

The Almanac

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In Atherton, a house becomes a fire department training ground

By Abigail Van Neely

As their truck pulled around the corner to 2 Lowery Drive, firefighters listened to their acting captain describe the Atherton property: Single story home. Five bedrooms. Confirmed fire. Occupants still possibly in the house.

The firefighters were told to pretend it was the middle of the night, even though it was a drizzly Friday morning. Other than that, they weren't supposed to do much planning ahead of time. Opportunities to train in actual houses are rare, and the simulation was supposed to be as realistic as possible.

This training was made possible when the owners of 2 Lowery Drive donated their property to the Menlo Park Fire Department and Atherton Police Department at the beginning of the year. It will be available until the end of February,

when the owners plan to demolish the house, split the lot, and rebuild multiple homes. Thanks to a 2022 state housing law, Senate Bill 9, this is now an option in a neighborhood with high property values and a growing housing shortage. 2 Lowery Drive was the first property approved by Atherton to be split.

"Our decision to offer the property for the first responders was deeply meaningful to me. It represents our commitment to the community, and it's also the first step in a larger plan where we will split the lot to address the housing shortage," property owner Mircea Voskerician said on behalf of himself and his partner Stephanie Ye in a written statement. According to a February staff presentation, SB 9 could result in about five new housing units per year in town.

The donation of the

See **TRAINING**, page 17



Magali Gauthier

A Menlo Park Fire Protection District firefighter hands off a dummy to a colleague to be placed inside the home at 2 Lowery Drive in Atherton to practice a rescue drill on Feb. 2.

Menlo Park neighborhood implores action against spate of burglaries

By Neil Gonzales

A recent rash of burglaries has unsettled, upset and frustrated residents of the Sharon Heights neighborhood in Menlo Park, and they have implored the city for help.

"We are in the middle of a wave of home burglaries in Sharon Heights," resident Jacqueline Wender said in an email to The Almanac. "Home burglaries are a problem throughout the city and the entire region, but right now, Sharon Heights is getting hit really hard."

The level of worry in the neighborhood has reached a point where more than 100 residents recently gathered at a community meeting to lay their concerns in front of police and city leaders and ask for what can be done, including the possibility of employing automatic

license plate recognition (ALPR) technology despite the issue of privacy.

The affluent, lush-landscaped neighborhood with a golf and country club has experienced more than a dozen burglaries in a little over a month.

According to police, 14 break-ins occurred from Jan. 4 to Feb. 12. No arrests had been made.

One of those break-ins happened Feb. 10, the day of the community meeting attended by about 125 residents and police and city representatives, such as Cmdr. William Dixon, Mayor Cecilia Taylor and Council member Maria Doerr, in the auditorium of St. Bede's Episcopal Church on Sand Hill Road.

The Sharon Heights Community Association arranged the meeting in partnership with Doerr, who represents the neighborhood in western

Menlo Park along Interstate 280 and Sand Hill Road.

The association also wrote a letter to the council, summing up the meeting.

"None of us wants to live in an atmosphere of fear as many of us are now experiencing as to the safety of our families and homes because of the surge in break-ins," the association said in the Feb. 13 letter. "In view of the rising number of break-ins, how does our council propose to protect and serve our residents?"

The letter signed by association members Maya Sewald, Brian Kissel, Cat Carlton and Derek Marsano raised the idea for the council to pursue ALPR as a tool to help combat crime.

Other nearby jurisdictions such as Atherton and Woodside have already installed the camera system that identifies vehicles of possible suspects in crimes.

In September, the Menlo Park council studied tech company Flock Safety's ALPR system with gunshot-detection capability but held off moving in that direction, citing privacy, cost and other issues.

However, the association said in the letter, "prioritizing safety and security over privacy seems to be an obvious choice" given the recent burglaries and other crimes.

The association urged the council to ensure the neighborhood's safety by keeping police fully funded, which it said could lead to deploying crime-fighting tech such as ALPR, hiring additional officers for patrols, establishing community-watch programs or exploring other initiatives.

The association acknowledged that Menlo Park needs to balance resources across numerous

objectives but argued that residents' safety and protection of their property should be near if not the top of the city's priorities.

"We encourage the council to move quickly to determine and implement the most cost-effective solutions to address the increased crime in our community," the association said. "We don't want Menlo Park to become an easy target for home break-ins and other crime among cities on the Peninsula."

Doerr told this publication that the city is responding to the residents' concerns.

"I'm very concerned about the break-ins in our community," she said. "The police are doing their best to investigate these occurrences and doing extra patrols."

ALPR remains on the table, she added.

See **BURGLARIES**, page 16

INSIDE

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Local News

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Abigail Van Neely

Peninsula Clean Energy CEO Shawn Marshall outside of her office in January.

Peninsula Clean Energy's new CEO is committed to reducing carbon emissions and energy prices

By Abigail Van Neely

Throughout her career, Shawn Marshall says she has tried to make sure her work reflects her personal values. Now, as the new CEO of Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) she hopes to continue centering people while providing more affordable energy options.

Marshall stepped into the position last July after previously serving as PCE's chief operating officer. She succeeds Jan Pepper, who led the agency since its inception in 2016.

As a nonprofit community choice aggregation agency, CAA, PCE procures electricity on behalf of its customers. It aims to put energy on the grid that is cleaner, greener, and more affordable. PCE is the official electricity provider for San Mateo County and the city of Los Banos.

Moving into her new role felt like a full circle moment for Marshall. "I understand this agency from the kernel of the idea all the way through: to its name, to its legal founding, to its core mission and strategic plan," she said.

As a '70s kid, Marshall's childhood dream was to become a singer, or maybe an actress. But, over time, she became more aware of the growing climate crisis. After college, Marshall got involved with local climate action organizations advocating for land conservation, open space, and clean air. In the late '90s, she spent six months traveling through Asia, Africa and the Middle East, an experience she said showed her firsthand the impact of climate change

See **CEO**, page 9

Menlo Park proposes revised aquatics fees, giving big discount to Belle Haven

By Neil Gonzales

Menlo Park has proposed revising aquatics fees that would give Belle Haven residents a deep discount to use the pool in the new neighborhood center underway there.

During its regular meeting Feb. 13, the City Council, in a 3-2 vote, moved to proceed with the proposal to revamp fees for various activities and services at the pool complex at Burgess Park and the one being built as part of the Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) under construction at 100 Terminal Ave. Vice Mayor Drew Combs and Councilmember Jen Wolosin dissented.

The council is expected Feb. 27 to consider final approval of the new fees, which would then become effective on April 1.

"The vast majority of resident fees do not increase with the new proposed fees," Sean Reinhart, the city's library and community services director, said during the meeting. "In fact, there is a very substantial reduction proposed in resident fees, specifically for residents who qualify for the hyperlocal rate."

The hyperlocal rate would be a reduced charge applying to those residing or going to school within the BHCC service area, which would extend from Bay Road to San Francisco Bay and encompass

all of council District 1 and portions of District 2 near the pedestrian and bicycle overcrossing of Highway 101 at Ringwood Avenue.

For the most part, according to a city staff report, those within this area would see fees lowered by up to 35%.

They would be charged, for instance, \$42 for monthly lap and open swim compared to the current \$65, according to the report. Other residents and non-residents would pay the same as they do now for that activity — \$65 and \$72, respectively.

The discount for those in the BHCC area "would result in overall lower revenues at Belle Haven Pool," Reinhart said, "but it's hoped that the increased usage of the facility will offset the revenue lost to some degree."

The idea behind the hyperlocal rate is to prioritize access and use of the new community center by those in that service area "in recognition of historic inequity and generational harm caused by redlining, freeway construction and property loss, and other discriminatory practices of the past that uniquely affected the neighborhoods in the vicinity of BHCC," the staff report said.

BHCC is targeted for a summer opening with the Belle Haven Pool expected to be ready later in the year.

See **AQUATICS FEES**, page 10

Menlo Park business updates: Le Boulanger closed, Ace Hardware expanding, new wine bar coming

By Fan Chen and Angela Swartz

Downtown Menlo Park continues to see businesses come and go.

Le Boulanger vacated its storefront at 720 Santa Cruz Ave. on Nov. 23, according to a sign posted on the business' front door. The space is being gutted to make way for a wine bar, Somm Cellars, according to the

alcohol license posted on the storefront's window.

"Thank you for your support and business over the years and we will miss all of our loyal customers," the note reads. "This is not a decision that we made lightly and we are sorry that we couldn't stick around longer. We hope to see you at one of our other locations and that this is not a goodbye!"

In 2020, the main offices of this family-owned chain moved to Fresno, after its headquarters property, brand and business were purchased.

Its locations in Los Altos, San Jose and Mountain View are still open, according to the business' website. Its San Mateo location closed in 2019 after 25 years in business, according to a note from the owners at the time.

Menlo Clock Works, the watch and clock repair shop permanently closed on Nov. 25, after four decades in operation.

"After 42 years of serving our wonderful community, we are sad to say goodbye," the website announcement reads.

According to this news organization's reporting, the owners plan to keep the shop building at 961 El Camino Real and lease it

to a restaurant.

Both owners did not respond to this news organization's requests for comments.

Openings, expansions

The Flegel's Design at 1010 El Camino Real, Suite 90, expected to close at the end of 2023 but did not shutter after all. Owner

See **BUSINESS UPDATES**, page 8

Affordable housing complex coming to East Palo Alto

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On Feb. 2, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors President Warren Slocum, past and present local dignitaries financing agencies, and East Palo Alto community members celebrated the groundbreaking of Colibri Commons at 965 Weeks St. in East Palo Alto. The affordable housing complex will have 136 new apartments and is expected to be completed in summer 2025, according to a press release from the county Executive's Office.

