulloy (Stanford water polo)
- Bradford Tudor (Middlebury lacrosse)

Sam Warman (Columbia rowing)
Logan Wilson (Wellesley volleyball)
Summer Young (BYU track)
Eric Yun (Princeton golf)

Additional students will be announcing their plans for collegiate level sports once they complete their admissions processes.

Awareness about human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children

Pamela Estes, the Human Trafficking Program Coordinator for San Mateo County will be presenting on what parents, educators, and community members should know about human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).

CSEC and human trafficking can be difficult to identify because of the lack of public awareness on the issue. The Parent Ventures invites the community to join a free online event where they can learn more about this topic on Feb. 28 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Register for the event on The Parent Venture's Eventbrite page. ■

—Jennifer Yoshikoshi

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The **Almanac**

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and Woodside for over 50 years

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and the Woodside portion of
94062, call 854-2626.



CANDIDATES

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education at Garfield School and Menlo-Atherton High School to her current life in Redwood City. These experiences, she said, have not only tied her to the community but also given her a profound understanding of the local educational system and the broader challenges families face across San Mateo County.

A lifelong resident and devoted pet owner (to a beagle), Cornejo blends her role as the director of government and community relations at the Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula with her deep commitment to San Mateo County. Her professional and personal life showcases her dedication to community service and her focus on addressing critical issues like housing and public safety with a personal and community-focused approach. ■

– Michelle Iracheta

Paul Bocanegra

Suppose Paul Bocanegra is elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors District 4 seat this November. In that case, he will be the first youth survivor of an indeterminate sentence to serve an elected position.

Bocanegra was sentenced to life in prison without parole for a crime he said he did not commit. After spending 25 years behind bars, he was freed when Senate Bill 9 passed, making it unconstitutional to condemn a minor to life in prison through the felony murder rule. He said the democratic party saved his life through that bill, giving him reason to be politically active in the community.

“When they opened the cage and freed my limbs, I knew I had to act,” Bocanegra said.

Focused on housing, juvenile justice systems, sustainable and reliable public transportation, public safety, and climate change, Bocanegra said the county is stuck in a rut, and the leadership styles must change. ■

– Nicholas Mazzoni

Celeste Brevard

Using technology to connect elected officials and their constituents is one way Celeste Brevard plans to serve the community if elected as San Mateo County Board of Supervisor for District 4.

Brevard, a project manager for Stanford University and a resident of Redwood City, said she contacted the district’s supervisor, Warren Slocum, but he never called back. Slocum terms out of his role at the end of the year. After talking with her friends and family, she decided to run for his seat.

“I feel very strongly that there is a lack of faith and excitement

in the county and the country for the democratic process,” Brevard said. “I don’t have a political background, but I want to get people interested in community involvement. I want to educate and increase transparency; it should not be a mystery to people in America of what these people do or how to get involved.”

While Brevard has no political experience, she’s worked in various fields. She’s a former United Nations employee, who’s also worked for several non-profit organizations on policies, humanitarian aid and job training programs.

Focused on community involvement, technological advancement, affordable housing, the unhoused and rising sea levels, Brevard said the county needs to work more cohesively because many people are working on similar issues.

“I have the background to connect people to streamline the issues,” Brevard said. ■

– Nicholas Mazzoni

Lisa Gauthier

Lisa Gauthier is one of two East Palo Alto council members vying for the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors District 4 seat this November, and she believes her 11 years of experience as an elected official separate her from the competition.

The race for the District 4 seat will replace Supervisor Warren Slocum, who will term out at the end of the year.

Born and raised in East Palo Alto, Gauthier first got involved in politics in 2012 and has served as mayor and vice mayor three times each. She led the city during the COVID-19 pandemic and last year’s storms when the town dealt with power outages, some of her proudest moments as mayor.

“I called a meeting with assembly members, senators, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, and Pacific Gas and Electric (Company). It was held in East Palo Alto, and we asked the electricity service questions to hold them accountable for why the power was out so long,” said Gauthier, adding community members got a rebate check. If elected, her top priority

ties will be affordable housing, climate resilience and reliable transportation. ■

– Nicholas Mazzoni

Antonio López

A 29-year-old East Palo Alto native, Antonio López, who serves as the city’s mayor, said his firsthand experience with the affordability and cost of living crisis plaguing his district informs his commitment to ensuring equitable opportunities and a sustainable quality of life for San Mateo County residents.

As a first-generation college student, López left his home-

town at 18 to attend Duke University, Rutgers-Newark and later received his master’s at Oxford. He speaks with a great sense of pride and gratitude, especially when discussing the journey of his father, who received amnesty under the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act. He credits this moment in history as not just what gave his family the opportunity for a new life in the United States but for what instilled in him a profound sense of hard work and value for education.

López, one of five candidates

vying for the San Mateo County District 4 Board of Supervisors seat, said his lived experiences—from humble beginnings in East Palo Alto as a son of Mexican immigrants to the life of a public servant, who still lives with his mother and earns \$600 a month on the city council, plus \$50,000 a year through a Stanford graduate program — underscore his understanding of the economic struggles and affordability issues facing the residents of his district.

Upon returning from his time

See **CANDIDATES**, page 8



Town of Atherton

Planning Commission, February 28, 2024

REGULAR MEETING, 6:00 P.M.

This meeting is held virtually and in-person at the Council Chambers, 80 Fair Oaks Lane

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **Atherton Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider the projects as listed below during their regular meeting.

This meeting will be held in-person and via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The public may participate in the Planning Commission Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

Town of Atherton is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom Meeting.

Topic: Atherton Planning Commission Regular Meeting
Meeting Time: February 28, 2024, 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/j/84150249099>

Meeting ID: 841 5024 9099

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Find your local number:
<https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/j/kglcVN4cq>

Remote Public Comments:

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

Email:
planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us

Housing Element comments to Town Planner Brittany Bendix
bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us

Projects under Public Hearing:

A. Description: Consideration of a variance application to install a 22-foot tall kinetic sculpture located in the front yard at 390 Stevick Drive, zoned R1-A (APN 070-031-160 / Permit VAR23-00001). Section 17.40.050(H)(1) allows for artwork to be located in the front yard, provided the artwork is set back 20 feet from the front property line, is no taller than 11 feet in height, and is not more than 120 square feet in total area. The project proposes the installation of a 22-foot-tall kinetic sculpture, located 36 feet from the front property line at Stevick Drive and covering less than 120 square feet in area. The project requires a variance for the height of the sculpture.

CEQA: The proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA 15303 (e) New construction or conversion of small structures.

B. Description: Review the 2023 General Plan Implementation and 6th Cycle Housing Element Annual Progress Report (APR) and recommend its transmittal to the City Council pursuant to Section 65400 of the California Government Code. The APR is a routine status update to the State regarding the Town’s performance in meeting housing goals identified in a concurrent Housing Element.

The agenda for this meeting with links to related staff reports can be found online by **Friday, February 23, 2024**, here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said application is set for hearing by the Planning Commission at its meeting on **February 28, 2024, at 6:00 PM** in-person and via teleconference accessible through the above-described information, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the projects listed in the public hearing section should or should not be approved.

IF YOU CHALLENGE the listed projects in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Planning Commission decisions are appealable by any aggrieved person to the City Council within 10 days of the date of the decision. If you have any questions on an item please contact the Planning Commission at planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us.

ATHERTON PLANNING COMMISSION

Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

/s/ Brittany Bendix
Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner

LEHUA GREENMAN



“The great acts of love are done by those who are habitually performing small acts of kindness.”

650.245.1845 COMPASS

CANDIDATES

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overseas, López, who also spent time as a district representative for State Sen. Josh Becker, had to make a choice on whether to stay in academia or pivot to invest in

a life of public service.

"I've fallen in love with being a public servant; I feel battled tested. Not only gathered there four years, but they're four tremendous years," he said, reflecting on his time as an East Palo Alto council member. "I got

on when people couldn't literally face when the country and the world were trying to figure out when this lockdown would end, so you can imagine a more unconventional time to get into office and get the most necessary time." ■

NOTIFICACIÓN DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA DE LA COMISIÓN DE FORMACIÓN DE AGENCIAS LOCALES DE SAN MATEO

POR LA PRESENTE, la Comisión de Formación de Agencias Locales de San Mateo le NOTIFICAN que se ha programado una audiencia pública para el día **22 de mayo de 2024 a las 2:30 pm**. La reunión se llevará a cabo en la Cámara del Consejo de East Palo Alto en 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA.

Los siguientes puntos serán considerados en la audiencia pública:

Expediente LAFCo Nro. 22-09 - Una propuesta para establecer el Distrito Sanitario de East Palo Alto (EPASD, por sus siglas en inglés), distrito especial independiente, como un distrito subsidiario de la ciudad de East Palo Alto (ciudad).

La propuesta arriba mencionada fue aprobada el 15 de noviembre de 2023 por la LAFCo de San Mateo en una audiencia pública notificada. La propuesta fue iniciada por resolución del Consejo de la ciudad de East Palo Alto. En la actualidad, EPASD brinda servicios de alcantarillado a clientes en partes de la ciudad de East Palo Alto y en la ciudad de Menlo Park. Conforme esta propuesta, el Consejo de la ciudad de East Palo Alto se convertiría en la Junta Directiva de EPASD. La aprobación de esta propuesta no alteraría el área de servicio de EPASD ni los servicios de alcantarillado que EPASD brinda a los clientes. Los ingresos cobrados por EPASD se separarían del fondo general de la ciudad y podrían ser usados únicamente para operaciones de alcantarillado y de mantenimiento. La razón fundada de la ciudad en relación a esta propuesta es la de facilitar la planificación coordinada del servicio de alcantarillado, infraestructura y capacidad para acomodarse al crecimiento planeado y para mejorar la transparencia, rendición de cuentas y salud ambiental, para cumplir con las necesidades actuales y futuras de todos los contribuyentes del distrito. El cambio de administración tendría lugar el 1 de julio de 2024. La presente notificación y todos los documentos relacionados (informe de personal, resolución, mapas, etc.) se encuentran disponibles en el sitio web de LAFCo en <https://www.smcgov.org/lafco/proposal-city-east-palo-regarding-east-palo-alto-sanitary-district>.

El objetivo de la audiencia pública es brindarles a los propietarios y votantes registrados dentro del área de servicio afectada, la oportunidad de presentar una protesta por escrito a la propuesta. Las personas que sean tanto propietarios como votantes registrados deberán presentar dos protestas por escrito, pero deben usar formularios separados para cada protesta. Si bien no es obligatorio, se alienta a las personas que presenten protestas por escrito a usar los formularios de protesta que se encuentran en el sitio web de LAFCo, en <https://www.smcgov.org/lafco/forms>.

