Shiny shoes, fancy frocks

Menlo-Atherton High PTA hosts first prom closet and boutique

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Prom is a hallmark event for many high schoolers, a night to get dressed up in gowns, suits, glamorous makeup and shiny shoes—but attending can be expensive. That’s why the PTA is stepping in to help at one local school.

On April 4, the Menlo-Atherton High School PTA hosted its first “Diamond and King M-A Prom Closet and Boutique,” a program that supports economically disadvantaged students access to free prom attire.

The PTA expanded the prom closet from an existing program created in 2015 by Adrian Perkins-Sledge, an M-A alumna who is now a data information specialist at the school. Perkins-Sledge started the school’s cosmetology club. Students in the club collected dresses and did hair and makeup for their peers on the day of prom.

She noticed however, that “some of the students that were serving and helping out were also the students who would benefit from the opportunity as well.”

This year, in partnership with the school’s PTA, the prom closet has grown into a bigger project. With donations from the community and local retailers, the PTA is stepping in to help at one local school.

By Eleanor Raab

Jeff Schmidt, vice chair of the Menlo Park Environmental Quality Commission, is running for Menlo Park City Council’s District 3 seat, which is on the November ballot, he told The Almanac on April 3. Schmidt, who is the first candidate to announce their candidacy for the upcoming council race, said he’s running on a platform of community building, bolstering climate policy and youth engagement.

His announcement comes in the wake of District 3 incumbent Jen Wolosin’s recent decision to not run for reelection in November. Maria Doerr’s District 5 seat will also be on the ballot, though Doerr hasn’t announced if she will seek reelection.

District 3 includes the section of Menlo Park between Palo Alto and Atherton. It includes the Caltrain station, the Civic Center, and the neighborhoods of Felton Gables, Linfield Oaks, Vintage Oaks and parts of Menlo Oaks.

Schmidt said that he thinks the role of a City Council member is “really to be the individual who shares the viewpoints of their district,” he said.

“Anyone who focuses on just one issue won’t be an effective council member,” he said.

Schmidt’s background

Originally from Texas, Schmidt moved to Menlo Park four and a half years ago with his family. He resides in the Menlo Oaks neighborhood. He works as the senior director of strategy and communications for Stanford University’s Student Affairs Division.

He joined the Environmental Quality Commission in April 2022. He co-founded a local speaker series called Green, Blue, and You, which aims to engage the community on environmental topics.

He serves on the steering committee for the Environmental and Climate Change Literacy Projects, which aims to increase understanding of environmental topics in school-age children. He is also a member of the Menlo Park climate outreach team of students and city staff, school leaders, and nonprofits.

Policy priorities

Schmidt’s first priority, if elected, would be building community. He said he would help do that by championing “balanced, reasonable and affordable housing development,” moving forward with the Caltrain quiet zone project and continuing to invest in safe street projects.

When asked about his thoughts on the proposed builder’s remedy project at the former Sunset Magazine headquarters site, Schmidt said, “Since there’s no formal application yet, it’s hard to tell what’s real, but like many residents, I’m going to keep a very close eye on it. In the meantime, our residents, students, city staff, school leaders, and nonprofits are leading lots of other amazing work every day to improve Menlo Park and that needs our energy and attention.”

“My kids came up through (the) Menlo Park City School District and they are at Menlo-Atherton (High School) now. Safe streets and making sure that the routes to school are safe for everybody who is driving, biking and walking is really important,” he said.

Schmidt would also continue to prioritize combating climate change.

“Think about extreme heat, storms, power outages and wildfires. There are a lot of things we need to do to be ready for that,” he said. “A lot’s already going on, but there’s a lot more to do.”

As a council member, he would want to make environmental policy choices that would help slow carbon emissions “easier, faster and more affordable” for all residents. His third concern is assisting

M-A alumna and employee Adrian Perkins-Sledge initiated free prom attire events back in 2015. Now, she had many volunteers assisting her at Menlo-Atherton High School during the event on April 4.
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San Mateo County sheriff sued for alleged retaliation

By Neil Gonzales

A former San Mateo County sheriff’s deputy has filed a lawsuit against Sheriff Christina Corpus, alleging that she retaliated against him in connection with a political endorsement she did not receive.