As a response to the need for affordable housing in San Mateo County, this apartment complex will offer housing to people earning between 30% to 60% of the area's median income, which is about \$39,000 for a one-person household and about \$147,180 depending on family size.

The development is led by local nonprofit housing developers, EPACANDO and MidPen Housing and funded by private, local, state and federal sources. The budget includes a \$13 million loan from the county's Measure K sales tax and \$10 million secured by the county's



Left: San Mateo County Supervisor Warren Slocum speaks at the Calibri Commons groundbreaking in February. Right: A rendering of Colibri Commons shows an outdoor space for play and socializing.



Images courtesy County of San Mateo

Department of Housing.

"Colibri Commons represents our best work — but our work is far from done," said Slocum in a statement. "Let's build on these strong partnerships and creative financing strategies to create many more affordable housing opportunities for people in communities across San Mateo County."

With 136 units in total, the variety in floor plans will include units ranging from studios up to

four-bedroom apartments. The site is estimated to be 2.6 acres, the size of two football fields and will provide tenants with 222 parking spaces.

Colibri Commons will also be a hub for resources, offering tenants after school and summer programs for youth, exercise and nutrition classes, along with case management and employment services.

This project is the success

because of a decade-long plan of financing by dozens of people, according to officials.

Tenant applications are not being accepted yet, but those who are interested in learning when applications open can fill out an online form at midpen-housing.org. ■

Email Staff Writer
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Fan accused of breaking into Steph Curry's house fails to appear in court, warrant issued

By Nicholas Mazzoni

The man accused of breaking into the Atherton home of the Golden State Warriors star Steph Curry in October for an autograph failed to appear in court on Tuesday, Feb. 21, prompting prosecutors to issue a bench warrant for his arrest, according to San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

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

The nanny demanded to know what Gao was doing there and he said he wanted Curry's "signature." He left after the nanny told him to leave, according to Wagstaffe. The nanny called the police.

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

Nothing was taken from the home, Wagstaffe said.

Gao signed a trespassing citation promising to appear in court for a misdemeanor arraignment in December failing to appear in court.

Wagstaffe said that he turned himself into Atherton Police station, the police gave Gao a chance to attend his court hearing on his own recognizance.

During Tuesday's hearing, Gao again failed to appear. The court revoked his release on the citation to appear in court and a bench warrant was issued for \$2,500.

Wagstaffe said a further hearing will be scheduled once Gao is located. He faces six months in jail for trespassing. ■

Email Staff Writer Nicholas
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CRIME BRIEFS

Three burglaries reported in Atherton in the last week

Atherton police are investigating three residential burglaries that took place over the last week.

Someone broke into a home on the unit block of Almedral Avenue sometime in the past week, Atherton police reported on Feb. 16.

Police reported that someone burglarized a home on Austin Avenue on the evening of Feb. 15.

A third burglary was reported to police on Lupin Lane on Feb. 16.

The Atherton Police Department is asking residents of the streets to check your surveillance video and call to report any possible leads at 650-688-6500.

— Angela Swartz

Portola Valley: Auto burglary suspect arrested

A 39-year-old San Francisco man was arrested on Feb. 16, after deputies watched the suspect looking into unoccupied vehicles, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office said on Saturday, Feb. 17.

At approximately 11 a.m., sheriff's office deputies were patrolling the Windy Hill Open Space Preserve parking lot located in the 500 block of Portola Valley. Authorities made contact with the individual, who fit the description of a suspect involved in an auto burglary that happened in the area a few weeks before.

The man was also found to be in possession of multiple burglary tools.

The man was booked on charges of auto burglary, tampering with a vehicle and possession of burglary tools. He is currently being held at the Maguire Correctional Facility.

Anyone with any additional information is urged to contact Deputy Moreno at jmoreno@smcgov.org or 650-363-4911. Anonymous tips can also be provided via the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Anonymous Tip Line at 800-547-2700.

Editor's note: It is The Almanac's policy to withhold the names of those arrested for most crimes until the District Attorney's Office has determined that there is sufficient evidence to file charges in the case.

— Bay City News Service

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Crisis response clinicians to assist Menlo Park police on crisis calls

By Joshua Picazo

A resolution to introduce the StarVista nonprofit organization to three cities' police departments, including Menlo Park, was unanimously approved during the consent agenda portion of the Feb. 13 San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meeting.

StarVista offers mental health counseling and the organization has already worked with several other police departments in the county to collaborate with officers in working with those in need of counseling.

The board approved a pilot program in 2020 when the Community Wellness and Crisis Response Team (CWCRT) partnered with four police departments (Daly City, South San Francisco, San Mateo and Redwood City). During the pilot,

mental health clinicians served within the police departments to help provide a co-response to crisis calls that involve issues of mental health.

In the pilot program, StarVista clinicians joined in assisting officers with crisis de-escalation, early intervention, 5,150 evaluations and involuntary holds. Moreover, guidance to receiving support services was also something the clinicians provided.

Briana Fair, a crisis response clinician with the San Mateo Police Department, said she waits for a code on her radio to see when her assistance is needed. Dispatch will call her in while she does background checks to see if any history is relevant to the call.

Clinicians will only arrive on the scene once it is deemed safe and they will typically work to

de-escalate situations with clients and assess the situation for what is needed, Fair said.

"We're able to go when there is a call where a weapon is involved ... to be able to help that individual and de-escalate that situation for the best possible care of our client and our communities," said Cathy Maguire, the CWCRT program manager.

The funding will last until June 2026 and totals a little over \$2 million for three different police departments: Menlo Park, San Bruno and East Palo Alto. The entirety of the funding will come from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

Departments have long been urged by activists to combine other tools in collaboration with policing to ensure those who come in contact with



Courtesy StarVista via San Mateo Police Department

Briana Fair (left), a mental health clinician for San Mateo County's Community Wellness and Crisis Response Team, answers a call for service for a behavioral health crisis as part of the county's pilot initiative to pair clinicians and officers.

officers are treated by social workers or therapists when needed and StarVista has so far received good feedback by departments currently using their services.

The Menlo Park Police Department feels this collaborative effort with clinicians will ensure better service within the community.

"We are excited to bring the second generation of the County sponsored Community Wellness Crisis Response Team to our Menlo Park community," said Menlo Park Police Department Chief David Norris.

Norris said that MPPD watched how the program was applied in other San Mateo County cities in recent years and how they benefited from the co-response model.

Norris highlighted that

StarVista's co-response model integrates the expertise of mental health clinicians into police responses without compromising safety. He also emphasized that the partnership with Stanford University's Gardner Center, which will collect and analyze program data, will facilitate necessary adjustments and that access to follow up with clinicians will reduce repeated crisis responses.

"We wear many hats in police response, but even with our officers' having extensive crisis intervention training, we are not experts," Norris said. "All of our officers aim to do the very best for our community, and this addition will provide that edge." ■

Email Contributing Writer Joshua Picazo at joshuadpicazo@gmail.com.



Magali Gauthier

PG&E trucks parked along Ramona Road in Portola Valley on Jan. 5, 2023.

Early February storm caused most PG&E outages in nearly 30 years

By Bay City News Service

A PG&E spokesperson said on Feb. 7, that this week's storm has caused the most outages for the utility in nearly 30 years, affecting more than 1.4 million customers since Sunday, Feb. 4, throughout its service area.

Nearly 38,000 customers in the Bay Area remained without power as of 2 p.m. Wednesday, a total that rose from about 35,000 earlier in the day. The majority of the affected customers are in the South Bay, which has more than 19,000 without power, and in the North Bay, where nearly 14,000 are without

power, PG&E spokesperson Fiona Chan said.

The rise in outages coincided with another round of rain and wind that came through the region, dropping more than a half-inch of rain in parts of the Bay Area since Wednesday morning, according to the National Weather Service.

When the atmospheric river starting blowing through the region, Sunday saw the highest number of outages in a single day since the beginning of PG&E's modern period of recording outages in 1995.

Over the past handful of days, the storm has broken or toppled more than 700 PG&E power

poles and damaged hundreds of transformers, according to the utility, which has about 5,000 employees and contractors working to restore power.

The PG&E crews will have better conditions to deal with later this week. Although some showers are still possible around the Bay Area later Wednesday, dry weather is in store Thursday morning and into the weekend, according to the weather service.

A list of community resource centers set up to help affected residents and more information about PG&E's response to the storm's impacts can be found on PG&E's website. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

Is It a Condo or a PUD?



Dear Monica: I am seeing properties that are either condos or Planned Unit Developments (PUDs). What's the difference?
Pamela G.

Dear Pamela: There are many similarities between the forms of ownership of condos and PUDs and some essential differences. The main difference is that the PUD owner owns both the structure and the land. The Condo owner owns all of the inside of the unit as it is defined in the condominium plan but the area outside the unit is owned in common with others in the Homeowners Assn. (HOA). The condo owner may have an "exclusive right to use" a patio or outdoor area but owns it with others.

Both types have an HOA that maintains common areas and HOA membership is mandatory. There are several more similarities but the essential difference is defined by who owns the land.

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Bill would make computer science a high school graduation requirement

Assembly Bill 2097 would force every high school to offer computer science courses by the 2026-27 school year

By Gennady Sheyner

Every public high school in California would have to offer computer science classes as a graduation requirement under a proposed bill from Assembly member Marc Berman, D-Menlo Park.

The legislation, known as Assembly Bill 2097, will require all school districts and charter schools to offer a computer science class by the 2026-27 school year. Schools would also be

required to make computer science a requirement by the 2030-31 school year.

The legislation, which Berman announced at a Feb. 6 press conference, is his second attempt in two years to create a computer science requirement. His last bill, AB 1054, fizzled in committee last fall. Unlike the current legislation, it did not include a graduation requirement.

In introducing the new bill, Berman noted that 27 other states already require every high school to offer computer science. Five states — Arkansas, Nebraska, Nevada, South Carolina and Tennessee — require a computer science course for high school graduation, he said.