Las protestas por escrito deberán indicar si las mismas la realiza un propietario o un votante registrado. La protesta por escrito debe incluir el número de parcela del evaluador (APN, por sus siglas en inglés) si es presentada por un propietario o el domicilio de residencia si es presentada por un votante registrado. El formulario de protesta también debe incluir una firma original de tinta húmeda y la fecha y todas las firmas deben ser fechadas luego de la publicación de la notificación de audiencia pública, en los términos del artículo 57051 del Código de Gobierno. Se considerarán únicamente las protestas válidas.

Las protestas por escrito deben presentarse en la LAFCo antes de la finalización de la audiencia pública. Las protestas por escrito podrán presentarse por correo electrónico o entregarse en persona a:

San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission (Comisión de Formación de Agencias Locales de San Mateo)
455 County Center, 2nd Floor (2° piso)
Redwood City, CA 94063

Las protestas por escrito que se presentan por correo electrónico o en persona a la oficina de LAFCo deben ser entregadas antes de las 4:00 pm del 21 de mayo de 2024. Todo el resto de las protestas por escrito deben entregarse en mano al personal de LAFCo en la audiencia pública el 22 de mayo de 2024 a las 2:30 pm, previo al cierre de la audiencia pública.

Dentro de los 30 días luego de la finalización de la audiencia de protesta, el Director ejecutivo tomará la decisión en relación al cierre o a la aprobación del expediente LAFCo Nro. 22-09, de acuerdo con lo siguiente:

- Cerrar el expediente LAFCo Nro. 22-09 si la protesta por escrito se recibe por parte del 50% o más de los votantes registrados dentro del área temática;
- Llamar a elecciones a los votantes registrados si la protesta por escrito se recibe de al menos el 25% pero de menos del 50% de los votantes registrados o si al menos el 25% de los propietarios—que poseen al menos el 25% del valor total de los terrenos—presentan una protesta por escrito; o,
- Aprobar el expediente LAFCo Nro. 22-09 sin una elección si la protesta por escrito es presentada por menos del 25% de los votantes o por menos del 25% de los propietarios—que poseen menos del 25% del valor total de los terrenos—dentro del área temática.

Si tiene dudas contacte a Rob Bartoli, Director ejecutivo, al (650) 363-4224 o a través de correo electrónico a rbartoli@smcgov.org.

Fecha: 12 de febrero de 2024

COMISIONADOS: KATI MARTIN, PRESIDENTE, DISTRITO ESPECIAL • RAY MUELLER, VICE PRESIDENTE, CONDADO • VIRGINIA CHANG-KIRALY, DISTRITO ESPECIAL • HARVEY RARBACK, CIUDAD • TYGARJAS BIGSTYCK, CIUDAD • WARREN SLOCUM, CONDADO • ANN DRAPER, PÚBLICO
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PERSONAL: ROB BARTOLI, DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO • SOFIA RECALDE, ANALISTA DE GESTIÓN • TIM FOX, ASESOR LEGAL • ANGELA MONTES, SECRETARIA

OBITUARIES

Here are the local residents who died recently:

Kenneth W. Anstey, 77, a former San Mateo resident and a hockey player, who earned an M.B.A. in business, was a husband to Mary Jo for 55 years and father and grandfather, and volunteered at the St. Vincent de Paul Society in San Mateo, on Sept. 18, 2023.

Donald Wallace Paisley Jr., 96, a Palo Alto resident, who graduated from Stanford University in 1950 and earned a master's degree in education from San Jose State University, who taught in the Sunnyvale and Mountain View Whisman school districts, ultimately becoming a principal in the Mountain View Whisman School District, and was known for his quick wit and comical one-liners, on Jan. 26, 2024.

Mary Carey Schaefer, 90, a Palo Alto resident of over 50 years, who was an artist, interior designer, great grandmother, community activist and basketball fan, who made California her home following her graduation from Cornell University in 1955, who fought tenaciously for her causes with good humor and passion, teaching her children kindness and resolve and mettle, and who was actively involved in the Woman's Club of Palo Alto, her bridge group and a gourmet cooking group, on Jan. 29, 2024.

Edward Albert Moore, 89, a Redwood City resident, who was an actor, theatre director, set designer and playwright with credits in a national playlist, who started theatre groups in Cleveland, Ohio; New Zealand; and Western Samoa, whose popular garden sculptures often disappeared from his front yard soon after they were displayed and who ran the Grand Canyon from rim to rim, on Jan. 27, 2024.

Ann M. Robinson, 85, a longtime resident of Palo Alto, who taught at Laguna Salada Union Schools in Pacifica between 1969 and 1973 where she produced the film "A Summer School Experience" for the district, who when her first child was born, launched AMR Graphics, which she operated out of her home's garage, who founded the alternative birthing center, The Birthplace, with a group of volunteers, nurses and doctors, and Stanford University Hospital volunteer, on Dec. 7, 2023.

Robert Michael Heneveld, 82, a former Palo Alto resident, who served patients for three decades at his Burlingame

dental practice, and who is remembered for his unwavering love and dedication to his family, as well as his lifelong commitment to making a positive impact on the world around him, on Jan. 16, 2024.

Marge Cassingham, 99, a 55-year resident of Portola Valley, who was a gifted musician and classical pianist for 90 years and active in the Palo Alto Two Piano Club, who earned a degree in music from Occidental College, and who was a resident of The Sequoias, on Jan. 24, 2024.

Jean Char Gong, 97, a 70-year Palo Alto resident, who was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, and cherished friend, who earned a master's in education from Stanford University, who taught elementary school at Fairmeadow and El Carmelo for 32 years in Palo Alto, and a great grandmother to 18, on Jan. 31, 2024.

Marilyn Joyce, 88, a former Menlo Park resident of 25 years, who a beloved wife, mother, and devoted member of the community, a University of California at Berkeley graduate, who was a member of the Ladera Community Church, then Menlo Park Presbyterian Church member, who in 1969 conceived, designed and operated her innovative boutique THE DOOR, Gifts and Items for the Home, right beside the Menlo Park Post Office, and who actively supported United Menlo Atherton (school spirit organization), on Nov. 25, 2023.

Shirley Powers, 87, a Palo Alto resident, who was a Raging Grannies member, and who dedicated her life to avant-garde pursuits such as combining her jazz compositions with her poetry, conquering every hiking trail in the Bay Area, kayaking through beavies of otters in Monterey Bay, and publishing poetry in progressive women's anthologies, on Feb. 7, 2024.

Sue Basso, 82, a Menlo Park resident, who earned a degree in international relations from Stanford University in 1962, who was known as "Granny Sue" by her five grandchildren, who could usually be found sitting amongst piles of novels, biographies, newspapers and investment magazines, who was a swimmer and astute self-trained stock investor, on Jan. 7, 2024.

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

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JOURNALISM

Menlo Park golf club pursues new 15,000-square-foot building as part of long-range vision

By Neil Gonzales

Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club in Menlo Park has made the back nine of a golf-course renovation effort launched a year ago, but it's looking to do more down the line.

On Monday, Feb. 5, the 450-member club at 2900 Sand Hill Road got the go-ahead from the city Planning Commission to construct a new two-story, approximately 15,000-square-foot building to serve as a maintenance and operations center — just part of a long-range master plan involving other improvement projects.

The building project is expected to start in the summer or fall and marks the final leg of a campaign begun early 2023 to upgrade the golf course, club General Manager Aaron Grant said. The building project will take about a year to finish, according to the club.

“Sharon Heights is delighted to have received approval for the operations-center project,” Grant said in an email to The Almanac. The project “will house our maintenance team in a vastly improved structure from the 1962-built maintenance facility they have been in as well as some administrative staff.”

The project will also add a 46-space parking lot and remove 19 trees that are in poor condition, a city staff report said. Though not required because of previous mitigation measures and tree replanting related to other improvements, the club still plans to put in a variety of new landscaping and a southern live oak tree.

In addition, the report said, the club has proposed installing landscape hedges to help address a neighbor's concern about pri-

vacy and screening issues.

During the commission meeting, Vice Chair Jennifer Schindler praised the club's environmental conscientiousness.

“I am certainly supportive of what's been proposed here and appreciate the ongoing commitment to making sure that the tree-mitigation requirements are not only fulfilled but exceeded,” Schindler said.

The commission voted 7-0 to grant the club use and architectural-control permits to proceed with its building project.

This project is just one component of a master-planning process that the club embarked on in 2010 to improve its long-term sustainability.

The club's membership has approved and funded the master plan's projects, which also include solar-power installation and a \$23 million state-of-the-art recycled-water plant completed in 2019 in partnership with the West Bay Sanitary District.

Grant declined to say how much the club is spending on any project. “But I can say that we have invested significantly into the recycled-water facility that limited our use of potable water and the reconstruction of our golf course, which also saw a significant investment in native species of trees and plants being placed on our property,” he said.

The club will continue to explore future improvement



Michelle Le

The view of Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club from Klamath Dr. in 2012.

projects, he said.

“With the nature of our business and hospitality,” Grant said, “we will continually be looking at how we best utilize our property for many purposes inclusive of the enjoyment and utilization of our

membership, the enhancement of workplace environment for our teams and the stewardship of our land for our community.”

*Email Contributing Writer
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ngonzales92@yahoo.com.*

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JELICH RANCH

continued from page 5

it. We bought it because it was a beautiful piece of nature in my hometown. It's not like we had this big vision and big plan to restore it," Cindie said. "But looking back, we think 'Holy smokes, what did we do? That's incredible!'"

For the Whites, the process of restoring the place was intuitive. "There were no deadlines, there was no pressure. It was fun! It was like an artist's palette. We co-created it methodically, piece by piece," said Cindie.

They began by clearing out items from the past, like abandoned cars, cans of paint, tires, mounds where the previous inhabitants used to drive motorcycles, weeds and overgrown trees.

Though architecturally possible, they decided not to build a brand new house in the middle of the orchard, home to about 1,000-1,500 fruit trees, because that would've ruined it. Instead, they decided to revive the orchard, a process that involved hiring all manner of consultants — bug experts, fruit experts, tree experts, gardening experts and farm managers.

"We brought in experts who were working with Steve Jobs at

the time. It was before or at the very beginning of organic and local farming," Cindie said. They certified the place as organic in 2003. "We talked and we dreamed and we visualized. We learned from them."

'There were no deadlines, there was no pressure. It was fun! It was like an artist's palette. We co-created it methodically, piece by piece.'