In his suit, David Wozniak alleged that a few months after he got promoted to acting sergeant, he was demoted in retaliation for Corpus not getting the backing from a political action committee he oversaw when she was running for sheriff in 2022.

Wozniak filed the suit on March 19 in San Mateo County Superior Court. The suit also named Corpus’ chief of staff, Victor Aenlle, as a defendant.

Sheriff’s Office spokesperson Gretchen Spiker dismissed the allegations in a statement emailed to this publication on Thursday, April 4.

“The San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office has not yet been served in any lawsuit by former employee David Wozniak,” Spiker said. “The Sheriff’s Office has received a copy of a complaint and, in light of this, will vigorously defend itself from these false claims.”

She added: “The Sheriff’s Office wants to emphasize that our objective is to serve the public and ensure the highest standards of professional and ethical conduct.”

San Mateo County Sheriffs Office wanted to emphasize that our objective is to serve the public and ensure the highest standards of professional and ethical conduct.

The case states that M-A was singled out and denied, the suit says.

According to the lawsuit, after refusing to return the toy, Emmi began to speak to K.C. in a demeaning manner which escalated the situation leading to Muys to intervene. While in emotional distress, K.C. asked both Emmi and Muys if they could talk elsewhere and both administrators denied his request and ordered him to leave the office, the suit says.

During the escalation, a school secretary allegedly called the police on the student and this eventually led to his arrest at a bus stop outside of the school.

The suit alleges that SUHSD, as a district that receives federal financial assistance, “discriminated against minor K.C. by failing to provide an appropriate education,” violating his rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 — which prohibits discriminatory acts by organizations under federal funds.

M-A student arrest lawsuit adds Sequoia Union, vice principal to amended complaint

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

A federal lawsuit involving the arrest of a Menlo-Atherton High School student now names two additional defendants after an amendment to the suit was filed earlier this week. The amended suit, filed April 1, now includes Sequoia Union High School District and M-A Administrative Vice Principal Nick Muys in addition to the town of Atherton, Atherton police officers and district wellness programs coordinator Stephen Emmi.

Filed by civil rights attorney John Burris and Christoper Dean from Oakland-based law firm Burris Nisenbaum Curry & Lacy in partnership with special education attorneys Evan Goldsen and Carly Christopher, co-founders of the Special Education Collaboration Project, the suit alleges the excessive force and unreasonable arrest of two Menlo-Atherton High School students in April 2023.

The amended complaint restates the incident that reportedly occurred on April 28, 2023, involving the forcible arrest and detention of two 16-year-old Black M-A students who the suit refers to as K.C. and D.B.

K.C. is named as a student of M-A’s Successful Transition Achieved with Responsive Support program, which provides special education students with academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support.

This is the first time that Burris has filed a lawsuit in collaboration with another law firm, said Dan Molieri, a retired correctional officer and lead investigator for Burris.

“Partnering with John on this case is really necessary,” said Goldsen, who finds Burris’s experience in discrimination and civil rights lawsuits essential to the case.

According to the lawsuit, the April incident began when K.C. asked the school office for his water toy that was confiscated earlier in the day. The toy was used for a game being played by him and other students called “Senior Assassin.” Despite his peers being able to retrieve their confiscated items, K.C. was singled out and denied, the suit says.

According to the suit, after refusing to return the toy, Emmi began to speak to K.C. in a demeaning manner which escalated the situation leading to Muys to intervene. While in emotional distress, K.C. asked both Emmi and Muys if they could talk elsewhere and both administrators denied his request and ordered him to leave the office, the suit says.

During the escalation, a school secretary allegedly called the police on the student and this eventually led to his arrest at a bus stop outside of the school.

The case states that M-A staff failed to call in a special education teacher to deescalate the scene, despite the staff acknowledging that he was a “mental health student” who was “easily triggered.”