California, meanwhile, is behind 40 other states when it comes to the percentage of high schools that offer at least one computer science course, Berman said. About 45% of the state's high schools offer computer science, he said.

"This is as unacceptable as it is indefensible," Berman said. "And

frankly, it's embarrassing."

The bill, he said, is critical for equipping students with the skills they need in the modern workforce and the "digitally driven world." Too many California students, he said, are growing up in the shadows of tech companies that are creating world-changing technologies but are not given the skills they need to one day work there.

Even outside Silicon Valley, computers are an "integral part of our everyday life and are relied upon in every industry, in every corner of California," Berman said.

Sen. Josh Becker, who joined Berman at the press conference, is the principal co-author of the bill, which is also being supported by Tony Thurmond, California's state superintendent for public instruction.

Thurmond spoke in favor of ensuring that computer science is a requirement rather than an elective. This, he said, will help advance equity. Currently about 34% of schools serving high



Magali Gauthier

Junior Carter Scoville works in a computer science class at TIDE Academy in Menlo Park on Oct. 27, 2021.

proportions of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Pacific Islander students offer computer science courses, compared to 52% of schools serving a greater proportion of white and Asian students, according to Berman.

"This computer science bill is intended to create a requirement because without a requirement what we see all the time is that schools that have access to resources and means will provide access to students," Thurmond said. "It shouldn't be that the access you live in dictate if you have access to this training."

Berman acknowledged that it

might be challenging for some high schools to start offering computer science but noted that there are many "role models" that these schools can follow, both in California and across the nation.

"No one is going into this blindly, thinking we can just flip a switch and immediately every high school in California can offer computer science," Berman said. "But ... we can't afford not to. It's not fair to our students, it's not fair to their future." ■

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gsheyner@pawebly.com.

LEHUA GREENMAN



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Menlo Park Monthly Market Report
January 1, 2024 - January 31, 2024

TOP 10 SALES

1. \$6,000,000 120 Royal Oaks Court	2. \$5,350,000 20 Elmwood Place	3. \$4,990,000 145 Gloria Circle	4. \$4,975,000 739 Cambridge Avenue
5. \$4,349,000 10 Spiros Way	6. \$3,850,000 170 Felton Drive	7. \$3,600,000 1185 Woodland Avenue	8. \$3,500,000 2063 Santa Cruz Avenue
9. \$2,240,000 113 Bay Road	10. \$1,825,000 2242 Eastridge Avenue		

ACTIVE LISTING
Jan 24: 45
Dec 23: 18
↑150%

PENDING LISTING
Jan 24: 15
Dec 23: 19
↓21%

SOLD LISTING
Jan 24: 13
Dec 23: 14
↓7%

AVERAGE SALES PRICE
Jan 24: \$3,459,923
Dec 23: \$2,964,286
↑17%

AVERAGE SALES PRICE/SQ FT
Jan 24: \$1,408
Dec 23: \$1,399
↑1%

AVERAGE SOLD DAYS ON MARKET
Jan 24: 27
Dec 23: 50
↓46%

MONTHS OF INVENTORY
Jan 24: 3.50
Dec 23: 1.30
↑169%

SALE/LIST PRICE
Jan 24: 99.30%
Dec 23: 99.20%
↑0%

30 YEAR MORTGAGE RATE
Jan 24: 6.84%
Dec 23: 6.90%
↓1%

Making A Move?

Sellers Start Here:  RossettiHomeValue.com

Buyers Start here:  RossettiPropertyFinders.com

Gail Antoinette Rossetti
Founder | CEO | Broker
License #01179344

3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas Suite C Menlo Park, CA Phone: 650-854-4100

BUSINESS UPDATES

continued from page 5

Brian Flegel confirmed to The Almanac the store remains open.

"Still chugging along," he said in an email. The store, located next to Kepler's Books, has made custom-made furniture and interior design services for generations.

Clark's Menlo Park is going to take the place of the former home of Ann's Coffee Shop, according to a liquor license posted on the 772 Santa Cruz Ave. storefront.

Ann's closed in 2021 because of the impact on business during the COVID-19 pandemic and

the building's sale.

Ace Hardware, located at 700 Santa Cruz Ave, expects a massive, soft expansion located down the street in the back of where Menlo Church's musical hall used to be.

The expansion will more than double the original store space, manager Vasile Oros said.

"Our inventory count shows in excess of 60,000 items," Oros said. "We tried to jam them in a small store. Now we will be able to make them more shoppable."

The entire expansion will take about another two months to complete, Oros said. ■

Email Editor Angela Swartz at
aswartz@almanacnews.com.



Courtesy Andrea Gemmet

Clark's Menlo Park is going to take the place of the former home of Ann's Coffee Shop, according to a liquor license posted on the 772 Santa Cruz Ave. storefront. Photo taken on Feb. 8.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Irene Searles

Atherton resident Jeanette Kennedy tutors Gricelda at Costaño Elementary School in East Palo Alto through the Ravenswood Classroom Partners program.

Volunteer as a tutor with Ravenswood Classroom Partners

Ravenswood Classroom Partners is seeking volunteers to tutor elementary school students in the Ravenswood City School District in literacy, math and mentorship. Volunteers will dedicate an hour each week, working with East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park students. No prior tutoring experience is required and all training, guidance and resources will be provided.

For more information or to sign up, email Program Director Cristiana Freed at cristiana@ravenswoodclassroompartners.org.

Woodside offers new online tool: Citizen Request Tracker

The town of Woodside's new .gov website provides residents with a new tool that will allow them to report their concerns as well as track existing requests. Within these tools, community members can upload photos and detailed information for town staff to have all information needed to respond to the request. Access this tool through the town website's homepage by clicking the "Submit a Request" button or visit [woodsideca.gov/request](https://www.woodsideca.gov/request).

Short documentary films by Emmy award-winning filmmaker

The Parent Venture is hosting, "MY BODY TO LOVE: Katie's Story" on Feb. 29 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in an online event that will discuss the importance of healthy relationships. This short film was created by Emmy award-winning filmmaker, Preeti Mankar Deb to explore topics around young Californians coming into their sexuality. Mankar Deb will be joined by Ivy Chen, sexual health educator and lecturer at San Francisco State, and Katie Reeder, program manager at Health Connected.

Parents, students, educators, mental health professionals and community members are welcome to join this free online event.

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

Woodside spotlights new Director of Public Works

Yaz Emrani is the town of Woodside's new director of public works and town engineer. Over the past five years, he worked as the Director of Public Works for the city of Glendale. He carries a bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering and previously taught engineering classes at University of California at Irvine.

According to Woodside's most recent newsletter, Emrani hopes to use his experience to help the town with its goals of "improving its overall infrastructure, while maintaining its rural characteristics, and providing exceptional customer service."

Meet Red Cross responders in Woodside

Barbara Wood, retired Almanac reporter and Woodside resident, will be presenting stories and photos that she's gathered from participating in more than 35 disaster responses. As a Red Cross volunteer, she will share the personal stories of victims of natural disasters as well as the stories of volunteers who have responded to fires, hurricanes and more.

This free event will be held on March 1 at Woodside Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, from 7-8 p.m. Light refreshments will be served and early arrival is recommended to secure a seat. Reserve a spot on Woodside Arts & Culture Committee's Eventbrite page. The presentation will be available on YouTube after the event and can be viewed at tinyurl.com/WoodsideCA.

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

CEO

continued from page 5

around the world.

Marshall grew up, and continues to live, in Marin County. While serving as a n elected official in Mill Valley City council member, she got involved with California's CAA initiative. There, she helped found Marin Clean Energy, the state's first CAA, despite opposition from energy provider Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E).

"It was both a tremendously difficult and also exciting time," Marshall remembered.

To help other institutions throughout California form their own CAAs, Marshall then formed the Local Energy Aggregation Network, LEAN. The organization has helped start up 10 of the largest CAAs in the state, including PCE.

At PCE, Marshall said she wants to help people see that renewable energy can be a good choice for both the community and the planet. By 2025, the agency hopes to provide 100% renewable energy at no extra cost.

Last July, during the hottest summer on record, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that the "era of global boiling has arrived." With reports like this, it's easy to

feel powerless about the current climate crisis. But Marshall says she tries to focus on helping consumers do their part.

"I try to stay away from being totally worried all the time because we're all in a position to do what we can to make a difference," the CEO said. "One of the hallmarks of community choice is all about engaging the community and engaging the customer."

PCE organizes workshops to educate the public about what renewable energy programs are available, like an electric vehicle rebate or 0% loan to electrify one's home. Marshall praised PCE's community advisory committee for its efforts to seek feedback on these initiatives.

One of the biggest questions she receives is how clean energy can be affordable.

"The affordability issue is front and center for us right now," Marshall said. "We all experience rising energy costs, and just (the) general cost of living in this area is getting harder and harder all the time."

In response, PCE announced in January that it would freeze its rates at 2023 levels. The decision, Marshall says, will result in a 10-15% discount on electric generation charges compared to PG&E.

Still, the cost of power can be

twice as much as anticipated, Marshall added. She explained that PCE is able to keep its rates low in part because, as a nonprofit CAA, it is able to access the wholesale power market. According to Marshall, the agency devotes 90% of its budget to procuring energy that is then delivered to consumers by PG&E. Because the agency does not have to pay shareholder dividends, it can spend more on community reinvestment.

Marshall said she is aware that the consumer response to PG&E has largely been negative.

"I think there's just been a general sense of (upward) spiraling costs that are very frustrating to our shared customers," the CEO added. She hopes that PCE will give these customers another option.

In the coming year, PCE plans to continue expanding its community outreach efforts and increasing access to local renewable power sources like batteries and solar power.