—CINDIE WHITE,
OWNER OF JELICH RANCH

They began harvesting, donating and subsequently, selling fruit to local grocers like Bianchini's and Roberts. Today, fruits grown there include apples, pears, peaches, plums, nectarines, figs and persimmons.

The Whites also applied for designation under the state's Williamson Act, which enables farmland conservation and protects owners from hefty property tax.

"We were happy because the property could have been subdivided but we retained it as a whole. The town was really

happy," Cindie said, reminiscing about working closely with town officials, including "old-timers like (Bill) Lane (one of the town's founders and the publisher of *Sunset Magazine*), Leslie Lambert (former planning manager for the town), Tom Vlastic (former town planner) ...it was a very creative relationship, where we're aligning with the town values, they're excited that we're the new stewards of the land."

Firms they partnered with for the restoration work include Walker Warner (architecture), Douglas Durkin Design (interiors) and Forde Mazzola Associates (construction).

Around 2002, Cindie began conducting education camps with children, to teach them how to connect with nature and wildlife, "the old fashioned, throwback way," which involved camping out in the orchards in tents during the summer and negotiating conflicting concepts like farming and wilderness. Over the years, she also collected a lot of oddities from nature and created a natural history museum on the ranch. She even wrote a book about wildness in a civilized world, called "Confessions of a Bone Woman."

Animals and birds that visit the place today include bob-



Courtesy Cindie White

Emily Coffee and Mila White harvesting apples — connecting to nature and their food source.

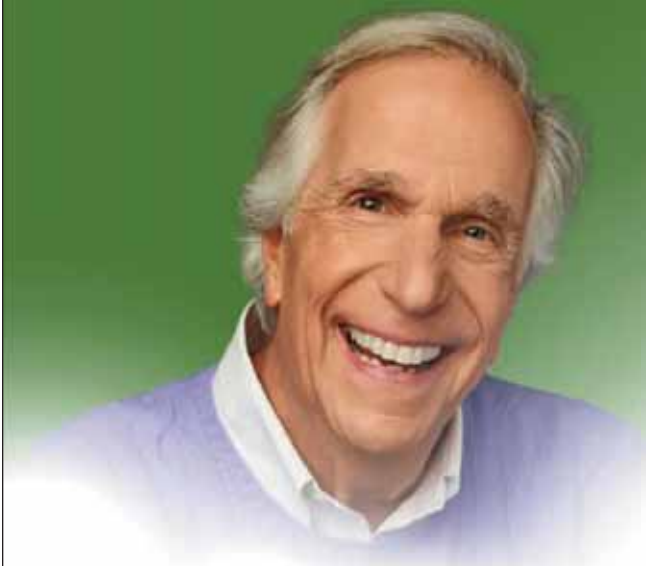
cats, deer, raccoon, possum, fox, mountain lions, coyote, ducks, blue heron, red tail hawks, egret, owls, frogs, skunk, gopher snakes, wild turkey vultures, blue birds and song birds.

Camping, however, brought with it a great deal of "schlepping," which is what prompted the decision to re-do the farmhouse. The idea was to make changes while retaining the architectural integrity of the house. "When people drive by they would never know it's a different house," she said. "But we made a few tweaks." The front

door, for instance, used to face Portola Road; it now faces the north.

The decor comprises a mix of antique and functional things — thick doors, push-button lighting, wood siding panels, alabaster light fixtures, transoms, cord-and-weight-pull double hung windows, and a whole lot of intricate, hand-crafted items. "I was geeking out on the woodwork," she said, about the sheer artistry involved in doing up the house. "Every single shelf was custom-sawed."

Even the paints were picked



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keeping the original look-and-feel in mind. “There’s something like a 100 different colors inside the house,” she said, adding that the goal was to preserve the soul of the house while making sure it didn’t look worn down. “When you walk in, you should feel like it’s the Jelich family house from a 100 years ago.”

History hangs in the hallway by the entrance, in the form of vintage photographs of the ranch — including one by the legendary Ansel Adams — and framed articles from older editions of The Almanac.

The garage is where the Jelichs used to keep their fruit stand. Though the Whites repaired it, they tried to make it look like the original; they re-stenciled the name “Jelich Ranch” in black against white and used the old antlers to adorn it as before.

Renovations of the barn and the lattice-covered tank ensued. “We added sliding doors to the

agriculture barn,” Cindie said. After 2015, when the Whites moved from their Atherton home to this one, they added an extension to the original farmhouse as well as a deck that overlooks the orchard, changes that aren’t visible from the outside. They worked in collaboration with the town for these additions. “It was so easy to work with them,” she said.

There were events that made things difficult, though. At the very beginning of the restoration process, they got a letter about an endangered salamander on the property, asking them to halt all construction. “We were freaking out,” she said. It was only after they’d wasted months speaking with lawyers and experts that they realized it was a prank. “We were new and naive,” she said. “If only we’d looked more closely at the letterhead!”

Cindie has a deep connection with the ranch and talks about

its personality like it’s a close friend: “It’s authentic. ... It’s not trying to show off.”

She speaks about the restoration process in an almost spiritual way. “Everything that happened to that ranch happened to me, and vice versa,” said Cindie.

It’s this passion for Jelich Ranch that makes it hard for her to come to terms with its imminent sale.

“For personal reasons, we’re going to pass the baton,” she said. ■

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Courtesy Cindie White

A view inside the White home at Jelich Ranch.

Marjorie Cassingham

March 9, 1924 – January 24, 2024

Marge Cassingham, a 55-year resident of Portola Valley, died January 24, a few weeks before she would have turned 100. A gifted musician and classical pianist for 90 years, Marge was active in the Palo Alto Two Piano Club; her living room in Ladera was a favored place to practice as it had plenty of room for its two Steinway grand pianos.

In Los Angeles, she was a member of the Sigma Alpha Iota women’s music fraternity from 1942 to her death, and a member of the American Association of University Women after earning her degree in music from Occidental College. Marge “received just about every award that SAI gives,” SAI’s executive director said. She was a secretary at Bendix Aviation, and helped charter a nursery school at her church.

After having four children in southern California (Carol Swanson of Oregon, Curt Ryan Cassingham (and wife Bonnie Meeder) of Oregon, Brian Cassingham (Anne) of Florida, and Randy Cassingham (Kit) who travel internationally full time), Marge and her husband Larry moved to Portola Valley. She continued her outside work as a project secretary for Syntex Laboratories, then the office administrator for a Silicon Valley consultancy. Her children and her music were her main focus, including at Menlo Park Presbyterian in the 1970s, and in the 80s on at Valley Presbyterian in Portola Valley, where she played piano and handbells, served as interim choir director, and was a long-serving elder. She retired to the Sequoias — taking her favorite Steinway with her so she could stay active in music for most of her time there.

She always maintained her sense of humor. A few months before her death as she was closing on 100 years old, a friend at the Sequoias told her, “It’s my birthday today: I’m 82.” Marge considered that for a moment and replied in a clear voice, “Am I supposed to be impressed by that?”

She is survived by her four children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Rd., Portola Valley, on Saturday, March 9, at 3:30 p.m., her 100th birthday. There will be light refreshments offered afterward. RSVP at cassingham.com/marge.



PAID OBITUARY

Marilyn Joyce Wallace

August 3, 1935 – November 25, 2023

Marilyn Joyce (Weil) Wallace passed away on November 25, 2023, at the age of 88 in Pleasanton, California. She was born on August 3, 1935, in Los Angeles, California. She was a beloved wife, mother, and devoted member of the community.

Marilyn had a life-long passion for education, and her own educational journey began in Oakland and Piedmont, CA where she attended grammar and middle schools. She graduated from Piedmont High School in June 1953, then entered the University of California, Berkeley in September. At Cal she joined and lived in the Phi Mu Sorority.

She pursued a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and also participated in a special teacher intern program which enabled math and science graduates to teach high school immediately after graduation. Marilyn received her degree and teaching credential from UC Berkeley in June 1957. Marilyn’s career as a math teacher began in September 1957, at Abraham Lincoln High School in San Francisco, CA.

It was during this time, at a UC Math Department picnic, that she met Graham Wallace, a UC math graduate student. Marilyn and Graham married on June 13, 1959, the start of a 64-year marriage. Marilyn continued teaching in San Francisco until she and Graham moved to Burlingame, CA. During this time, their children were born. In 1966 the family moved to Menlo Park, CA. This was their home for the next 25 years.

In Menlo Park, Marilyn’s main dedication was seeing the children through their school years. This included much participation in, and support of their music, sports, and hobby activities. But she was always engaged in the greater community as well: substitute teaching, tutoring, participating in the work of the Girl Scouts, actively supporting United Menlo Atherton (school spirit organization), and volunteering in fundraising campaigns for school band trips.

In 1969 she conceived, designed, and operated her innovative boutique THE DOOR, Gifts and Items for the Home, right beside the Menlo Park Post Office. In her daily life, Marilyn, with her family, found spiritual strength and community at church, first at Ladera Community Church and

later, at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church. In 1991 the Wallace family moved to a house in Pleasanton, which was their home for the next 31 years.

During this time, Marilyn made a point of frequently driving across the Bay, to visit and support

her in-laws. She became an active member of her Presbyterian church, serving for six years in the church’s governing Session and for many years, with her husband, serving on the Reach Out committee charged with overseeing the distribution of the church’s annual benevolence budget.

For 16 years, she especially enjoyed part-time volunteering at the American Cancer Society’s Discovery

Shop thrift store in Pleasanton. Travels by car through the Pacific Northwest and Canada, frequent stays at the family’s rural vacation property in Shasta County, CA, and two lengthy, enjoyable, and educational tours with the UC Berkeley travel groups— one to China, and one down the full length of the Mississippi River— helped to make many years fulfilling.

Ultimately, vascular disease, over a 5-year period, led to her dementia and decline.

Beginning in November 2021 and until her death in November 2023, Marilyn was in an excellent memory care facility in Pleasanton.

Marilyn is survived by her husband, Graham Wallace of Pleasanton; her daughter, Carolyn Joyce Wallace of Redwood City; her son, Brad Robert Wallace and his wife Heidi of Colorado Springs, CO; grandson, Chase Delon Wallace of Oxford, Georgia, and brother-in-law Douglas Wallace of Claremont, CA. She is preceded in death by her foster daughter, Jody Broder Howard.

Marilyn Wallace will be remembered for her love and appreciation of family, her dedication to education, and her commitment to serving her community. She will be missed by many who worked or interacted with her through the years.

A memorial service to celebrate Marilyn’s life will be held on February 24, 2024, at 2:00 pm at GraceWay Church, located at 1183 Quarry Ln, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

Contributions in Marilyn’s memory can be made to the Ecumenical Hunger Program of East Palo Alto, an organization close to her heart.