The suit alleges that SUHSD, as a district that receives federal financial assistance, “discriminated against minor K.C. by failing to provide an appropriate education,” violating his rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 — which prohibits discriminatory acts by organizations under federal funds.

See SHERIFF, page 17

See STUDENT ARREST, page 8
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Community Briefs

Weekend Caltrain service suspended in Menlo Park for two weekends

Weekend Caltrain service will be suspended in Menlo Park April 13-14 and April 20-21 while the rail service reads its 23 new electric trains that will replace 40-year-old diesel train sets in September, according to an April 8 city of Menlo Park press release. The trains will need to be tested for 1,000 miles before they’re ready for passengers, according to Caltrain. As part of the weekend service suspension, morning trains will be replaced by buses between San Francisco and Mountain View. There won’t be replacement buses at the Menlo Park station, so riders are advised to take SamTrans to the Palo Alto or Redwood City stations and transfer to the replacement buses.

With electrical, there will be more weekday trains during peak hours, shorter travel times, and less pollution and noise from trains, according to Caltrain. Caltrain will also host a tour of its electric trains on Saturday, May 11, from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the San Carlos Caltrain station, 599 El Camino Real. In addition to the tour of the trains, there will be food trucks, games and a photo booth. More information is available at caltrain.com.

Love Our Earth Festival on April 13 in East Palo Alto

Menlo Park and East Palo Alto will host a joint Love Our Earth Festival on Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Bloomhouse, 2555 Pulgas Ave. in East Palo Alto. There will be a plant-based market, along with arts and crafts activities and story times for children.

The event will include a home electrification showcase where you can learn why and how to choose induction stoves, heat pump water and home heaters, electric clothes dryers, solar panels and battery storage. Homeowners who’ve already made the switch to electric home appliances will be around to chat with attendees.

There will also be a electric vehicle showcase with new and used EVs, electric motorcycles, e-bikes and manual bikes.

East Palo Alto and Menlo Park and cosponsoring the event with Peninsula Clean Energy, 350 Silicon Valley, Acterra and Menlo Spark.

Admission is free. Register at tinyurl.com/LOE2024.

Vouchers for electric landscaping equipment in Menlo Park

Menlo Park is now offering vouchers to eligible residents and businesses who purchase electric landscaping equipment as the city readies for a ban of gas-powered landscaping equipment, which starts in July.

Gardening businesses are eligible for up to $1,000 in vouchers and residents can save up to $250.

Vouchers are redeemable toward the purchase of electric leaf blowers, hedge trimmers, chainsaws, lawn mowers and more.

For more information, go to tinyurl.com/menlopark gardenvoucher.

Menlo Park Safe Routes to School poster and video contest open

The Menlo Park Safe Routes to School Program is holding its third annual poster and video contest. Students who submit a piece of artwork or video for a chance to win prizes from local businesses (gift certificates to Kepler’s Books, Sports Basement and Coldstone Creamery) according to a city press release.

Children can team up with friends or siblings to create their posters. The artwork should reflect school travel themes such as different transportation modes families use to commute to school or what they enjoy most of their travel to school.

The video challenge is open to middle and high school students. The theme is biking safety and bike etiquette. Examples of past posters and videos from the 2023 winners are posted on the SRTS website.

Students have until May 31 to submit their posters or videos here. For more information, go to tinyurl.com/SRTSc2024

Submissions open for Menlo Park’s Youth Poetry Voices contest

The city of Menlo Park and the Menlo Park Library Foundation are hosting their annual Menlo Park Youth Poetry Voices contest and exhibition for aspiring poets in grades 1-12. All poets will have a chance to share their work at a

See Community Briefs, page 17
Atherton Police say DNA evidence led to burglary arrests

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The Atherton Police Department hosted a community meeting on March 28 to present residents with a deeper look into the department’s work in the recent string of burglaries reported in the beginning of the year. Police also announced that officers found traces of blood after a burglar cut themselves while ripping down shelves during a break-in, which led to several arrests.