Ultimately, Marshall says it feels great to be in her new position with an "amazing" team behind her. She is proud to have a career where she works toward environmental justice while being a supportive mother to her two boys. ■

Email Editorial Intern Abigail Neely at almanacnews.com.

TOWN OF WOODSIDE 2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062 PLANNING COMMISSION MARCH 6, 2024, 6:00 PM

Members of the public that wish to attend and/or participate in a meeting may do so in person or by joining the zoom meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736> public comments will be accepted both in person and via zoom meeting. Any emails sent to sharper@woodsideca.gov prior to 5:00 p.m. On the date of the hearing will be provided to the planning commission prior to the meeting.

In the event that any member of the commission participates in a meeting by teleconference or video conference, pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953, all votes of the commission shall be by roll call.

Join Zoom Meeting:

Dial by your location

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+1 346 248 7799

Note: Callers dial *9 to "raise hand" and dial *6 to mute/unmute.

Meeting ID: 860 6847 2736

Weblink: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736>

Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: sharper@woodsideca.gov

PUBLIC HEARING

1. 127HillsideDrive

Daniel Vargas, AKD Homes

VARI2023-0005

Project Planner: Sarah Filipe, Associate Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposal to construct a new Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) that is less than 800 square feet. The proposed ADU requires Planning Commission approval of a Variance for plate heights exceeding the 11-foot plate height maximum and 17-foot overall height maximum requirements for accessory structures (VARI2023-0005).

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

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING SARAH FILIPE AT SFILIFE@WOODSIDECA.GOV

Police identify victims of San Mateo homicide

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

San Mateo Police officers identified the victims of a homicide that occurred in a San Mateo home on the 4100 block of Alameda de las Pulgas on Feb. 12 at 9:13 a.m.

Through fingerprinting, the adults were identified as Anand Henry and Alice Benziger, along with their twin boy children, who were identified through familial identification, according to a Feb. 15 press release from the San Mateo Police Department.

The investigation has found that both Henry and Benziger were wounded by gunshots.

The release states the San Mateo Police Department, the County Coroner's Office and the County Crime Lab have identified Henry as the suspect.

The 9mm handgun, found on the bathroom floor where both bodies were located, was legally registered to Henry. Benziger suffered from multiple gunshot wounds, while police found Henry was shot once. The cause of death for the twin boys is pending pathology tests, but officials confirmed it was not caused by gunfire.

Prior police reports show that there was no history of violence at the home. The

family was found dead during a welfare check after the family was unable to be reached over the weekend. The police department estimates that the incident occurred sometime on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 10.

"Our investigation into the motive for this tragedy continues," said Jeanine Luna, SMPD's community relations officer, in the press release. "While we can't undo this horrific incident, we would like to share with our community both domestic violence and mental health resources, because there is help and/or assistance out there, and

something like this does not need to happen again."

SMPD has provided a list of local mental health and domestic violence resources:

- **Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA)** is an organization aimed at providing support, safety and healing to victims of domestic violence. Visit www.cora-support.org for more information and call their 24-hour hotline, 1 (800) 300-1080.

- **San Mateo County Health-Mental Health Services** provides 24/7 assistance through phone by calling 1 (800) 686-0101. Visit smchealth.org/mental-health-services

for more information on their resources.

- **StarVista** is an organization that offers counseling, case management, skill development and crisis prevention programs in San Mateo County. Their crisis hotline is open 24/7 at (650) 579-0350. For more information visit star-vista.org/programs/crisis-center/
- Community members can use the **988** suicide and crisis lifeline by calling or texting 988 for help. ■

Email Staff Writer

Jennifer Yoshikoshi at

jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com

AQUATICS FEES

continued from page 5

During the meeting, the council directed that the fee for subcontractor lane rental be reduced to \$15 from the staff-recommended \$18.

The direction came amid concerns that nonprofit groups subcontracting space in the city's aquatics program — long managed by private operator Team Sheep — are being charged too much.

Currently, the fee for subcontractor rental per hour a lane ranges from \$14 to \$18, according to the staff report.

But other pools elsewhere charge \$6 to \$8, public commenter John Martin told the council.

He complained that in Menlo Park community programs are paying the same level as commercial outfits.

"We just don't think that's fair or reasonable and respectful," he said. "So we don't think the operator should be increasing fees for any of the community programs. In fact, we think the operator should be bringing the fees back in line

with what other local pools are charging."

Combs acknowledged that sentiment during council deliberations. "I do think that there's legitimate concerns from established community nonprofits about these increases and the impacts and the disparate nature that is appearing there," Combs said. "I think that that's valid."

Tim Sheep, CEO of Team Sheep, told the council that the subcontractor fee has held steady at \$14. While other fees and operating costs have gone up, Sheep said, the lane charge for subcontractors has "remained the same for the past five to six years."

The city's aquatics fees are currently set at the discretion of Team Sheep, Reinhart said.

If ultimately adopted by the council, the revised fees would be incorporated into the city's master fee schedule.

That move would be consistent with the requirements in the new five-year contract that the council approved in September for Team Sheep to continue running the city's



Magali Gauthier

Swimmers work out at Burgess Pool in Menlo Park in 2023.

aquatics program, the staff report said.

That contract stipulates that

aquatics fees would be subject to council approval in the master schedule, the report said. ■

Email Contributing Writer

Neil Gonzales at

ngonzales92@yahoo.com

Employment

Staff Engineer (Menlo Park, CA) – Bedrock Labs Inc: Design & implmnt agntlss, distributd cloud srvc tht provds custmrs w/ insghts into how thr cloud rescrs ar being usd & mngd. REQS: Master's (or forgn equiv) in Comp Sci, Info Tech, or rlted & 3 yrs exp. Alt, Bedrock will acctp Bach (or forgn equiv) in Comp Sci, Info Tech, or rlted & 5 yrs exp in followng. Exp cn be gaind pre- or post- Master's: usng distributd systs exp in key-valu stors to bld resilient sftwre srvc; usng opertng systs knwldg w/ exp in Unix to optmz MapReduce frmwrk fr lrg scal distributd systs; usng MapReduce intrnls to bld infrstrctr fr strm/batch prcssng data; bldng effctnt data prcssng pipelns fr prcssng lrg amnts of data; & setting tech dircn & effectvly leading team of enginrs & interns. Salary \$215,197-230k/yr. Email resume to pranava@bedrock.security & use ref code 431183.

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For employment advertising, please visit AlmanacNews.com/employment_ads/.

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Mary Finlayson, 90, a Woodside resident who raised seven children and had a passion for music, learning how to play the piano, flute and harp and singing in the Chorus Pro Musica with the Boston Symphony and with the Oakland Symphony Chorus, and who in 1963 co-founded the Berkeley Montessori School (later called The Berkeley School), on Feb. 12, 2024.

Yolanda "Lolly" Font, 93, who earned a PhD from the California Institute of Transpersonal Psychology and was heavily involved in education, serving in her children's PTA and working as a preschool director for her husband's school in San Jose, Beacon School, and who also

worked as a yoga teacher at the California Yoga Center, on Feb. 3, 2024.

Samuel Anderson, 83, a longtime Palo Alto resident who attended Cubberley High School and later taught English at Mills High School in Millbrae, and who was a founding member of the Beyond War Foundation as part of his commitment to world peace, taking groups of U.S. high school students to the former Soviet Union during the historic time of glasnost and perestroika as part of the People to People Student Ambassador Program, on Dec. 24, 2023.

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



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Sought-after Emerald Hills provides an attractive backdrop for this bright and expansive 5-bedroom home set on a corner lot of nearly a third of an acre. Luxurious appointments can be found throughout both levels of the home, with almost 3,600 square feet of living space that enjoys large gathering spaces, the kitchen with a brand-new cooktop, multiple fireplaces, and comfortable bedrooms for both family and guests, highlighted by the primary suite with its own fireplace and spa-like bathroom. Entertainment options abound in the backyard, where you will find a large patio, lush lawn, and an idyllic setting. And this great location puts you just a short drive to everything the area has to offer, from verdant parks and nature preserves, to vibrant downtown Redwood City, Interstate 280, and acclaimed Roy Cloud Elementary (buyer to verify eligibility).

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Public Notices

CANDY LAND HOME DAYCARE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-296686
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CANDY LAND HOME DAYCARE , located at 1909 Cooley Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
EVELYN XIOMARA CABRERA CONTRERAS
1909 Cooley Ave
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 04/17/2018.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 16, 2024.
(ALM Feb 23, Mar 1, 8 and 15, 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)

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)

B COMMA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-296641
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) B COMMA , located at 580 Remillard dr., Hillsborough, CA 94010.
Registered owner(s):
SAERA BAIK
580 Remillard dr.
Hillsborough CA 94010
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 05/02/2023.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 13, 2024.
(ALM Feb 23, Mar 1, 8 and 15, 2024)

ELLIE MENTAL HEALTH
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-296608
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) ELLIE MENTAL HEALTH , located at 1775 Woodside RD, Suite 203, Redwood City, CA 94061.
Registered owner(s):
CYPRESS HEALTH LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER INC.
1775 Woodside Rd, Suite 203
Redwood City, CA 94061
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/01/2023.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 12, 2024.
(ALM Feb 23, Mar 1, 8 and 15, 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)

RL LOGISTIX
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-296632
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) RL LOGISTIX , located at 90 South Spruce Ave., Suite B, South San Francisco,CA,94080.
Registered owner(s):
AQUARIUZ LLC
90 South Spruce Ave., Suite B
South San Francisco,CA,94080
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 2/13/24.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 13, 2024.
(ALM Feb 23, Mar 1, 8 and 15, 2024)

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)

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 Berkellie Ave , Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
CRUZELIA OROZCO AGUILAR
1133 Berkellie 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)

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)

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)

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-00406
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Duncan Anderson King filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
DUNCAN ANDERSON KING to DUNCAN ANDERSON KING GRENIER
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: 04/09/2024, 9:00 AM, Civil Department 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: 02/07/2024
Jonathan E. Karesh
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Feb 23, Mar 1, 8 and 15, 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-00001
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Caleb Isreal Albers filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
CALEB ISREAL ALBERS to CALEB ISREAL JOYROAD ALBERS
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: 05/06/2024, 9:00 AM, m/c 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: 02/13/2024
Elizabeth K. Lee
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Feb 23, Mar 1, 8 and 15, 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 TEOBE
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)

The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.