PAID OBITUARY



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Listed by the DeLeon Team

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



Courtesy Arthur Wilkie

M-A athletics director, Steven Kryger speaking at the signing event on Feb. 7.

SIGNING

continued from page 5

hours on the field.

Tatum Olesen, a widely recognized student athlete in the Peninsula, signed with the University of Virginia for D1 cross country and track. She plays three sports for M-A including soccer, cross country, track. The San Mateo Daily Journal awarded her Girls' Athlete of the Year for the 2022-23 school year.

Olesen expressed excitement about going to the University of Virginia and said the hard-

est part of the signing process was "actually deciding" where she wanted to go. After visiting the campus and seeing that the coach was very supportive, she liked the UVA campus, which is in Charlottesville, and made her decision.

Olesen's parents, Marc and Avery Olesen, are proud of their daughter's accomplishments and share her excitement in being able to see Tatum compete at the collegiate level next school year.

"I think her hardwork has paid off," said Avery Olesen, Tatum's mother. "I'm very impressed

with how she balanced school, social life and family."

High school student athletes are hardworking and dedicated but they are not alone in their journey to victory.

"It takes a village for these kids to do well," said Kryger. "There are lots of people that are working for their success."

Woodside High School also held its NLI signing day with 10 student athletes signing to colleges including Chapman University, Brown University and UC San Diego for swimming, volleyball, rowing and baseball.

During the event, each student was spotlighted by an introduction by guidance counselor Francisco Negri. Each student wrote on their plans for college, gratitude for their parents, teammates and coaches, and advice they have for other high school athletes, to which Negri read at the event.

"I'd like to thank my mom for being willing to sleep in the back seat of the car at 4 a.m. while I practiced, and my dad for always rooting for me and letting me know when I was almost half-way done with every erg piece," wrote Katie Myers, who signed to Oregon State University for rowing. "Setbacks will happen. The measure of a good student

and a good athlete is how you overcome those setbacks."

These students have been involved in sports since they were young children. Some have been active in their sport for as long as 14 years and others have played for as short as 3 years.

'It takes a village for these kids to do well. There are lots of people that are working for their success.'

STEVEN KRYGER,
M-A ATHLETICS DIRECTOR,
LACROSSE COACH AND MATH TEACHER

Along with committing to play and compete in their sport at the collegiate level, students such as swimmer Edana Huang, plan to major in bioengineering at UC San Diego.

Ben Ricketts for his introduction, who signed to play football for the College of San Mateo, wrote: "High school sports have taught me about hard work and work ethic that I have been able to apply in and off the field." He plans to become a firefighter and says CMS has a great program. ■

*Email Staff Writer
Jennifer Yoshikoshi at
jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.*

**NOTICE OF PROTEST HEARING
BY THE SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission that a protest hearing is scheduled for **May 22, 2024 at 2:30pm**. The meeting will be held at the East Palo Alto Council Chambers at 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA.

The following item will be considered at the protest hearing:

LAFCo File No. 22-09 – A proposal to establish the East Palo Alto Sanitary District (EPASD), an independent special district, as a subsidiary district of the City of East Palo Alto (City).

The above proposal was approved by the San Mateo LAFCo at a noticed public hearing on November 15, 2023. The proposal was initiated by the East Palo Alto City Council by resolution. EPASD currently provides sewer services to customers in portions of the City of East Palo Alto and the City of Menlo Park. Under this proposal, the City of East Palo Alto City Council would become the governing board of EPASD. Approval of this proposal would not alter the EPASD service area nor the sewer services provided by EPASD to customers. Revenue collected by EPASD would be separate from the City's General fund and could only be used for sewer operations and maintenance. The City's stated reason for the proposal is to facilitate coordinated planning of sewer service, infrastructure and capacity to accommodate for planned growth, and to improve transparency, accountability and environmental health to meet the current and future needs of all District ratepayers. The governance change would take effect July 1, 2024. This Notice and all related documents (staff report, resolution, maps, etc.) are available on the LAFCo website at <https://www.smcgov.org/lafco/proposal-city-east-palo-regarding-east-palo-alto-sanitary-district>.

The purpose of a protest hearing is to give landowners and registered voters within the affected service area the opportunity to submit written protest to the proposal. Individuals who are both a landowner and a registered voter may submit two written protests but must use separate forms for each protest. Individuals submitting a written protest are encouraged, but are not required, to use the protest forms on the LAFCo website at <https://www.smcgov.org/lafco/forms>.

Written protests shall state whether protest is being made by a landowner or registered voter. Written protest must include the assessor parcel number (APN) if submitted by a landowner OR the residence street address if submitted by a registered voter. The protest form must also include an original wet-ink signature and date, and all signatures must be dated after the publication of the notice of protest hearing per Government Code Section 57051. Only valid protests will be considered.

Written protests must be filed with LAFCo before the conclusion of the protest hearing. Written protests may be submitted by mail or in-person delivery to:

San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission
455 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063

Written protests that are submitted by mail or delivered in-person to the LAFCo office must be received by 4:00pm on May 21, 2024. All other written protests must be hand delivered to LAFCo staff at the protest hearing on May 22, 2024 at 2:30pm before the protest hearing is closed.

Within 30 days following the conclusion of the Protest Hearing, the Executive Officer will make a determination on whether LAFCo File No. 22-09 is terminated or approved, as follows:

- Terminate LAFCo File No. 22-09 if written protest is received from 50% or more of the registered voters within the subject area;
- Call an election of registered voters if written protest is received from at least 25% but less than 50% of the registered voters or if at least 25% of the landowners—who own at least 25% of the total land value—submit written protest; or,
- Approve LAFCo File No. 22-09 without an election if written protest is submitted from less than 25% of the voters or less than 25% of the landowners—who own less than 25% of the total land value—within the subject area.

Please contact Rob Bartoli, Executive Officer, if you have any questions at (650) 363-4224 or via email at rbartoli@smcgov.org.

Dated: February 12, 2024

COMMISSIONERS: KATI MARTIN, CHAIR, SPECIAL DISTRICT • RAY MUELLER, VICE CHAIR, COUNTY • VIRGINIA CHANG-KIRALY, SPECIAL DISTRICT • HARVEY RARBACK, CITY • TYGARJAS BIGSTYCK, CITY • WARREN SLOCUM, COUNTY • ANN DRAPER, PUBLIC

ALTERNATES: CHRIS MICKELSEN, SPECIAL DISTRICT • ANN SCHNEIDER, CITY • JAMES O'NEILL, PUBLIC • NOELIA CORZO, COUNTY

STAFF: ROB BARTOLI, EXECUTIVE OFFICER • SOFIA REGALDE, MANAGEMENT ANALYST • TIM FOX, LEGAL COUNSEL • ANGELA MONTES, CLERK



Courtesy Arthur Wilkie

Tatum Olesen supported by friends and family as she signed to the University of Virginia for cross country and track on Feb. 7.

Employment

Work from home as a Customer Service Agent for an olympic Steel Inc and earn more. Job requirements: Ability to communicate in English, Internet access Previous working experience is an added advantage. Interested applicants should forward their resume to Jeffrey Klein email (hr@olympicsteel.info) for more info.

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PALO ALTO



\$3,488,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
171Everett.com

25 LAS PIEDRAS COURT
PORTOLA VALLEY



\$3,788,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
25LasPiedras.com

40 SANTA MARIA AVENUE
PORTOLA VALLEY



\$3,488,000 | 3 Bd | 3 Bth
40SantaMaria.com

764 PARMA WAY
LOS ALTOS



\$2,988,000 | 3 Bd | 2 Bth
764Parma.com

104 CLOVER LANE
MENLO PARK



\$2,188,000 | 5 Bd | 3 Bth
104Clover.com

366 STEVICK DRIVE
ATHERTON



\$6,488,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
366Stevick.com

1060 PALO ALTO AVENUE
PALO ALTO



\$11,988,000 | 5 Bd | 7 Bth
1060PaloAlto.com

76 MELANIE LANE
ATHERTON



\$6,488,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
76Melanie.com

2036 STERLING AVENUE
MENLO PARK



\$3,488,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
2036Sterling.com

1449 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
PALO ALTO



\$6,988,000 | 5 Bd | 3.5 Bth
1449University.com

195 N. CALIFORNIA AVENUE
PALO ALTO



\$4,700,000 | 5 Bd | 3.5 Bth
195NCaliforniaAve.com

6 SARGENT LANE
ATHERTON



\$9,988,000 | 7 Bd | 7 Bth
6Sargent.com



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中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822
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LAWSUIT

continued from page 1

crime and track down burglary suspects.

“Since at least 2010, it has been well-known that ALPRs misread license-plate numbers or letters and generate false-positive hits,” the 2022 suit states. “For this reason, before conducting any law enforcement action based on an ALPR hit, generally accepted law-enforcement standards and training require officers to visually verify the license plate of the car they are following and contemplating pulling over to

ensure that the numbers and characters of the license plate match those of the license plate in the ALPR hit.”

With the belief that they were pursuing a “high-risk felony stop,” police pulled Burkleo over and ordered him at gunpoint to throw his keys out of the window, get out of the car, and lie on his stomach to be handcuffed.

Burkelo, who at the time was a security consultant for clients in the vicinity of Atherton, had filed this lawsuit for the “wrongful seizure, use of excessive force, and arrest without

probable cause,” according to the suit.

Records show that the case was settled on March 16, 2023, for \$45,000. In the settlement, Burkleo agreed to release any claims presented in the lawsuit and to “never institute or reinstate in the future any complaints, suit, action or cause of action, in law or in equity, against the Atherton Police Department.”

The Atherton Police Department declined to comment on past or pending lawsuits, including the suit from 2022.

In a legal response to Burkleo’s complaints, the Atherton police officers denied all allegations, as well as the injuries that Burkleo mentioned in the complaint. Officers allege that any damages were caused by the “carelessness and negligence “ of Burkleo.

Officers also stated that they are entitled to qualified immunity as they didn’t violate any clearly established constitutional right, and any actions taken were “undertaken in good faith with the reasonable belief that said actions were valid, necessary, and constitutionally proper,”

according to a response filed on June 13, 2022.

In a following response filed on Oct. 27, 2022, the Atherton Police Department also wrote that they believe that Burkleo “waited an unreasonable period before making any claims,” as the incident had occurred in April 2021.