“We have one of the lowest crime rates in the state of California and probably across the state,” said Atherton Police Chief Steve McCulley.

This year, the town has reported a total of 12 burglaries since Jan. 1. McCulley explained that burglaries are one of the most common property crimes and are a “very frustrating crime to investigate.”

The meeting overviewed the department’s monitoring of burglary prevention Bait House Program, tactics on catching burglars, a resident volunteer program, burglary prevention, automatic license plate readers and its drone program.

Bait house program gains attention

According to McCulley, the bait house program was inspired by a similar tactic used in Texas. As of March 28, 50 residents have expressed interest in getting involved. Residents that volunteer in the program will have decoy devices installed in their homes, which can include GPS trackers placed in luxury purses or other valuable items.

When one of these homes is burglarized, officers will be immediately alerted to check the home and will be able to track the burglars after they’ve left the scene. Police have asked media to publicize the program in hopes that burglars will steer clear of Atherton knowing that they could be caught through a decoy device.

“When the burglars come, they’re not going to know that this GPS tracker is there and once they take that property, we will be notified of it and be able to track that property whereabouts,” explained Cmndr. Dan Larsen.

Burglars identified in break-in

During the meeting, Detective Sgt. Jeff Taylor said police found traces of blood after a burglar cut themselves while ripping down shelves during a break-in. The blood sample was used to successfully identify the suspects who are in custody in San Diego County.

“The suspects were charged for numerous burglaries down there (San Diego), our burglary up here (Atherton) and a few other crimes against persons,” Taylor said.

He clarified that although it was a great win for them, cases where DNA and blood are found in a burglary are extremely rare.

The department is also utilizing their ALPR cameras and drones to identify and track suspects.

With ALPR cameras being used by many law enforcement agencies in the county, McCulley says that they have been helpful in tracking suspect vehicles as they travel through different cities.

If a crime is reported in South San Francisco, cameras can follow the suspect as they get closer to Atherton and officers are alerted on their whereabouts and are ready to apprehend them.

MO’s and burglary prevention tactics

Atherton police report that burglars aim to break into houses by smashing first floor and second floor balcony windows and doors. They look for households with minimal exterior or interior lighting and houses without activated alarms. Burglars target safes, jewelry, purses, wallets and cash.

McCulley adds that burglars are coming into town in cars that fit into the neighborhood.

Atherton police are offering a service called Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design for residents to get an evaluation of their home and how they can improve their security.

Sgt. Taylor encouraged residents to add outdoor motion sensor lights, surveillance cameras and window security film to reinforce glass. He also states that burglars are aware that safes...

Richard Vaughan, Hillview teacher, musical director for 23 years, to retire

By Joshua Picazo

When Richard Vaughan, who was a teacher and was the musical director at Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park for 23 years, reflects on his career, he recalls the many trips he and his students went on.

“Going on the field with my daughters who went to Hillview, for the (San Francisco) Giants and doing the national anthem with the Giants with them was wonderful,” Vaughan said, who is retiring at the end of the school year. “Going to Disneyland with them was also fun.”

Vaughan, who grew up in Portola Valley, was first hired by Hillview Middle School in 2001.

Under his leadership and with a constant push, the school built a new performance space that can be used for multiple purposes, but what excites him the most about the space is the ability to hold concerts in it.

“When they rebuilt Hillview, there were people who were going, ‘we need another gym,’” he said. “And I made a pretty concerted effort to say ‘no, we need a performance space, but...

Richard Vaughan leading the Hillview band outside of Kepler’s in Menlo Park in 2002.

one that’s flexible.’”

The space can now be used on rainy days, for science fairs, dances, theater and for concerts. “One of the nice things that we are doing in these shows is that we incorporate the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Everyone’s doing SpongeBob right now and it’s pretty cool,” Vaughan added.

When asked about his favorite instrument, Vaughan quickly replied “cello,” adding that he had originally wanted to be part of an orchestra.

“I was a cellist before I was ever a teacher,” he said. “If you had told me when I was 25 that I was going to be a music director, I would have laughed.”