- Fictitious Business Name
- Abandonment of Fictitious Business Name
- Name Change
- Partnership Withdrawal or Dissolution
- Petition to Administer Estate - Probate Hearing
- Notice of Bulk Sale
- Legal Summons
- Trustee Sale

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm. Visit [AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/](https://almanacnews.com/legal_notices/)
For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.

SUMMER

Learn more at AlmanacNews.com/camp-connection/

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

CAMP & CONNECTION 2024

ACADEMICS

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EmersonMontessori.com

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San Jose

Harker summer programs for preschool - grade 12 children include opportunities for academics, arts, athletics and activities. Taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff, our programs offer something for everyone in a safe and supportive environment. Register as soon as possible.

Harker.org/Summer

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Menlo Park, Burlingame

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LydianAcademy.com/Admissions/Summer-at-Lydian/

(650) 405-1312

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Los Altos

Pinewood's two- or four-week program offers half-day or full-day options in both academic and enrichment classes designed to meet the needs of a variety of students. Specialized teachers and small academic classes maximize the summer school experience for grades K-8. Our curriculum emphasizes academic achievement as well as participation in the arts, technology and athletics.

Pinewood.edu/SummerPrograms



ACADEMICS

STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research

Stanford

Explore biomedical science at Stanford through lectures from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science including bioengineering, neuroscience, immunology and other topics. July 8-26 Registration begins March 1st. The program is virtual.

Explore.Stanford.edu

explore-series@stanford.edu

Summer@Stratford

Palo Alto/Bay Area

Stratford infuses its STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) curriculum into an innovative and enriching summer camp experience. Younger campers engage in hands-on learning projects, while elementary-age students collaborate to tackle real-world problems. At the middle school level, individual subject-based enrichment classes are offered and tailored for each grade level.

StratfordSchools.com/Summer

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(408) 459-0657

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Join us for 5 fun-filled weeks of dance! CDBN's summer camps are designed for dancers ages 4-12. Email for 12+ intensives. Campers will learn dance techniques in ballet, jazz, tumbling, lyrical, hip-hop, and musical theater. Camps are filled with excitement, games, arts & crafts, weekly performances, and more!

CaptivatingDanceByNona.com/Summer-2024

(650) 339-0034

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls

Palo Alto

Casti Camp offers girls entering grades 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music. Leadership program available for girls entering grades 7-9.

Castilleja.org/SummerCamp

(650) 470-7833

City of Sunnyvale

Sunnyvale

Offering 100+ camps for ages 2-17 featuring traditional, visual arts, performing arts, theater, sport and STEM camps. Full and half day options run June 10 - Aug. 9. Check out swim lessons for all levels also starting in June and enjoy recreation swim at our aquatic facilities.

Sunnyvale.ca.gov/Activities

(408) 730-7350

Community School of Music and Arts

Mountain View

40+ creative camps for ages 5-15! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Wearable Art, Digital Art, Musical Theater and more! One and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Financial aid offered. After Camp available.

Arts4All.org

(650) 917-6800 ext. 0

Hidden Villa

Los Altos Hills

Hidden Villa is a 1,600 acre refuge in Los Altos Hills and home to an organic farm, gardens, beautiful hiking trails, and farm animals. Our Summer Camp program blends nature, farming and social justice, while encouraging a diverse, compassionate, and eco-conscious youth community in a fun and age-appropriate environment.

HiddenVilla.org/SummerCamp

(650) 949-8650

ARTS, CULTURE & ENRICHMENT

Oshman Family JCC Camps

Palo Alto

At J-Camp, we build a spirited community where campers are immersed in joyful camp activities and develop meaningful relationships with others while engaging in individual personal growth. Our exciting day camp offers programming for incoming grades K-10.

OFJCC-JCamp.com

(650) 223-8622

Riekes Center

Menlo Park

Explore all your interests this summer with Riekes Summer Camps! Enrolling now for camps in Nature, Music, Art, and Digital Media. There's something for every camper! For ages 5-18 with locations across the Peninsula.

RiekesSummerCamps.org

(650) 364-2509

Stanford Jazz Workshop

Stanford

Stanford Jazz Workshop week-long jazz immersion programs for young musicians in middle school (Giant Steps Day Camp, starts July 8), High School (Jazz Camp, starts July 14 or July 21), and adults/advanced teens (Jazz Institute, July 28). All instruments and vocals. On the Stanford campus!

StanfordJazz.org

(650) 736-0324

Ventana School Summer Camp

Los Altos

Keep your child inspired all summer long at Ventana's Elementary Summer Camp! With engaging week-long themes, campers will immerse themselves in hands-on activities that will boost their creative confidence and stimulate their minds. Join us for one or all of the following weeks: Masterchef Junior, Arts & Crafts, Game Creation, Mad Scientist, Musical Theater and Wonderful Water. Open to students who will have completed K-5th grade by the summer.

VentanaSchool.org/Elementary-Summer-Camps-2024

(650) 948-2121

ATHLETICS

Bald Eagle

Bay Area

The first camp ever approved by *The Positive Coaching Alliance* for message and *Development Zone* programming. We offer 4 camps: Non-Traditional MultiSports (TK-5th), Sports Leadership & Field Trips (6th-8th), Basketball Camp (3rd-8th) and Coach In Training (free, 9th-10th). Extended Care 7:30 am - 6 pm.

BaldEagleCamps.com

(888) 505-BALD

Maccabi Sports Camp

Atherton

Maccabi Sports Camp is an overnight Jewish sports camp. We welcome campers entering grades 3-11 with programs dedicated to building strong character and Jewish community through sports.

MaccabiSportsCamp.org/wp

(415) 997-8844

Spartans Sports Camp

Mountain View

Spartans Sports Camp offers a wide variety of sports and academic enrichment camps for kids entering grades 1-9. Experienced staff ensures everyone has fun. Daily on-site swimming is offered for all camps. Camps run weekly from June 10 - August 2 at Mountain View High School. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available.

SpartansSportsCamp.com

(650) 479-5906

Stanford Water Polo Camps

Stanford

New to water polo or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or full day options for boys and girls ages 7 and up. All camps provide fundamental skills, scrimmages and games. Session 1 - June 10-13, 2024. Session 2 - June 17-20, 2024.

StanfordWaterPoloCamps.com

(650) 725-9016

To advertise in print and online, call (650) 326-8210.

Mary Finlayson

December 5, 1933 - February 12, 2024

Mary Finlayson passed away of a subdural hemorrhage in the early morning of February 12, 2024 at her home in Woodside, surrounded by her family. She had recently celebrated her 90th birthday, as well as the 70th anniversary of meeting her beloved husband Norris for the first time in January 1954.

Mary Ann Ellis was born in Berkeley, California on December 5, 1933, the first daughter of Dr. Grant Ellis and Mary Laurine Holmes Ellis. A few years later, the family welcomed her younger sister Laurine ("Renie"), who became a lifelong best friend. Mary revered her father, a soft-spoken, highly intelligent, and hardworking man who was a beloved and respected family doctor in the community. Dr. Ellis deeply loved their mother, who was a force of nature: tall, beautiful, outspoken, opinionated, and fascinated by art, music and literature. The Ellis home was full of love, culture, and lively debate. Mary's life was also enriched by the presence of an extended family of Ellis and Holmes uncles, aunts and cousins whom she loved and was so proud of, and with whom she shared countless adventures and celebrations.

From childhood, Mary embraced life with curiosity and a gift for bringing others along on her adventures. As a young girl she organized the neighborhood "Daring Club", a group of friends who engaged in vaulting fences and jumping off of the roofs of houses. The Daring Club members remained lifelong friends (although the vaulting and jumping was eventually retired after a few broken bones). Mary also had an irrepressible love and gift for music. From a young age, she heard harmonies in her head, which she sang and arranged for her classmates to perform — in one case while at Berkeley High School, in a quartet on national TV. As a senior, Mary served as President of the Girls' Association, choosing the theme of "Friendship and Service."

Mary attended college at U.C. Berkeley, where she performed in a popular jazz singing quartet before transferring to Barnard College in New York to study art history. At church her first Sunday, she experienced an unexpected thrill when she met a young man who was visiting for the weekend from Harvard Medical School. For Norris and Mary it was love at first sight. On their second date, Norris proposed and Mary accepted. They married in August of that year, in the Salt Lake City Temple, and have remained passionately and tenderly in love ever since.

The young couple lived first in Boston, Massachusetts where Norris continued his medical studies and Mary completed her college degree at Boston University. Soon after, they welcomed their first daughter. Two sons followed during medical residencies in San Francisco and Boston, and then after moving back to the Bay Area they welcomed their second daughter, another son, and two more daughters. Family life was full of activity: learning, music, sports, service in church and community,



and unforgettable rich friendships with people from all walks of life visiting from near and far. The kids never knew who would be joining the family for Sunday dinner — it seemed there was always someone, new or familiar, who received a warm welcome, a delicious meal, and lively discussion accompanied by warmth and laughter. No one knows exactly how many people have stayed with Mary & Norris in their home and cottage: individuals and families, sometimes because some life crisis created an urgent need, and at others simply because Mary and Norris loved them and were delighted to have them stay while in town. (And the former invariably morphed into the latter.) Some stayed for a few days, some for weeks, and some for months and even years.