This news organization has reached out to the police department to clarify what an “unreasonable period” of time constitutes. ■

*Email Staff Writer
Jennifer Yoshikoshi at
jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.*

Public Notices

PENINSULA LACTATION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-296261

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) PENINSULA LACTATION, located at 12 Berenda Way, Menlo Park, CA 94028.
Registered owner(s):
FORTY DAYS MIDWIFERY, INC
12 Berenda Way
Menlo Park, CA 94028
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
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 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2024)

GLS LAWN CARE AND LANDSCAPE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-296515

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) GLS LAWN CARE AND LANDSCAPE, located at 364 3rd Ave, Redwood City, CA 94063.
Registered owner(s):
GUILLERMO LOMBERA-SANCHEZ
264 3rd Ave
Redwood City, CA 94063
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 3/6/2021.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 31, 2024.
(ALM Feb 9, 16, 23 and Mar 1, 2024)

SARAH ALLEN CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-296568

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) SARAH ALLEN CONSULTING, located at 714 Upton Street, Redwood City, CA 94061.
Registered owner(s):
SILICON VALLEY CONSULTING LLC
714 Upton Street
Redwood City, CA 94061
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 07, 2024.
(ALM Feb 16, 23, Mar 1 and 8, 2024)

HECTOR'S GOPHER CONTROL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-296586

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) HECTOR'S GOPHER CONTROL, located at 2645 ILLINOIS ST, EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303.
Mailing Address: PO BOX 50701 Palo Alto, CA 94303.
Registered owner(s):
HECTOR DAVID MAGANA RODRIGUEZ
2645 ILLINOIS ST
EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed

above on 02/07/2024.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 07, 2024.
(ALM Feb 16, 23, Mar 1 and 8, 2024)

MR G HANDYMAN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-296389

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) MR G HANDYMAN, located at 3706 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 01/23/2024.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 23, 2024.
(ALM Feb 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2024)

BEARS CLEANING SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-296369

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) BEARS CLEANING SERVICES, located at 2761 FLEETWOOD DR, SAN BRUNO CA. 94066.
Registered owner(s):
OSCAR OSORIO NAVA
2761 FLEETWOOD DR
SAN BRUNO CA. 94066
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 19, 2024.
(ALM Feb 9, 16, 23 and Mar 1, 2024)

WALNUT1DESIGN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-296365

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) WALNUT1DESIGN, located at 79 Santa Maria Ave, Portola Valley CA 94028.
Registered owner(s):
LISA ANDERSON HILL
79 Santa Maria Ave
Portola Valley CA 94028
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 19, 2024.
(ALM Feb 9, 16, 23 and Mar 1, 2024)

LEENZART
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-296493

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) LEENZART, located at 245 7th Ave #6, San Mateo, CA 94401.
Registered owner(s):
KATHLEEN LAURIE BRIEN
245 7th Ave #6
San Mateo, ca 94401

This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 30, 2024.
(ALM Feb 16, 23, Mar 1 and 8, 2024)

LA TAPATIA NEVERIA PALETERIA Y RASPADOS R&C

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: 296314

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) LA TAPATIA NEVERIA PALETERIA Y RASPADOS R&C, located at 2398 University Ave, East Palo Alto, CA, 94303. Mailing Address: 443 Center Street, Redwood City, CA 94061.
Registered owner(s):
SEBASTIAN ESCOBEDO
443 Center St
Redwood City, CA, 94061
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 1/1/23.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 12, 2024.
(ALM Jan 26, Feb 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

CRUZELIA'S HOUSE CLEANING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-296336

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) CRUZELIA'S HOUSE CLEANING, located at 1133 Berkelie Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
CRUZELIA OROZCO AGUILAR
1133 Berkelie Ave
Menlo Park, CA 94025
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 01/01/2004.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 17, 2024.
(ALM Feb 9, 16, 23 and Mar 1, 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 Somerset Ct, Belmont, CA 94002.
Registered owner(s):
LAURENT K. GHARDA
14 Somerset Ct
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.: 24CIV00251
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Brooke Dorothy Weisenfluh filed a

petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

BROOKE DOROTHY WEISENFLUH to BROOKE WEISENFLUH TEBOE

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: 03/18/2024, 9:00 am, Southern Branch: Hall of Justice and Records, Dept. 17, Room 2K 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 K. Lee
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Feb 2, 9, 16 and 23, 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 DeRuyte Bipes filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
ANNE DERUYTE BIPES to ANNE MARIA TERESA DERUYTE

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 03/21/2024, 9:00 a.m., Southern 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: 01/25/2024
Elizabeth Lee
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Feb 9, 16, 23 and Mar 1, 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 Vistnes filed a petition with this court for a decree changing

names as follows:
CARA PATRICIA VISTNES to CARA PATRICIA DOVE

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: 03/04/2024, 9:00am, 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: 01/04/2024
Hessen Ladcani
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.: 24-CIV-00017
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Juan Angel Almanza-Pulido filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
JUAN ANGEL ALMANZA-PULIDO to JUAN ANGEL PULIDO

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 03/11/2024, 9:00 AM, Superior Court Of San Mateo County 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
Hessen Ladcani
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Jan 26, Feb 2, 9 and 16, 2024)

The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.

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



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We've entered a new era in real estate, where Sellers do not need to pay 2.5% or more for the Buyer's Agent. Most of our Sellers elect to offer **only \$10,000 to the Buyer's Agent**. Should the agent seek additional compensation, the Buyer can cover the difference. Alternatively, the DeLeon Buyer's Team will represent that Buyer on our listings without any charge. Yes, we're even waiving the \$10,000!

This client-centric approach not only saves our Sellers money but also draws more Buyers to our listings. It's no wonder we are the #1 Listing Team in Silicon Valley!

Caution: Despite a recent court case, some other agents still advocate for high commissions.

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



Michael Repka
DRE #01854880
650.488.7325



A difficult balance

By Adam Dawes

When U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo announced her retirement in November, we knew the race to take over her seat, which she's held for three decades, was going to be a critical issue to cover for our readers. Helping our communities understand their choices when they go to the ballot box is central to our mission as a news organization, so we decided we had to host a candidate forum.

With the onset of the pandemic nearly four years ago, these kinds of events moved online. We felt that it was time to return to a normal format in front of a live audience. It takes a lot more effort to do this, but we feel strongly that conducting these debates in person is important to the democratic process. The energy is more engaging with a live event, and we believe it does a lot to humanize the relationship between candidate and constituent. It also forces candidates to confront real people, often with passionate concerns, which can cause them to budge off of their talking points and even modify their views based on public opinion.

In the week leading up to the Jan. 31 debate, we learned that a group of protesters wanting a ceasefire in Gaza was targeting our event, which would take place in Palo Alto's City Council chambers. We conferred with the city of Palo Alto and the police about how we could handle the situation if the protesters disrupted our forum. The police were clear that they were not going to get involved with

people exercising their freedom of speech and would only step in if there was a physical threat to personal safety.

We decided we would still move forward with the live event and put in place escalating steps to deal with the protesters, starting with an explanation that any disruptors would be asked to leave, including directly addressing unruly individuals and leading up to terminating the event early. However, in retrospect, we were unprepared for the scale of the disruption caused by these protesters, and our techniques to quiet them proved insufficient.

The beginning of the debate went smoothly with excellent engagement by the candidates, answering difficult and important questions about their positions on domestic and foreign issues and their past actions. After 75 minutes, dozens of pro-ceasefire activists began chanting and protesting the proceedings. As we had planned, we took a pause to try to

quiet them but they did not settle down easily. Only after communicating repeatedly that the next question for the candidates was about Gaza were we able to proceed. Unfortunately, each response from the candidates was met with obstructionist outbursts and heckling from a few loud and persistent protesters.

It was a very difficult judgment to make at the moment about whether to continue. On the one hand, getting all the candidates on the record for their position on the war in Gaza seemed more salient than ever. Regardless of whether someone was pro-Palestinian or pro-Israel, it seemed important to hear from the candidates on the issue. And once we started hearing from the first

candidate, it also seemed important that we treat the candidates fairly and give each an opportunity to address the question.

On the other side, some of the protesters were engaging in antisemitic speech and denying the Oct. 7 attack and the atrocities committed by Hamas. We had created a platform that was hijacked for hateful speech. The only tool we had left in this live event was to end it, which we did after giving each candidate a chance to respond but omitting their closing statements.

In the aftermath, we've heard from many who were disappointed with how we handled the lengthy disruption. In particular, we've heard from many in the Jewish community who felt blindsided by the protests and seriously shaken at the overt display of antisemitism that exists within our community. We want to sincerely apologize to the community for not shutting down this speech immediately and for the harm that this speech caused. It was abhorrent and should not be tolerated in Palo Alto or anywhere.

Looking to the future, we are still trying to get our bearings for how we might handle live events. We still believe that they are an important part of the democratic process, but we will have to have more tools at our disposal to manage disruptions if we are to continue. We'd still like to hear more from the community about how to strike the right balance between providing a live and public forum but also being able to safeguard those proceedings. Please email publisher@embarcaderomedia.org with your thoughts on how you think we should strike that balance. ■

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Debate chaos

"Disturbing the Peace" is a law. The protesters who disrupted the Jan. 31 congressional candidates' debate were breaking that law. Even without it, if I want to stage a protest against, say, Palo Alto's failure to build housing, I'd need a permit. Even with a permit, if I start ranting and tooting my horn, I'd be cited.

I understand that Embarcadero

Media Foundation CEO Adam Dawes is new to the job. Bless his heart for taking on this struggling but so very important paper. But failing to shut down the protesters, as Jewish thought would describe it, missed the mark. The protesters got to sabotage the hard work the candidates put into preparing for the debate. Also, the main driver behind the majority of the "ceasefire/free Palestine" is institutionalized antisemitism. The protesters themselves are unaware of it. For example, there was a ceasefire. It was on Oct. 6, and it was the reason Hamas

attacked the next day. They don't know this.

It would behoove the Weekly to remember that Palo Alto has, relative to other Bay Area cities, a sizable Jewish community. There has been a "white flight" from this city, the exception being the "whites" who are Jewish. We have stayed. Committing to and participating in community is fundamental to Jewish culture. Since Oct. 7, we've been living under a firehose of antisemitism. Adam's choice to allow the ranting to continue added to the abuse.

For the record, all of my Jewish family, friends and acquaintances abhor Netanyahu. Israel is a cautionary tale for those flirting with autocracy.

Deborah Goldeen
Birch Street, Palo Alto

Enforce the law

Adam Dawes, the CEO of Embarcadero Media Foundation, is mistaken when he writes in the Feb. 2 Palo Alto Weekly that "no laws were being broken" by the dozens of anti-Israel protesters who brazenly hijacked the Congressional candidates debate held in Palo Alto City Hall on Jan. 31. For 45 minutes, the mob of protesters hurled hateful epithets at the candidates and at members

of the audience, and they prevented the candidates from speaking.