But the fulfillment he gets from teaching students about the arts and music is not lost on him.

Vaughan thinks about how he has guided students and their musical experiences which he hopes will follow them for the rest of their lives, beyond class. Other memories he reflects on during his tenure include

See VAUGHAN, page 13
Last-minute recount requests pending in Silicon Valley congressional race

By Jana Kadah / San José Spotlight

Two recount requests are pending for the highly anticipated race to replace Rep. Anna Eshoo’s San Jose mayoral seat — potentially changing who advances to the November election, which could see T&T Low and Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian tied for second, each with 30,249 votes or 16.6%. The two have seessed between razor-thin margins for weeks, vying to join former San Jose Mayor Liccardo, who secured the top spot with 38,489 votes or 22.13%.

But in a primary race with 11 candidates, some argue it’s possible at least one ballot was miscounted — and there only needs to be one miscounted ballot between Low or Simitian to change the race.

Those who request a recount must also identify whether they want ballots recalculated by machine or by hand. Manual recounts tend to be more accurate and can change results because teams of four work together to ensure accuracy and transparency, team members to check each other’s work and to make sure no single person is making the decision of how to count ballots.

The closely-watched congressional primary wrapped up in an extraordinary matter with three candidates advancing to the general election because two tied for second place. Assemblymember Evan Low and Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian tied for second, each with 30,249 votes or 16.6%. The two have seessed between razor-thin margins for weeks, vying to join former San Jose Mayor Liccardo, who secured the top spot with 38,489 votes or 22.13%.

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Those who request a recount must also identify whether they want ballots recalculated by machine or by hand. Manual recounts tend to be more accurate and can change results because teams of four work together to ensure accuracy and transparency, team members to check each other’s work and to make sure no single person is making the decision of how to count ballots.

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Over 3,000 cans of food collected for Menlo Senior Center

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

every February, members of Burgess Pool’s Menlo Masters participate in the “Can Do Challenge,” an annual event to encourage swimmers to kick off the year with a strong swimming record while also giving back to the community.

For every 2,000 yards swam by each swimmer, one can of food is donated to the Menlo Senior Center’s lunch program.

Participants of the Can Do Challenge are responsible for collecting the cans after the challenge and adding them to a pile in the pool lobby.

The Menlo Masters are led by Tim Sheeper, swim coach and operator of Menlo Park’s Burgess Pool and Palo Alto’s Rinconada Pool.

Swimmers in Menlo Masters are a diverse group, with ages ranging from 19 to 90-year-old and experience levels from ex-Olympic swimmers, college players and local Ironman and was in the top three of the Can Do Challenge in 2023. He was determined to place higher this year.

The first thing about Masters Swim at Burgess is Tim Sheeper as the coach and the people who swim in my lane. It’s a fun group and Tim is an incredible coach and athlete,” Spencer said.

Jeff Starr, who has been swimming with Sheeper for over 20 years, recorded 53,125 yards for the challenge this year. He says Sheeper is a “very underappreciated asset to our community.”

As a recreational swimmer, Spencer dedicated four to six hours of swimming at a time. He said his wife was his biggest supporter, bringing him food and drink for a mid-swim snack while he worked on reaching his initial goal of 200,000 yards — which he successfully exceeded.

Spencer was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer and is getting treatment. However, his diagnosis won’t keep him from his joy for swimming.

“I’m going to keep swimming and my goal is to get back to the community. If you want help, just come to the pool,” said Spencer, who plans to keep up his strength while undergoing treatment.

Sheeper has created a welcoming space in the Menlo Masters swim group where experience doesn’t matter. The swimmers on the team appreciate his coaching methods, philanthropy and look up to him as an athlete.

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

Menlo Park greenlights program to electrify Belle Haven homes

By Neil Gonzales

Menlo Park is moving forward with state money to Menlo Park in 2022.

The program could begin in late May and would target up to 60 low-income homes in Belle Haven with the $2.2 million from the state, according to a presentation by city staff. But as part of the effort, PCE’s Home Upgrade program would serve about 40 other qualifying properties elsewhere in the city.