Mary threw herself into the enrichment of her seven children's minds and hearts. Their home overflowed with books, art, music and educational materials of all kinds. School absences (mostly properly excused) were common for special outings to museums, plays, concerts and educational travel. Several of the kids had "home school" years with curriculum tailored to their interests and gifts. And undergirding all family discussion was a deep core of Mary's moral strength, highlighting the importance of kindness, loving service, faithfulness, and generosity. She pointed out and celebrated the many role models, "heroes and altruists", who inspired her, and she assured us we could surely find more all around us if we looked for and appreciated them.

Mary expected her children to enjoy mental achievements and the joy of learning for its own sake. This joy proved infectious, as all of their children went off to challenging universities to study art, history, classics, literature, political science, biology, law, medicine and other fields.

Throughout Mary's life, her love of music brought her great joy and meaning. As a young woman she learned to read music, and to play the piano, flute and harp. Although she considered herself never to have been formally "trained", she had an excellent ear, a lovely voice with near perfect pitch, and loved to sing with talented friends. As a young woman she was

thrilled to sing in the Chorus Pro Musica with the Boston Symphony, and later with the Oakland Symphony Chorus. She sang in countless church choirs, including the celebrated "Valparaiso Singers", a Menlo Park-based traveling choir group that performed a variety of choral music with great enthusiasm and gifted leadership. Later in life, Mary spent more time on musical composition, producing a wide range of choral, oratorical, celebratory (for baptisms, for the birth of a friend's child, or a colleague's son's Bar Mitzvah), children's (including the Portola Valley Elementary school song) and instrumental music. She was surprised and delighted when her work was well-received by musicians of talent and advanced training whom she greatly respected.

Mary was a creative and inspiring leader, and supportive follower, in both church and community life. After returning to Berkeley (the place where she had co-founded the notorious "Daring Club" many years before), as a young mother she co-founded the Berkeley Montessori School in 1963 (now "The Berkeley School"). Over the years she served as President of local church organizations for women (Relief Society), young women, and children (Primary). She taught adult Sunday School class (Gospel Doctrine), and for many years co-taught with Norris an inspirational and much appreciated marriage class.

Mary was a woman of great faith, a lifelong practicing Christian in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She drew strength and insight from the teachings of both ancient and modern prophets, and cherished a deeply felt personal relationship with a God who she knew in her bones loved her more than she could even comprehend, and equally loves all of His precious children. Mary also profoundly appreciated the commonality as well as distinctiveness that she found in the faiths of her many friends whose traditions she deeply admired and respected, including the ancient faith of Judaism, the deep traditions and philosophy of the Catholic faith, whose scholarship she read for inspiration with great appreciation, and the warm and open community of the Woodside Village Church. Her faith inspired her to embrace everyone she met as a fellow child of God. She left this world fully expecting to meet every one of us again.

Mary is survived by her husband Norris, their children Mary Bliss (Lewis Hassell), Grant (Pam Hutchcraft), John (Jennifer Fife), Elizabeth (Jim Nadel), Samuel (Erika Lambert), Emily (Riccardo Stoohs) and Susan (Elliott Ferris), 15 grandchildren, one granddaughter who predeceased her, 18 great grandchildren, her sister Laurine, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mary's life will be celebrated at a funeral service commencing at 11 am on February 24, at the chapel where she worshipped, taught, served, sang and warmly greeted dear friends for the past 57 years: 1105 Valparaiso Avenue in Menlo Park.

BURGLARIES

continued from page 1

The council has not taken any formal decision against the system, she said. "The conversation is ongoing."

Police Chief David Norris agreed, telling The Almanac that his department will bring the matter back to the council at a certain point.

Many cities in San Mateo County and Palo Alto already use ALPRs, he said, but "we're not looking to jump into Flock cameras just because all of the other agencies are using them. We are looking to get into Flock ALPR cameras because they are an effective crime-solving tool and crime-prevention tool." Flock ALPRs are installed in Atherton, Woodside and Portola Valley.

'None of us wants to live in an atmosphere of fear as many of us are now experiencing as to the safety of our families and homes because of the surge in break-ins.'

FEB. 13 SHARON HEIGHTS
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LETTER

With or without ALPR, he said, police are taking the burglaries in Sharon Heights seriously and investigating them accordingly.

"Any crime that occurs anywhere in the city is of concern to us," Norris said. "When someone has their home broken into, that can be a particularly difficult and nerve-racking experience for the people in that residence."

He added: "We are very interested in bringing the people who are responsible to justice, and we are using all of our available tools as well as working in a team environment with other agencies that are experiencing similar problems to try and identify the people responsible and to get them held to account."

Just late last week, several residential burglaries (a third was reported on Lupin Lane on Friday evening, Feb. 16) in Atherton were reported in as many days.

Menlo Park police are also spreading crime-prevention tips to residents, department spokesperson Nicole Acker said. Those include making sure their doors are locked, installing a home-alarm system and improving lighting around their property. ■

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

PAID OBITUARY

How California lawmakers want to target retail theft

By Lynn La / CalMatters

Nearly four months after forming a bipartisan select committee and two hearings later, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas announced legislation Thursday, Feb. 15, to combat shoplifting and organized retail theft — just beating today's deadline to introduce new bills.

He joined Democratic Assemblymembers Rick Zbur of Los Angeles, chairperson of the committee, and Kevin McCarty of Sacramento, chairperson of the Assembly Public Safety committee, to unveil the California Retail Theft Reduction Act, which Rivas described as “critical legislation” to address “a serious crime that's hurting businesses and impacting our communities.”

Rivas, a Democrat from Salinas: “Organized retail theft is having a chilling effect

on our communities. Crime, like everything, evolves. And criminal enterprises are using new and different ways to get around current prohibitions ... It is our responsibility to ensure that our laws are addressing the situation at hand.”

Focusing on “professional retail thieves,” Zbur said the measure would create a new crime with a penalty as long as three years behind bars for the possession of stolen property with the intent to sell. Because “intent to sell” can be difficult to prove in court, evidence can include repeated offenses or possessing an amount of goods that is “inconsistent with personal use.”

Other key provisions of the bill, according to Zbur:

Aggregation: The value of thefts from different retailers can be added up so they can be prosecuted as grand theft.

Resellers: Online sellers would be required to maintain

records to show that goods were obtained legally and large retailers would be required to report “theft data” (though details remain unclear).

Enforcement: Police could arrest shoplifters based on a witness' sworn statement or video footage of a crime.

Intervention: Courts could refer some shoplifters to alternative programs instead of jail or prison.

Thursday's measure is in response to a 29% jump in 2022 in shoplifting (though the rate was still 8% below pre-pandemic levels), including some high-profile smash and grabs. Also, there was a 16% rise in commercial burglaries of items totaling more than \$950 between 2019 and 2022, according to the Public Policy Institute of California.

The \$950 is the threshold set by Proposition 47, which voters approved in 2014, to prosecute shoplifting as a felony. Zbur noted that the new bill can

be enacted and signed into law without a ballot measure to overhaul Prop. 47, which Republican lawmakers and some Democrats propose.

Prop. 47 is viewed by some legislators and local officials as part of the reason why “rampant acts of theft” are happening across the state. While Rivas did not directly rule out reforming Prop. 47, he said it “has been law for a decade,” and that the legislative process is better for “developing

well-constructive policy.”

Rivas: “We need to get it right. We can't make a mistake here.”

The select committee on retail theft is expected to hold one more hearing, though when and where that'll be “are still under discussion,” according to Zbur's spokesperson. ■

This story, from Bay City News Service, was originally published by CalMatters.

TRAINING

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property gives local firefighters “an invaluable opportunity” to rehearse crucial skills without starting actual fires, Menlo Park Fire engineer Joseph Foster explained. The department typically gets one structure a year to practice in.

By starting with less invasive scenarios, the department is maximizing the number of firefighters — 30 different crews — who can run through training exercises in the house over the four months it's available. This means, for instance, going through the motions of ‘vertical ventilation’ at real life speed, without drilling a hole in the ceiling.

After Foster and his crew arrive at 2 Lowery Drive, their acting captain, Norman Bolanos paints a picture of the fire — imagine smoke and flame rising from the back of the structure. Without a nearby fire hydrant, they will have to come up with a strategy for getting water to the house. Bolanos surveys the property and talks to residents outside. When he's told there may be a possible victim in the back bedroom, he and another firefighter gear up and go inside. As the engineer, Foster sends updates from outside via radio as they make their way toward the victim.

In the next scenario, the team switches to a different part of the house. A volunteer cadet tries throwing a ladder, and practices identifying the layout of the

house based on exterior clues. Vents, for example, might signal a bathroom.

In Menlo Park Fire Department, being a firefighter often means being a jack of all trades, Foster said. The department's many paramedics frequently respond to medical calls. They often participate in local public service. And, while Foster says house fires are uncommon, being well prepared is essential.

“It was a super great opportunity for all of us to play some real life scenarios instead of sitting and doing it at the firehouse or at our training room,” Foster said.

Voskerician, a Palo Alto-based real estate developer, is also looking forward to what his split property will represent once

training is over. Voskerician is currently developing Atherton.com, a platform to guide people through property splitting, as a way to help homeowners unveil potential value and to address the housing shortage.

“Our vision with Atherton.com is to empower our neighbors to navigate new housing mandates, making a responsible and meaningful contribution to our community,” Voskerician wrote. He hopes to eventually expand beyond Atherton. ■

Email Editorial Intern Abigail Neely at almanacnews.com.

express

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Magali Gauthier

Menlo Park Fire Protection firefighters ready to run practice drills in a home at 2 Lowery Drive in Atherton on Feb. 2.