This was a direct violation of Section 403 of the California Penal Code, which states: "Every person who, without authority of law, willfully disturbs or breaks up any assembly or meeting that is not unlawful in its character ... is guilty of a misdemeanor."

The police should have enforced Section 403, and escorted the illegal protesters out of City Hall so that the event could proceed. Furthermore, it would have been helpful if Mr. Dawes, who hosted the debate, had alerted the audience about this law before the meeting started.

It makes sense that Section 403 exists. Protestors have free speech rights. But so do candidates, and so does the audience. Free speech includes the right to hear what the candidates were saying. If we do not protect our own free speech rights, we give protestors a "heckler's veto."

In the coming days, a group of us who attended the event will be talking with the mayor, the City Council members, and law enforcement officials to make sure that everyone is aware of Section 403 of the Penal Code — and that the police are ready to enforce it when necessary.

We will not be able to maintain our democracy if illegal protestors are allowed to drown out our free speech rights.

I look forward to the next candidate debate for the 16th Congressional district debate — this time without disruption from illegal protestors.

Alan Crystal
Byron Street, Palo Alto

The Cost of a Free Press

The Peninsula's hometown company, Google, announced last week that it earned \$65.52 billion in advertising revenue in the 4th quarter of 2023, 76% of its total revenue.

During this same 3-month period, several local news organizations struggled to keep their doors open. We all learned in civics class that a healthy democracy requires a robust and free press.

What benefit do Peninsula residents receive in exchange for the slowly ebbing viability of our local press caused by this massive shift of ad revenue to non-news organizations?

We are Silicon Valley. Since we invented the problem, shouldn't we be able to invent a solution?

Kaia Eaki
Redwood City

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.

You can also submit a longer piece of 450 to 600 words for consideration to publish as a guest opinion column.

Questions? Email editor@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6537.

The Almanac

'LOUDMOUTH' has lots to say

Palo Alto-raised filmmaker contributes to America's racial reckoning with documentary on activist Rev. Al Sharpton

By Ashwini Gangal

Sometime in the 1980s, a teen came home from soccer practice at Gunn High School, grabbed some chips and salsa, and settled down in front of the TV to watch the talk show "Donahue." On the show that day, a primarily white audience jeered at young Black civil rights activists as they shouted above the noise to make their point about the upsetting realities of systemic racism in America at the time.

One of those activists was Rev. Al Sharpton. The teen watching the show was Josh Alexander, who grew up to become a documentary filmmaker.

Alexander is a Gunn High School alumnus. He recently wrote and directed "Loudmouth," a biographical documentary on Sharpton's career, focused on fighting against racial injustice, particularly in New York in the 1980s and 1990s. Through archival footage, and a detailed interview with Sharpton in the present day, the film recounts tragic stories of victims of racial violence, from Michael Griffith in 1986 to George Floyd in 2020, and several in between and since.

"Loudmouth" is a documentary, not just about an individual but also about an ecosystem, comprising the criminal justice system, the political system, the media and the people who consume it.

"It's a 'system story,'" Alexander said.

Looking back, he said he finds the narrative of race from that period in history "shocking," not least for the media's portrayal of passionate social justice activists as "grotesque caricatures and clowns."

"Loudmouth" was the closing film at the 2022 Tribeca Film Festival and was released on Showtime in 2023. It is also available on Apple TV and several other streaming platforms. The



Courtesy Loudmouth film

Rev. Al Sharpton is the subject of the documentary "Loudmouth." Sharpton participated in the making of the film.

film's executive producer is musician John Legend.

The idea to make the film struck Alexander in the summer of 2018. Sharpton signed on the following year. From inspiration to fruition, the process took five years. This sort of slow burn is typical of nonfiction storytelling, a genre Alexander was drawn to because of his experience with dyslexia as a child.

"I really struggled to learn to read," he said. "Rote learning specifically was very difficult for me."

The academically competitive environment in Palo Alto didn't help matters. Empathetic and skilled teachers, however, did. Diane Spicer, his tutor through childhood, helped him brave this challenge by giving him mental tools that he continued to use as an adult. "She taught me how to retain details through storytelling," he said. "It's all about the piecing together of narratives."

During the making of "Loudmouth," being confronted with editing through 1,200 hours of video footage, took Alexander back in time. "In some ways, it throws me right back to the

trauma and edge of my childhood dyslexia, because I can't see the story in it," he said. "It's only through constant re-engagement with that archival material, interviews, piecing together of themes, that I started to put the story together and retain all the details."

Alexander's appetite for nonfiction has a lot to do with the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2001. He was in Brooklyn then and saw the second plane fly over the Statue of Liberty and then through the building. "Pieces of paper from the World Trade Center were falling onto our rooftop, across the East River," he said.

In the months that followed, spurred by an urgent need to seek out the "larger context" to what had happened, he became obsessed with reading nonfiction, the lifeblood of documentary filmmaking.

A theater major at Vassar College in New York, Alexander worked as an actor across Broadway, plays, TV and film, before pivoting to writing and directing. His oeuvre comprises both fiction and nonfiction movies.

"Loudmouth" is not his first film about race, though. In 2015, Alexander wrote and produced "Southern Rites," a documentary about racial segregation and crime in Georgia.

Alexander, who is white, was cognizant of the reality of race from a very young age, due in no small measure to the "social justice orientation" in his family, "which felt like an inheritance."

Alexander was raised by professors. His mother, who taught psychology at University of California at Berkeley, worked to do away with the system of tracking students by perceived academic abilities in an East Bay public school district. His father taught psychiatry at Stanford



Courtesy Ali LeRoi

Filmmaker Josh Alexander, who is a Gunn High School alum, directed the documentary "Loudmouth."

University and spent the last part of his career advocating public health and human rights at UC Berkeley. His twin brother, who teaches political science at Stanford, wrote about the economics of rebellion in Africa during his time studying at Harvard University.

Moreover, after Alexander moved to New York City, he became more acutely aware of disparate social realities. "I started to feel very present to difference and segregation by neighborhood and wealth inequality," he said. "It opened me up to look at race more critically."

What draws him to the subject of race? "I grew up in America. As Rev. Sharpton says, 'All Black people are born into race.' So are white people," he said. "It's the caste system in this country."

"As someone who has benefited from the privileges, structures and entitlements that come with being white in this country, with some complexity because I'm Jewish, I felt like it was my responsibility to be the one asking the questions, and not always requiring Black storytellers or brown storytellers to talk about race," he said.

Working closely with Sharpton was quite the experience for Alexander. "One of the things most shocking to me as I started following him and interviewing him and working with him, is how quiet he is," he said. "His loudness was a choice ... he is measured, thoughtful and calm."

In a recent episode of "The Late Show" with Stephen Colbert, Sharpton said he did not have any editorial control in the process of making the film. Was that precondition upheld?

"He totally honored it," said Alexander, adding, however, "That does not mean there was not friction."

The first time Sharpton saw the film he was understandably skeptical. "I think it was quite hard for him," Alexander said. "He was very uncomfortable."

"It was bringing back a part of his life where he was most righteously angry, and there's language in there that's scary for people to have to confront."

In projects like these, the relationship between director and subject is complex and difficult. The trip Alexander and his team took to Minneapolis to film Sharpton's public eulogy for George Floyd, did a lot to cement their mutual trust, Alexander said.

The team also consulted journalist Logan Hill on the interview questions for Sharpton. ■

Email Contributing Writer
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ashwinigangal@gmail.com.

"Loudmouth" is available to watch for rent on Apple TV, Vudu or Amazon Prime or by subscription to Showtime, Paramount Plus or Amazon Prime. For more information, visit greenwichtertainment.com.

Dynamic duos

Meet the couples behind 3 vibrant Peninsula businesses

BY KARLA KANE

With Valentine's Day just passed, we're catching up with couples running three local businesses: Timothy Adams Chocolates in Palo Alto, Nudie Records in Half Moon Bay and Groovy Goose Coffee in San Carlos. Read on for their insights into being successful partners at work and home — as well as a few of their sweetest eating, drinking and listening recommendations.

The sweet life

Timothy Woods and Adams Holland of Timothy Adams Chocolates

Since 2014, Timothy Adams Chocolates in downtown Palo Alto has been a dream destination for chocoholics, offering delectable handmade morsels in a variety of rich and interesting flavors that are as pleasing to look at as they are to eat, with an emphasis on high-quality ingredients, carefully developed recipes and eye-catching designs. It also hosts chocolate-making workshops on-site. The couple behind the shop, Timothy Woods and Adams Holland, said they've put their hearts and souls into the business.

"It's a complete lifestyle for us; the business overlaps into every area of our lives," Woods said. "It takes every bit of our being."

After 33 years together, they're secure in their partnership and how to make the relationship flourish both at work and home. At the shop, Woods teaches all the classes, handles product development and quality control, develops the recipes and works in the kitchen and behind the counter.

Holland, meanwhile, oversees the general running of the operation, including making sure everything's been ordered, managing inventory and packaging, and developing strategies with marketing groups and designers. Basically, "whatever he doesn't do, I do," Holland said.

When it comes to their products they have their own personal favorites, with Holland partial to caramels and Woods favoring the fruit flavors. There's "influence of both of us heavily in that candy case," Woods said.



Devin Roberts

Adams Holland (left) and Timothy Woods of Timothy Adams Chocolates in Palo Alto.

Their effective division of labor carries over to their North Bay home, too (Woods handles the cooking and Holland the decorating, for example.)

"All relationships are give and take. We both have really strong personalities," Woods said. "We're both used to being managers and bossy, and we've arranged it so we're not bossing each other around."

It was a crush at first sight for Holland years ago, when he first saw Woods walking down the street while reading a book.

"He looked completely geeky but pretty cute," Holland recalled fondly. "For some reason he caught my eye." Eventually they connected at the restaurant where Woods was working and, happily, it turned out Holland had caught his eye as well.

The two share a passion for fashion, art and design in addition to cuisine, and while they love traveling together (Woods is in charge of the itineraries), their

dedication to chocolate is always at the forefront of all they do. About a year and a half ago they spent several days touring "all the chocolate shops, basically, in Paris," Woods said, adding that they visited around 36 within three days.

"Here in Palo Alto we have a clientele that travels heavily and they're always coming in and telling us, 'Have you gone to this? Have you gone to that?'" he said. To bring back their Paris goodies, Holland noted, they had to buy "two extra pieces of luggage just to get all the chocolates home."

A little treat from Timothy Adams to give a sweetheart:

Woods recommends a box of six chocolates. "It is the cutest thing in the world," he said. "It's just the sweetest little box."