Once the state funds have been spent, then PCE funds would be used to continue to do projects within the Belle Haven neighborhood,” city management analyst Ori Paz said during the meeting.

The city received the grant from the California Energy Commission after Menlo Spark, a local nonprofit that advances sustainability issues, sought funds from the office of state Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, for electrification upgrades benefiting Belle Haven residents.

“This has been a long time coming,” Menlo Spark Executive Director Brian Schmidt said, addressing the council. “It’s great that we’re starting very soon. We might be able to actually get installations in time to help people for the summer heat and get some climate resilience this summer out of this project, which is really exciting.”

The program aligns with the council making climate action a priority for fiscal year 2024-25, city staff said. The program is also in keeping with the city’s Climate Action Plan, which provides a roadmap to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and calls for Menlo Park to electrify 95% of existing buildings by then.

Once the city submits a progress report of the home-electrification program, staff said, the state would send the rest of the funds. However, Menlo Park has to spend the full $4.5 million by June 30, 2026, or return any remaining amount to the state.

“So I’m, as everyone else is, very excited about this program,” Council member Betsy Nash said before she and her colleagues voted to proceed with the project.

“I think the biggest thing that we need to do at this point is get it off the ground and get moving.”

Although council members ultimately supported going ahead with the program, they did bring up some concerns, including the suggestion for a $100,000 workforce-development offering related to home electrification.

Adding workforce development could take away resources from the main program, Council member Jen Wolosin said before the vote. “I think we have to be stewards of our staff’s time and our other priorities and making sure we don’t take on too much.”

The council decided to hold off on workforce development for now but expressed willingness to revisit it down the line.

The council also raised an issue with the fact that the program would not reach the large rental community in Belle Haven.

“My concern is that, since the Belle Haven neighborhood is majority renters — roughly 70% — that are facing increased utilities costs like everyone else, that’s not the population that’s going to be served by this electrification,” Mayor Cecilia Taylor said.

Responding to the council, PCE manager Alexander Posada acknowledged that the program is aimed at homeowners and does not have plans at this time to incorporate rental units.

Among the reasons why that’s

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Larry P. O’Neill, 89, a Menlo Park resident, who was director of golf at the Stanford University Golf Course, a Navy Veteran, and known for doing Tai Chi in the pool lobby.

Susie Perkins, 78, a Mountain View resident, who was a medical technician who cloned blood cells at Stanford Medical Center and worked on publications that were at the forefront of monoclonal antibody research, who loved jigsaw puzzles and ballroom dance teacher, who was a prolific cookie baker, seamstress, a talented craft maker, gift wrapper, homemaker, cook, and gardener, who was an avid decorator, cook, and gardener, who was a proud mom and nurturing friend, on March 27, 2024.

Patricia McEwen, 100, a native Californian and former longtime resident of Palo Alto, who formerly owned Felix, a giant tortoise who eventually escaped and made a new life for himself at the fire station on Embarcadero Road, who played Snow White in the Palo Alto Children’s Theatre’s first production, in 1932 and eventually served on the organization’s board, who earned a bachelor’s degree from Stanford University, who was a member of the Palo Alto Historical Association, who was an avid reader and researcher, on March 16, 2024.

Lambert Dolphin Jr., 91, who worked at SRI International (formerly Stanford Research Institute) in Menlo Park for almost 30 years, who was voted “Most likely to succeed” in high school, who studied physics and electrical engineering in graduate school at Stanford University, and who was a member of Peninsula Bible Church in Palo Alto, on Jan. 1, 2024.

Rosie Cole, 87, a former Menlo Park resident, who graduated from Stanford University, who was involved with Peninsula Volunteers. Inc. for many years, who was a former Wells Fargo Bank employee, who was a skilled seamstress, a talented craft maker, gift wrapper, home decorator, cook, and gardener, and ballroom dance teacher, on Dec. 29, 2023.