Janet Lee Jurian

December 10, 1950 – January 21, 2024

Surrounded by love and family, Janet Lee Jurian of Woodside, CA, passed away peacefully at home on January 21, 2024, after a fifteen-month battle with brain cancer.

Janet was born on December 10, 1950, the daughter of the late John N. Duzanica and Lillian Garibaldi Duzanica. Raised in Menlo Park, Janet attended St. Raymond's parish school, Holy Cross High School (Class of 1969), and College of San Mateo. She remained a resident of the peninsula her entire life. Janet attended nursing school, worked in school nutrition (Stanford University and Monte Vista High School), and later transitioned to dental office administration. However, she was most well known for her lifelong secondary occupation of crafting beautiful wedding and special occasion cakes. Outside of work, Janet could most often be found on horseback; she was an avid western trail rider who revered her horse community. Janet was a woman in perpetual motion — from boxing to pickleball, reading, cooking, line dancing, photography, travel — the list went on. Even after “retiring,” she continued to be active, working for her son's business and riding her horse until October 2022 when cancer rendered her unable.



Janet was warm and welcoming, always finding time and compassion for others. She was a caring friend, a loving mother, and a devoted wife; her generous spirit knew no bounds. She drove carpools, coordinated birthday parties, helped with school projects, cooked meals, planned vacations and more. Somehow, Janet did it all, with a smile on her face and her signature flowers in her hair. As much as she thrived in her many roles, nothing gave Janet more joy than being ‘Nonie’ to her two granddaughters, Sophia and Avery. To them, she embodied unconditional love and support, and her memory will be a guiding light.

Janet is survived by her husband of 48 years Andrew Jurian; her two children, son Ryan Jurian and his wife Jennie; daughter Janessa Visnyei and her husband Ben; her two brothers, Tom Duzanica and his wife Pa; Jim Duzanica and his wife Cheri; and her two granddaughters, Sophia and Avery Jurian.

“Love doesn't die, people do. So when all that's left of me is love, give me away.” -M. Malloy

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy (nceft.org), Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks (huddartwunderlichfriends.org), or the American Cancer Society (cancer.org).

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Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Review: 'CORPUS EVITA' EXPLORES CULTS OF PERSONALITY

West Bay Opera stages contemporary piece that captures dark era in a country's politics

By Michael J. Vaughn



Courtesy West Bay Opera

Isabel Perón (Sara LeMesh, center) grapples with swift backlash to ruthless policies but is also haunted by the ghosts of the regime who put them in place: that of her late husband, Juan Perón (Casey Germain, right), and his right-hand man, Ministro (Patrick Bessenbacher, left) in "Corpus Evita."

It's fitting that "Corpus Evita" begins with that legendary image of Evita, the president's dying wife in the balcony, raising her arms in that idiosyncratic way while saying farewell to her people. Created by composer Carlos Franzetti, with a libretto by West Bay Opera general director Jose Luis Moscovich, the opera is largely concerned with image, and if you whispered the name "Evita" to the average American, this is exactly the image that would come to mind.

The bulk of the opera's action begins much later, in 1973, as Juan Peron returns from a 17-year exile in Spain to run for re-election. Evita's corpse, spirited away by the military in 1955, is returned and put on display to a mourning,

adoring public. Juan wins the election, tries to sell his third wife and vice president Isabel as a new version of Evita, and dies a year later.

But "Corpus Evita," which debuted in San Francisco in 2000, is less a standard narrative than an exploration of the Argentine soul, with an emphasis on mythology and cults of personality. The real meat of the conflict arises as Isabel, not really prepared for governance, grapples with her duties under the heavy-handed guidance of her husband's right-hand man, José López Rega, referred to in the opera simply as Ministro. Ministro gives a lot of lip service to "the cause," ostensibly the policies created from Juan Peron's right-wing populism, but he seems to be much more

interested in consolidating and expanding his power. He coerces Isabel into unleashing the military on a growing uprising of communists, which results in 30,000 deaths. The military also engages in a ruthless program of slaughtering young couples and giving their babies to couples with more Peronist views.

The opera is a wild trip filled with magical realist devices. Isabel, who in reality is 93 and still exiled in Spain, is brought home to Argentina to answer for her sins. Ministro then uses his occult powers to bring in the younger Juan and Evita for a conference, or perhaps it's more of a trial.

Composer Franzetti, who is well-versed in jazz and tango idioms, created a rhythmically propulsive score, at times moody and haunting, but always prepared to go off in bursts of musical gunfire. Moscovich and his orchestra handle the resultant challenges beautifully, notably percussionist Sohrab Bazargannia and timpanist Neal Goggans.

The vocal style is straightforward and declamatory, making use of modern intervals but always in service to the discourse. Soprano Jessica Sandidge handles the role of Evita with grace and an even, clear tone, even though playing a goddess can

be an unrewarding job. Casey Germain's bass tone is gorgeous, lending a calm presence to Juan that is quite a contrast to his impassioned cohorts.

Tenor Patrick Bessenbacher is an edgy treat as the Rasputinesque Ministro. His spinto tone provides just the right measure of danger, and no one's really surprised when he resorts to the dark arts.

The bulk of the conflict settles on the shoulders of soprano Sara LeMesh, whose performance of Isabel is a superb example of vocal acting. A particularly powerful scene comes in a trio with Juan and Ministro, both of whom seem relatively untroubled by 30,000 dead people, while Isabel is ripping out her hair at the hell she has unwittingly unleashed.

The stage direction designed by Jose Maria Condemi is balanced and effective, many times resembling the creation of living portraits upon the stage. The torture scene, in which a young couple is killed, their baby wrestled away for "reassignment," is particularly savage and chilling. Done with their jobs, the soldiers file off-stage, receiving bank notes from Ministro as they leave. Another tableau brings veiled desaparecidos (the disappeared), holding candles and framed pictures of their missing children; they later

transform into happy citizens, basking in the glow of Evita's image.

Franzetti's chorus parts are beautifully simple, a great contrast to the roiling dramatic scenes, and well handled by chorus master Bruce Olstad's charges. Peter Crompton's set design is flexible enough to handle the ever-shifting realities, while his projections are helpful in offering enlightening bits of propaganda and newspaper clippings. A striking departure is the projection used to portray the interior of Isabel's apartment, which is magically realistic.

In my desire to see things in a fresh way, I make a habit of never reading the program before a performance. In the case of "Corpus Evita," I would recommend that you read Moscovich's notes beforehand. It's best to get a quick refresher on your Argentine politics, and it also gives a striking account of Moscovich's childhood in Argentina. ■

Email Contributing Writer

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Courtesy West Bay Opera

From left to right, Eva Perón (Jessica Sandidge), Juan Perón (Casey Germain), Doctor (Anders Froehlich) and Ministro (Patrick Bessenbacher) create a familiar tableau in West Bay Opera's "Corpus Evita."

Feb. 24-25, 2 p.m., Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. \$43-\$115. 650-424-9999, wboopera.org.

A local landmark and temple to Hollywood's Golden Age

The Stanford Theatre kicks off a new program highlighting the films of Fred Astaire on Feb. 23

By Allegra Hoddie/M-A Chronicle

With red velvet curtains, patterned carpets sprinkled with popcorn kernels, and a dazzling marquee, University Avenue's Stanford Theatre is a timeless relic of culture and history.

The theater opened in 1925, enthusiastically titled the 'New Stanford Theatre.' Construction had begun a year earlier in the style of a neoclassical movie palace, an architectural trend that sought to engage audiences in not only the films themselves but in a complete moviegoing experience.

On top of live performances, the theater played films as they were released in the early 20th century and to this day exclusively shows classics released between roughly 1920 and 1960. Black-and-white or even silent films are typical for its selections.

However, in the 1960s, the building fell into disrepair as it was overshadowed by modern movie theaters. In 1987, David Woodley Packard rented the theater out for a Fred Astaire film festival. Packard, the son of Hewlett-Packard Company founder David Packard, decided to purchase the 1,175-seat auditorium through his Packard Foundation. The nonprofit Stanford Theatre Foundation was established to manage it. In total, Packard spent over \$6 million renovating the theater, much more than its original cost in 1925 of \$250,000.

A grand reopening in 1989 was paired with a showing of the classic "The Wizard of Oz."

"Packard transformed (the theater) into a singular cinematic vision of bringing people back into feeling the golden age of Hollywood," said Charlie Dickey, an assistant manager who has worked at the theater for nine years. "Now (the theater) is kind of a temple to that idea," Dickey said. Employees wear collared shirts and welcoming smiles, contributing to the theater's warm atmosphere even outside of the auditorium itself.

Authentic movie posters chosen from both current programming and past favorites are arranged throughout the theater's halls. However, most memorabilia is concentrated inside an adjacent gallery room. Some of the material is purchased at auctions from estates or collectors. Glass cases enclose curated newspaper clippings from

the theater's history, including original 1925 articles from the "Palo Alto Daily," along with preserved advertisements and movie decor.

The cost of day-to-day operations are covered by ticket and concession sales, which go as low as \$1 for a small drink or bucket of popcorn and \$3 for a large; wildly atypical from modern cinema prices. "When the theater needs upgrades, the Stanford Theatre Foundation receives assistance through grants from the Packard Humanities Institute," explained manager Cyndi Mortensen.

The theater does it all, a hallmark is the live "Mighty Wurlitzer" organ performances that take place before and after the 7:30 p.m. show. An organist ascends on a rising platform immediately following the end of a film and descends in dramatic fashion just as the next one begins. David Hegarty, one of the theater's two organists, has been playing around the Bay Area for nearly 50 years, most notably at San Francisco's Castro Theatre. "I'm kind of a movie buff, particularly with classic movies, and that ties in with my main interest as a concert organist and arranger," said Hegarty, who has a master's degree in organ performance.