Timothy Adams Chocolates, 539 Bryant St., Palo Alto; 415-755-8923, Instagram: @timothyadamsschocolates.



Devin Roberts

Luke and Elise Gasper own Nudie Records in Half Moon Bay,

A sound collaboration

Elise and Luke Gasper of Nudie Records

Nudie Records was founded out of Elise and Luke Gasper's Half Moon Bay home in 2020 and has taken off since then, championing indie artists, spanning genres including psychedelic, honky tonk and rock 'n' roll, and releasing more than 20 albums (with 11 released in 2023 alone).

"We spent a couple years saying yes to everything," Elise said.

The couple also had their second child since starting up the label.

"Having children is a creative project," Elise noted. "You sort of become partners in a new way when you have kids; you have to strategize, deal with logistics. There's a lot of moving parts."

They've found that running the label gives them a welcome creative outlet as a couple apart from their busy identities as parents.

"It has been really amazing for us," Elise said, recalling brainstorming for Nudie Records late at night while the kids were in bed and a hectic recent weekday morning scrambling to get children up, fed, dressed and out the door while also preparing social media posts to get the word out on their latest record.

Working on the label has required them to up their communication game in their relationship, allowing for productive debate and respect for their occasionally differing perspectives.

"We've had to learn how to spar from the creative side rather than the marriage side," Elise said. They also play to each other's strengths, each spearheading different release projects and working closely with their artists. Luke tends to handle much of the art and design while Elise has a knack for writing copy.

And in recent years, they've done "a lot to introduce ourselves to the Coastside," Luke said, appearing at pop-up events and DJing for pretty much "any business that asks me to."

Three years in, they're still figuring things out and starting to put more processes and organization in place. "Ooh, spreadsheets!" Elise joked, "instead of the back of one of our kid's drawing pads."

It was music that brought the Gaspers, who've been together for a decade, together in the first place. They first met in Wisconsin, when a mutual friend invited Elise to check out a gig by a band Luke was playing in at the time — Disembodied Monks ("We'd all wear monk robes," he said.) The two hit it off and, after a few months of dating, ended up back in Elise's Coastside hometown.

Their next release, psych-folk singer Kailey Rocker's debut album, was released on Valentine's Day. "We're all about romance here at Nudie Records," Elise said with a laugh.

As a mom-and-pop operation, they said their family feel extends to their roster of musicians. "Sometimes you're, like, passing them back and forth; sometimes nobody wants mama for a while," Elise said of working with each artist. "I think they trust us implicitly because we're married. We are so invested together. I think that makes people feel really good."

Some favorite Nudie Records songs about love:

Luke recommends "A Man in Love" by Mad Max Elliott and "Canvas" by Underground River.

Nudie Records, Instagram: @nudie.records.



Devin Roberts

Nathan and Siera Conte, founders of Groovy Goose Coffee in San Carlos, above, with a “Don’t Worry Be Happy” mug of coffee, below.

A good groove

Nathan and Siera Conte of Groovy Goose Coffee

Downtown San Carlos’ Groovy Goose Coffee just opened this past August, the dream of java-loving spouses Nathan and Siera Conte.

“Nathan and I, through our dating relationship and our marriage, we were always meeting for coffee, always going to coffee shops,” Siera said. They loved the cozy ritual, and the “intentionality of going to get a cup of coffee together.”

With beans roasted on-site, their vision for Groovy Goose is to offer a welcoming gathering place with great coffee and other tasty beverages and bites, designed with their friendly, whimsical vibe (think disco balls, appealing colors and a goose-with-sunglasses logo).

“We just wanted to be authentic and real with people; a safe place for everybody, no matter where you come from, to be a part of the community and enjoy,” Nathan said.

Siera handles most of the front-of-house aspects — training the barista staff, helping the social media and aesthetics, for example — while Nathan concentrates more on the coffee roasting and back-of-house tasks such as payroll.

“The most important thing in any relationship, but especially in a relationship when you’re working together, is trusting each other,” Nathan said. “We try and designate roles for each other and trust each other in those roles.”

With two very young children at home plus running a very new business, pressure is high and free time is scarce, but they’re managing to find ways to try and step back when necessary.

“We have a code word that we’ll sometimes use to say, ‘Hey, I’m done talking about Groovy Goose right now!’” Siera said.

They make an effort to stay connected and find time for things like dates and flowers to



keep romance alive, even if it’s not always the top priority when things at work require immediate attention. Nov. 2, for instance, was a typically busy day at the cafe, with meetings to attend and tasks to be managed.

“It wasn’t until well into the morning that Nathan’s mom said, ‘Isn’t it your guys’ anniversary?’” Siera said, laughing. Both spouses had completely forgotten. Luckily, they also share a sense of humor about it.

They’ve been married for four years now and first met at a Christian gap-year program. They credit their faith as a major part of how their relationship survives and thrives despite the stresses that come along with starting a business and early parenthood.

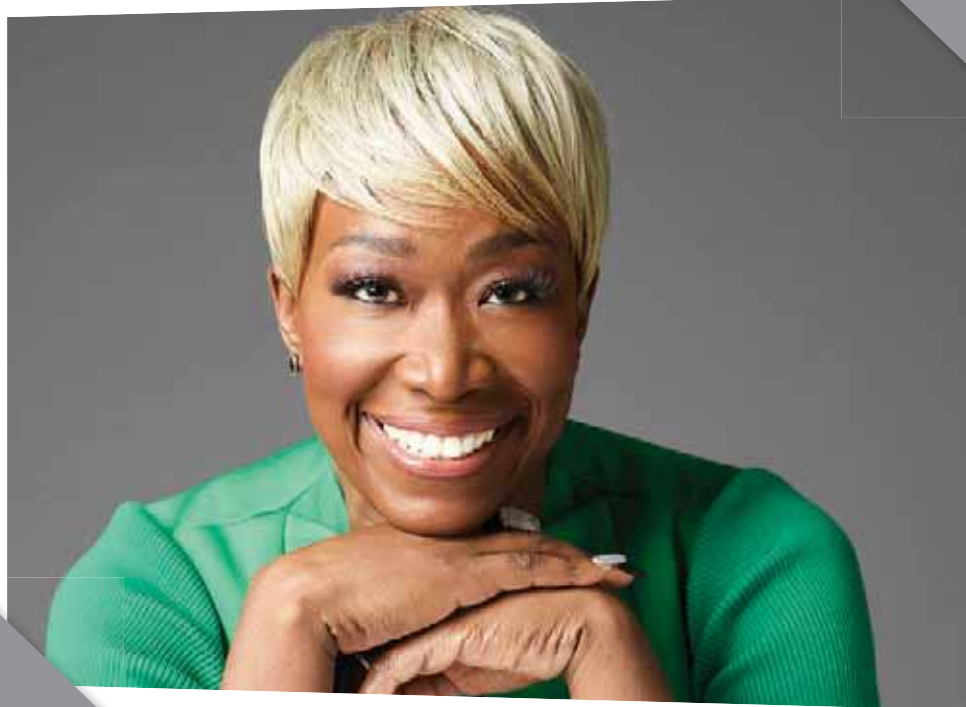
“What we’ve learned through this is, grace is important,” Nathan said. They’re thankful for their families, who’ve stepped up to provide child care, and said they’re both committed to the little things that can add up, like making each other a soothing cup of tea to unwind after a hard day. They take heart “just knowing that at the end of the day we’re just going to support each other,” he said.

What to order on a cozy date at Groovy Goose: Siera and Nathan say they’d split an oat milk cappuccino and a fresh baked, warm chocolate croissant.

Groovy Goose Coffee,
1221 San Carlos Ave., San Carlos;
650-486-0522, Instagram:
@groovygoosecoffee. ■

Email Assistant Lifestyle Editor
Karla Kane at almanacnews.com

Worth a Look



Courtesy Keith Major Photography Inc.

Author and MSNBC host Joy-Ann Reid shares her latest book, “Medgar and Myrlie: Medgar Evers and the Love Story That Awakened America,” Feb. 16 at Kepler’s Books.

Joy-Ann Reid

Joy-Ann Reid, journalist, author (“The Man Who Sold America: Trump and the Unraveling of the American Story,” “Fracture: Barack Obama, the Clintons, and the Racial Divide”) and host of MSNBC’s “The ReidOut,” will come to Kepler’s to discuss her newest book, “Medgar and Myrlie: Medgar Evers and the Love Story That Awakened America.” It chronicles the stories of civil rights icons Medgar and Myrlie Evers, both in terms of their legacy in American history (including Medgar Evers’ 1963 assassination) as well as their relationship. Reid will be in conversation with Angie Coiro as part of Kepler’s “This Is Now” cultural and political series. Kepler’s hosts this event both in person and virtually.

Feb. 16, 7 p.m., Kepler’s Books 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, \$20-\$52 (tickets are for virtual event; in-person tickets have a waiting list), keplers.org.

Güliz Ayla

Turkish singer-songwriter Güliz Ayla, whose 2015 single “Olmazsan Olmaz” became the most searched-via-Shazam song in Turkey, comes to Redwood City to perform at Club Fox. According to the club’s event listing, Ayla, known for her soulful singing and strong stage presence, “has left an indelible mark on the Turkish music scene, blending traditional elements with contemporary sounds.”

Feb. 16, 8:30 p.m., Club Fox, 2209 Broadway St., Redwood City, \$40-\$60, clubfoxrwc.com.

TEDx Palo Alto

“AI and Human Potential” is the theme of the next TEDx Palo Alto event, held at the Guild Theatre (which, technically, is not in Palo Alto but close enough). Resiliency expert Adam Dorsay is the emcee for a lineup that includes computer scientist Scott Aaronson, Canva’s Guy Kawasaki, former Stanford University admissions officer and author Irena Smith, musicologist Judith Finell, attorney Andy Gass, Swedish jazz musician

Gunhild Carling, musical quartet Le Jazz Hot, AI policy expert Vilas Dhar, startup advisor Oded Gal, computer scientist Maja Matarić, human-robot interaction specialist Leila Takayama and CEO Mike Dougherty.

Feb. 18, 9 a.m., Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, \$75, guildtheatre.com.

Natalie Mata and Tatiana

Musicians Natalie Mata and Tatiana — described as “indie acoustic” and “folk ethereal,” respectively, will be the featured artists at the next 2nd Story performance hosted by Red Rock Coffee. Mata released her debut original single and music video, “rerun,” last year. The new 2nd Story series aims to offer independent singer-songwriters and small bands from across many genres the chance to perform locally. All proceeds go to the artists.

Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m., Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View, suggested donation \$10, redrockcoffee.com/2nd-story.