See BELLE HAVEN, page 20
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EmersonMontessori.com  Emerson: (650) 424-1267
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Harker Summer Programs  San Jose
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Harker.org/Summer  (408) 553-5737

Lyndian Academy  Menlo Park, Burlingame
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LydianAcademy.com/Admissions/Summer-at-Lyndian/  (650) 405-1312

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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

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

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StratfordSchools.com/Summer  (650) 493-1151

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Summer-2024  (650) 339-0034

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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.
ArtsAll.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

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
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VentanaSchool.org/Elementary-Summer-Camps-2024  (650) 948-2121

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The first camp ever approved by The Positive Coaching Alliance for 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
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SpartansSportsCamp.com  (650) 479-5906

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StanfordWaterPoloCamps.com  (650) 725-9016

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BURGLARIES
continued from page 7
are typically located in master bedrooms and recommends that they be kept in other places where there’s a camera or motion sensor and be built into something solid.

The Atherton police suggest residents undertake these security measures to ensure their home will be safe from a break-in:
- Lock all doors and windows
- Use the alarm system and understand how they work
- Install a camera system
- Notify the police department when you leave for vacation and officers can do regular checks
- Keep exterior and interior lights on during hours of darkness to make it look like someone is home
- Build camaraderie with neighbors and look out for each other’s homes

During the meeting, residents asked about using self-defense tools like pepper spray, which Larsen affirmed could be used within homes. He stated that when it comes to tools like baseball bats and firearms, individuals should reflect on whether they are proficient enough to use them.

"Research has shown that more often than not, especially with a firearm, it’s going to be taken from you and used against you," said McCulley.

In most cases, burglars are not looking for confrontation and when they discover that residents are home they will flee the property, Larsen said.

Community policing
The police department promoted their existing Resident Volunteer Program to Atherton residents during the meeting. Anyone in the community can volunteer and the police department will provide each participant with comprehensive training, support, and resources.

Larsen describes the volunteers as "an extra set of eyes and ears for us."

While wearing a high visibility vest, volunteers get involved with conducting neighborhood patrols to deter crime and ensure public safety. They work closely with Atherton police to report suspicious activities, hazards and other concerns.

An April 4 news bulletin stated that there are currently 41 members. In the last year they conducted 1,606 walking patrols with 2,588 hours of walking patrol time, according to police.

Contact Sergeant John Fong at 650-688-6500 or at JFong@ci.atherton.ca.us to volunteer.

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

CANDIDATE
continued from page 1
the city’s youth. He wants young Menlo Park residents to participate in the city’s programs, planning and projects, as well as in volunteer work.

“Our city is changing for them too, and they have great ideas and insights,” Schmidt said on his campaign website.

He also wants to focus on workforce development for local students. He said that it’s important to ensure that rewarding careers, such as in data science, are visible to students.

Though this run for council is his first campaign for public office, Schmidt said his time serving on the Environmental Quality Commission and attending council meetings has given him the right background to be an effective council member.

“I think it’s really educated me. I’ve had the chance to interact with the council a lot, and it’s moments of collaboration and working together where things really get done,” he said.

Schmidt plans to embark on a walking tour of District 3, starting next week, to hear what residents are thinking.

“If you get a knock on the door and it’s from me, I’m just here to listen,” he said.

No candidates have pulled nomination papers for the election thus far, according to the City Clerk’s office. Schmidt intends to do so soon, he said.

For more information on Schmidt, go to jeffmenlopark.com.

Email Contributing Writer Eleanor Raab at eroerab@gmail.com.
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  - 481SanAntonio.com

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  - 1026Webster.com

- **1120 MAY BROWN AVENUE, MENLO PARK**
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  - 1120MayBrown.com

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  - 197Greenoaks.com

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  - 1449University.com

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<td>Top Listing Agent or Team at the Brokerage</td>
<td>DeLeon Team</td>
<td>Intero Real Estate</td>
<td>Compass</td>
<td>DPL Real Estate</td>
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| Listing Units | $451,675,623 | $173,614,694 | $173,160,000 | $136,691,840 |

Criteria: MLSListings, Inc., Residential, Top Agent/Team at each brokerage, Santa Clara & San Mateo Counties Combined. Date Range: 1/1/2023-12/31/2023

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Project Number: 56091

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2. Plans & Specifications: Plans & Specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton’s website at: http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/bids.aspx at no cost. Additional information is contained in Town of Atherton Standard Specifications, which are available at: http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/286. Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town’s website. No Planholders list will be made be available.