Hegarty said, "If a movie has very specific music, I try to play some of it. If the movie doesn't have songs, I often can play the main title track. I try to pick songs from the era of the movie."

He continued, "Mr. Packard prefers the last piece we play when we bring the organ down to be 'Isn't It Romantic.' I remember him saying that it's his wife's favorite song, so it's kind of the theater's theme song."

All the movies shown on the single large screen are hand-picked by Packard and organized in a "festival" format that runs films featuring certain actors, directors, or seasonal themes for a few weekends at a time. These festivals can include homages to Alfred Hitchcock, Audrey Hepburn, Shirley Temple, or occasions like Halloween.

"We don't go eight months without showing 'Roman Holiday' because people will see it every time we play it," Dickey said. Fan-favorite films make frequent appearances on the program, most notably the popular Christmas Eve showing of "It's A Wonderful Life." "The

place gets absolutely bouncing in here on Christmas Eve," Dickey added.

Though the theater has been renovated to adapt to the modern day, films are still played in their original formats. Dickey said, "It all has to do with where we can source archival 35-millimeter prints, meaning that our selection of titles is not as broad as other cinemas."

Hegarty explained, "(Packard) doesn't want anything that drives people into the present. Everywhere else, I use an iPad to read music off of, but I have to go old school here. If I'm going to read music, I have to use paper because the theater's integrity dictates that we keep everything within its era."

The theater was one of the first businesses in Palo Alto to close at the dawn of the COVID-19 pandemic, and waited until the summer of 2022 for a limited reopening.

Despite the prolonged closure, employees came in during the pandemic to maintain the theater and assist with renovations. The reopening came with a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, as well as credit card readers, drawing in new audience members.

The theater has prevailed through nearly a century of history. "My favorite thing about the theater is its low barrier to access, a maximum of seven bucks for two movies," said Dickey. Even decades after Hollywood's arguable peak, the Stanford Theatre continues to welcome audiences to the simple and accessible charm of a moviegoing experience.

"I like that people will very frequently enter this place skeptical and come out astonished in ways that they hadn't anticipated," Dickey concluded. ■

Read a longer version of this story at almanacnews.com/arts-culture.

This story originally appeared in the M-A Chronicle.

The Stanford Theatre is featuring a Fred Astaire festival Feb. 23-April 14. The Stanford Theatre Foundation is sponsoring screenings of the silent films "The Mark of Zorro" and "Our Hospitality" on March 8 in San Jose as part of the Cinequest Film Festival. For more information about both events, visit stanfordtheatre.org.

Worth a Look



Courtesy FLi Artists

Mostly Kosher performs Feb. 25 at the Palo Alto JCC.

Mostly Kosher

Los Angeles-area-based klezmer/rock band Mostly Kosher, which describes itself as "a musical feast that explodes into a global food-fight of jazz, Latin, rock and folk," and draws on Judaic poetry and folk, klezmer beats, and social justice themes, will perform in Palo Alto at the Oshman Family JCC (co-produced with San Jose Jazz). Led by Leeav Sofer, the band also includes Janice Mautner Markham on violin, Eric Hagstrom on drums, Adam Levy on bass, Stephanie Meyers on keyboard and vocals, Gee Rabe on accordion, Bob Lawrence on trombone, and Ben Tevik on clarinet and sax.

Feb. 25, 4:30 p.m., at Albert and Janet Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto, \$35-\$40. paloaltojcc.org.

The Live Oaks, Alex Lucero Band

The Guild Theatre continues its Local Sound Series with an Americana-inflected double bill of The Live Oaks and Alex Lucero Band. Oakland folk 'n' rollers The Live Oaks draw on roots and soul for their sound, while Santa Cruz-based Alex Lucero Band looks to '60s and '70s soul and blues in their songs and recently released the album "Same Moon." (This show has been rescheduled from a January date.)

Feb. 23, 8 p.m. at The Guild, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, \$28-\$66, guildtheatre.com.

Telegraph Quartet

Violinists Eric Chin and Joseph Maile, violist Pei-Ling Lin, and cellist Jeremiah Shaw, who perform under the name Telegraph Quartet, will return to Stanford for a concert including Grażyna Bacewicz's String Quartet No. 4, Alban Berg's "Lyric Suite," and Benjamin Britten's String Quartet No. 1 in D Major, Op. 25. The quartet has been playing together for a decade, and was awarded the St. Lawrence String's John Lad Prize in 2021. The group's sophomore album, "Divergent Paths," was released last August.

Feb. 24, 7 p.m., The Studio at Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford, \$15-\$40. live.stanford.edu.

A Tribute to Tony Bennett

Los Altos residents Steve and Nancy Gill and their daughter, Anne, continue their tradition of hosting fundraising concerts for LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The annual concerts returned last year after a pandemic hiatus. This year's concert, on Feb. 24, pays tribute to the music of singer Tony Bennett. The shows feature the talents of Steve Gill, a Bay Area actor and singer, who organizes and performs in the shows, along with former students and colleagues from Menlo School — Gill founded the school's Fine Arts program. For this performance, he will be joined by fellow actors Alex Perez and Marie Finch.

A Tribute to Tony Bennett takes place Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. at Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton. Requested donation is \$20. Those planning to attend are asked to contact Nancy Gill at 650-948-4648 or gillnancyg@gmail.com.

Leap Year party with Low Lily

Vermont-based roots group Low Lily comes to Feldman's Books for a Leap Day concert in support of its latest album, "Angels in the Wreckage," incorporating folk, Americana and bluegrass sounds. At their local show, the band will be in its duo formation, featuring Liz Simmons (guitar, vocals) and Flynn Cohen (guitar, mandolin and vocals). Violet Venners opens the show.

Feb. 29, 5 p.m., Feldman's Books, 1075 Curtis St., Menlo Park, \$25, feldmansbooks.net/events.

ON THE RISE

HOW A REDWOOD CITY TEEN'S BAKING BUSINESS PROPELLED HIM TO FOOD NETWORK'S 'KIDS BAKING CHAMPIONSHIP'

By Sophia Markoulakis

Redwood City resident Andy Coyle is a busy 13-year-old juggling school and extracurriculars. But unlike most kids his age, he has to find time to shop for specialty baking ingredients, prepare and decorate layered cakes and budget extra time for laminated pastries.

The budding baker and owner of Andy's Big Head Bakery recently appeared on Season 12 of Food Network's popular show, "Kids Baking Championship." In 2022, the network's casting contacted him through his business' Instagram account and asked if he'd like to audition. After several callbacks, all requiring that he show up with a baked item, he was selected to compete against 11 other contestants for a \$25,000 grand prize.

Andy was eliminated during the second episode but was philosophical about his departure.

"Baking on the show was stressful, and even though I would have liked to stay on the show longer, I wouldn't have changed anything," he said. "Overall, it was a great experience. I made new friends and memories I'll take with me for my entire life."

Andy's journey in baking started when he was very young. "I would hear my mom and grandmother pulling supplies out, and I would come running. My curiosity about baking probably started when I was still in diapers," he said.

The first cake he made that he was really proud of was in second grade. His mother, Mary Coyle, said, "It was a beautiful two-tiered cake that looked like a wedding cake."

That same year, when Andy was 7, he began fulfilling dessert orders for his friends, family and classmates at St. Raymond Catholic School in Menlo Park. Soon after, he opened his business, and today, Andy continues to masterfully whip up desserts of all types for customers who contact him through Instagram. He averages three to five orders a week, and as he's gotten older, he's graduated from cookies and cupcakes to yeast doughs, celebration cakes, cinnamon rolls and cheese Danishes.

"I'm more focused on detailed items like croissants and cakes with intricate piping. I make a really great chocolate coffee cake with a mocha icing," he said.

'I MADE NEW FRIENDS AND MEMORIES I'LL TAKE WITH ME FOR MY ENTIRE LIFE.'

ANDY COYLE

Above: Redwood City resident Andy Coyle competed for \$25,000 on Food Network's Kids Baking Championship. Courtesy Food Network.



Courtesy Mary Coyle

Left: Naked lemon cake with fresh lemon curd filling and a lemon American buttercream frosting made by Andy Coyle.

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'BAKING ON THE SHOW WAS STRESSFUL, AND EVEN THOUGH I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO STAY ON THE SHOW LONGER, I WOULDN'T HAVE CHANGED ANYTHING.'

ANDY COYLE

Andy's two sisters are gluten-intolerant, so his repertoire includes many gluten-free options. "I usually use King Arthur Baking gluten-free all-purpose flour for most things unless I'm making something that requires almond flour like macarons," explained Andy. His favorite Peninsula spot for sweets is Los Altos' gluten-free bakery, Sweet Diplomacy, a place where the whole family can enjoy.

When not baking for customers or going to school and studying, Andy enjoys volleyball and cross-country. A trip to watch the world's best track and field athletes at the 2022 Track and Field World Championships in Oregon right after he was eliminated took the sting out of his short stint on the show. That episode's challenge was to create blondies that honor the classic game of hopscotch in a playground schematic. Mary said that it was disappointing that he didn't get more of a chance to show off his skill and technique with more advanced challenges.

Andy hopes to continue baking through high school

and college, but when asked about a career in the field, he wasn't sure. He's particularly interested in weather, so maybe those math skills that help with the exactness of baking will one day be applied to the climate and forecasting. Asked what he does with the earnings from his business, Mary mentioned purchasing more baking equipment and investing in the stock market.

Contact Andy via @andysbigheadbakery on Instagram to place an order. ■

Email Contributing Writer Sophia Markoulakis at sophiamarkoulakis@gmail.com

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Below: A lemon cake with Swiss buttercream frosting garnished with candied lemon peel and a fondant lemon topper made by Andy Coyle. Courtesy Mary Coyle.



Right: Andy Coyle poses for a photo for Food Network. Courtesy Food Network.



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

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