Food & Drink

NEW EATS

Where to find ube lava pancakes, avocado shakes and 'Rated R' sandwiches in northern San Mateo County

Contributed photos

Some recent eatery openings in northern San Mateo County include The Boys' Deli in San Bruno (top left), Kusina 7107 in Montara (bottom left and middle), Viet Time in San Bruno (top right) and Golden Sol in Pacifica (bottom right).

By Edwina Dueñas

Looking for your next dining destination in San Mateo County? From made-to-order bodega-style breakfast sandwiches in Half Moon Bay to revitalizing smoothies and nonalcoholic craft beverages in Pacifica or rich and flavorful bún hu-sø Vietnamese noodle soups in San Bruno, these recently opened restaurants on the upper Peninsula have something for everyone. Check out our roundup of five noteworthy spots to visit next.

Kusina 7107 - Montara

Open since November, Kusina 7107 is an oceanside eatery along Main Street in Montara offering Filipino and traditional American comfort food, all-day breakfast, fresh-baked pastries, espresso drinks and more. Named for the 7,100+ islands of the Philippines and kusina, meaning "kitchen" in Tagalog, the restaurant is a dream come true for chef-owner Jocelyn Madamba, who previously worked in catering.

When the restaurant space next to Ocean View Inn opened up, Madamba knew she found the perfect "beach cafe location" to serve home-style cooking with her own touch. Popular dishes include adobo loco moco, beef tapa, ube lava pancakes and freshly baked empanadas for those wanting

a grab-and-go option. Madamba also whips up seasonal creations for guests to enjoy, such as coconut-topped bibingka pancakes served in a banana leaf. Kusina 7107 offers dinner on Fridays and Saturdays, with plans to expand service over time.

Kusina 7107, 1400 Main St., Montara; 650-563-4960, Instagram: @kusina7107. Open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Viet Time - San Bruno

Located in San Bruno Towne Center, Viet Time has been serving up flavorful Vietnamese pho, sandwiches and rice plates in a fast-casual setting since November. Owned by Bay Area natives Victor Lui and Nelson Kwong, the pair was familiar with the shopping plaza and took the opportunity to open the eatery when the space became available. Since opening, business has been "hectic, but going well," said Kwong, who manages restaurant operations.

Lui previously trained with traditional Vietnamese chefs for four years and developed the broth recipes used in their pho and bún hu-sø noodle soups. Other popular dishes include the lemongrass pork chop, bun rieu, fried egg rolls and their \$12 banh mi sandwich and drink combo deal. Beverages include homemade Vietnamese

iced coffee, three color drink (commonly layered with pandan jelly, yellow mung beans and red kidney beans), fresh avocado shakes and milk tea.

Viet Time, 1212 El Camino Real Suite F, San Bruno. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Turtle Island - Princeton-by-the-Sea & Half Moon Bay

Bodega-style sandwiches by the sea? Look no further than Turtle Island, a new mobile kitchen that chef-owner Jimmy Foti opened Jan. 11. A native of Long Island, New York, the eatery was born out of Foti's dream to bring the spirit of East Coast sandwich shops and delis to the Bay Area. With family ties in Half Moon Bay, Foti decided to open Turtle Island in the area to be part of people's daily routines thanks to its laid-back community feel. Diners will find the bright orange mobile kitchen by Dawn Patrol Coffee in Half Moon Bay. Turtle Island has also popped up at Blue Ocean Brewing in Princeton-by-the-Sea.

The current menu offers four breakfast sandwiches layered with egg, cheese and a special sauce: bacon, latke, mortadella and peppers. Turtle Island will also pop up at Bay Area breweries and farmers markets with a lunch- and dinner-focused menu. The diversity of the region has also influenced Foti, who plans to incorporate cross-cultural ingredients on the menu. In fact, Turtle Island's name pays homage to the Indigenous peoples who inhabited North America and is emblematic of Foti's belief that "American food is not one thing, but a unique amalgam of many."

Turtle Island, 155 Broadway, Half Moon Bay, Instagram: @turtleislandsando. Open 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday through Saturday.

The Boys' Deli - San Bruno

Owners Fady Abedalnoun and Nick Dabit opened their second The Boys' Deli location on Feb. 1. Peninsula locals can now get a taste of the hefty sandwiches offered at their Polk Street deli in San Francisco. The Boys' Deli takes over the former Mr. Pickles Sandwich Shop.

The new location offers the same nearly 40 specialty toasted sandwiches using Boar's Head deli meats and cheeses. Diners can opt for sandwiches like the popular "San Franpsycho" (honey turkey, smoked Gouda cheese, bacon, pesto, garlic spread and remoulade), go the spicy route with the "Rated R" (fiery chipotle chicken, habanero Jack cheese and remoulade) or try a Thanksgiving-inspired sandwich in the "Gobbler" (Ovengold turkey, cranberry sauce and mozzarella), to name a few. Homemade side dishes like red skin potato salad, coleslaw and sweet macaroni salad are also available by the pint.

The Boys' Deli, 428 San Bruno Ave. W, San Bruno; 415-776-3099. Open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Golden Sol - Pacifica

Golden Sol is a family-owned wellness cafe and nonalcoholic bar in Pacifica that held its grand opening Feb. 4. Jointly owned by Becca Guzzetta and her daughters Krizia Ferreria-Arteche, Sasha Arteche and Raquel Payne, Golden Sol is designed around Blue Zones — communities around the globe noted for longevity and vitality among residents. Through their healthy food and drink options, Golden Sol aims to "provide a place to come meet like-minded people and build connections that will last a lifetime," said Ferreria-Arteche.

Offerings include coffee and espresso drinks, acai bowls, soups, salads and a variety of diverse bites and drinks. The recipes emphasize functional ingredients that carry numerous health benefits, such as blue majik spirulina extract, maca powder and MCT oil used in their wellness lattes. During evening lounge hours, guests can also enjoy nonalcoholic elixirs and kava beverages, which provide drinkers with a natural mood boost and sense of relaxation.

Golden Sol, 1905 Palmetto Ave., Pacifica, Instagram: @goldensol.pacifica. Open Tuesday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. ■

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Courtesy Turtle Island

Turtle Island, a mobile kitchen that opened Jan. 11, offers breakfast sandwiches, including this latke, egg and cheese sandwich.

LeVant Dessert

Menlo Park resident opens Middle Eastern bakery featuring her grandmother's recipes

By Adrienne Mitchel

Over a decade ago, Menlo Park resident Maya Fezzani would take her kids to a frozen yogurt shop in the middle of Santa Cruz Avenue. Now that frozen yogurt shop is her own Middle Eastern bakery, LeVant Dessert.

"The kids are much older now," she said. "But when they walked in, they were like, 'This is really weird,' and I was like, 'Yeah, I never thought it would be mine one day.'"

LeVant Dessert is a cafe offering Middle Eastern desserts made from Fezzani's grandmother's recipes, as well as all-vegetarian savory options and a selection of coffees and teas. The Menlo Park bakery soft opened Jan. 15 and will have its grand opening Feb. 17, with live music courtesy of Fezzani's friends. Previously, LeVant Dessert operated through Sultana Mediterranean in Menlo Park and Oasis Baklava in Sunnyvale, which Fezzani acquired in the summer of 2020.

Now LeVant Dessert has a home of its own.

"We opened on a Monday, and that Sunday I was so anxious, and people were saying, 'Why? You've always been out there,'" she recalled. "I was like, 'Not quite. It's not the same. I'm in downtown right now. I have my doors open for anyone to walk in.'"

LeVant Dessert's menu is continuing to expand up until the grand opening, when all menu items will be available in store. Currently, you'll find sweets like orange blossom pudding, take-and-bake knafeh, petit fours, boozza (Middle Eastern ice cream), baklava and more. Savory options include fatayer (a Levantine hand pie that can be stuffed with a variety of ingredients, like spinach or cheese) and Middle Eastern sandwiches, and by the grand opening, LeVant Dessert will offer dip trays and snack platters, said Fezzani. The business is in the process of getting a cappuccino machine, which will allow the cafe to expand its drinks menu, currently consisting of Levant coffee



Magali Gauthier

Maya Fezzani recently opened a Middle Eastern bakery and cafe in downtown Menlo Park.

(a Turkish-style coffee), lattes and French press.

Fezzani hopes her cafe can be a go-to neighborhood hangout spot and plans to work with the city to expand operating hours until midnight during Ramadan.

"In Ramadan, we break our fast around sunset and we get all our energy back, and we want to socialize, but there's nowhere to go," she said.

And while Fezzani now owns two Bay Area bakeries, it may come as a surprise that she has no formal pastry training.

"It's really not planned. It's just the way it happened," she said. "I was just a stay-at-home mom with the kids and loved it, and

then when the kids grew up, I started exploring with baking and enjoyed it."

Fezzani moved to Menlo Park in 2008 for her husband's job (they had previously been in Hong Kong and London.) She quickly realized there were no places nearby to purchase Middle Eastern desserts, so she asked her grandma for her recipes and began making them for dinner parties.

"I'd take some desserts with me, and people would say, 'You should open a bakery,' and I'm like, 'No, me?'" Fezzani said. "And then it suddenly clicked in 2017 where I thought, 'Actually...'"

At first, Fezzani wasn't too sure about the idea of starting a Middle Eastern bakery because typically, Middle Eastern desserts are served family-style, like large trays of baklava or big bowls of pudding, she said. Fezzani worried that customers unfamiliar with these desserts wouldn't want to order large quantities without knowing what it tastes like. So she took her grandmother's recipes and made the portions smaller and presentations more aesthetic.

She began catering Middle Eastern dessert bars with smaller versions of the treats she knew from her childhood, and the concept was well-received by many communities, she said.

Then in February 2020, she

leased commercial kitchen space within Menlo Park restaurant Sultana Mediterranean to expand LeVant Dessert. But only two weeks after opening, on March 15, 2020, the pandemic shut her business down. Come summertime, Fezzani acquired Oasis Baklava, a baklava bakery in Sunnyvale founded in 1977. She was determined to continue LeVant Dessert, so she fulfilled orders through Oasis's kitchen while continuing to run Oasis operations.

"Ever since I started LeVant, this was the dream, to open a cafe," Fezzani said.

Fezzani is most proud that her pastries are fresh and from scratch.

"A lot of people ask the question, 'Where do you import it? Who provides your desserts?' and I always find that offensive," she said with a laugh. "I make everything from scratch. It's all my hard work." ■

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LeVant Dessert,
842 Santa Cruz Ave.,
Menlo Park; 650-402-2525,
Instagram: @levantdessert.
Open Tuesday through Thursday,
10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday through
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and
Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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