3. Project Schedule: The work shall be completed within Thirty (30) working days from the First Day of Construction as defined in the Notice to Proceed.

4. Bid Submission: SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, California 94027, until 1:30 p.m. Pacific Standard Time May 1, 2024, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. All proposals must be submitted not later than the date and time prescribed. The Bidder is wholly responsible for ensuring its Bid is submitted on the date and at the time and place designated for the opening of bids. Any Bid received after the date and time specified shall not be considered. Any Bid may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled time for opening bids.

5. Engineer’s Estimate for the project is: $343,000.

6. Bid Requirements: Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked “Bid of (Contractor) for 2024 SLURRY SEAL PROJECT, Project No: 56091”, along with date and time of bid opening. Bidders shall refer to the Bid Requirements section of the project Plans and Specifications for additional information and requirements.

7. Required Contractor’s License: Bidder must possess a current California Class “A” General Engineering, or “C-12” Earthwork and Paving, or “C-32” Parking and Highway Improvement or any specialty required contractor’s license issued by the State of California, at the time the Bid is submitted. The Contractor and all subcontractors shall be licensed by the State of California in the class appropriate for the work contemplated. Failure of Contractor or his/her subcontractors to possess such current license at the time of bidding may be deemed sufficient cause for rejection of the bid.

8. Portion of Work to be Performed by the Contractor: The General Contractor shall perform, with his own organization, work of a value amounting to not less than 50% of the total contract, excluding specialty items as may be indicated on the bid schedule.

9. Department of Industrial Relations Registration: A Contractor or Subcontractor shall not be qualified to bid on, be listed in a bid proposal, subject to the requirements of Public Contract Code 4104, or engage in the performance of any contract for public work, as that term is defined in Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1 of the Labor Code, unless currently registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5. (http://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html)

10. Reservation of Rights: The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids; to make any awards or any rejections in what it alone considers to be in the best interest of the Town and waive any infirmities or irregularities in the bids. If there is a reason to believe that collusion exists among any bidders, none of the bids of the participants in such collusion will be considered and the Town may likewise elect to reject all bids received.

11. Substitution of Securities: The successful bidder may substitute securities for retention monies withheld to ensure performance of the contract, in accordance with California Public Contract Code, Section 22300.

12. Prevailing Wage Rates: Bidders are hereby notified that provisions of California Labor Code regarding prevailing wages and apprentices are applicable to the work to be performed under this contract. Pursuant to Section 1773 et seq, the general prevailing wage rates have been determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations and appear in the California Prevailing Wage Rates. Copies are on file at the office of the City Engineer and are available to interested parties upon request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of the wage rates at the job site.

13. Bid Preparation Cost: Bidders are solely responsible for the cost of plan and specification printing and preparing their Bids.

14. Town Contact: Questions regarding the project should be directed to Robert Ovadia, PE, by written Requests for Information (RFI) to: Public Works Department, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027, no later than eight (8) business days before bid opening. RFIs may be emailed to rovadia@ci.atherton.ca.us.

15. Understanding: By submitting a bid in response to this advertisement for bids, the bidder shall be conclusively deemed to have read, understood, and agreed with all of the information and materials contained in the bid documents, including but not limited to the standard specifications, the special provisions, the required nature and amount of insurance and the documentation evidencing said insurance.

16. Bid Protests: The lack of a prompt procedure to resolve disputes regarding the bidding process would impair the Town’s ability to carry out its purpose of constructing this project in a timely manner. Therefore, to the maximum extent authorized by law and notwithstanding any other procedures specified in documents referenced herein, all disputes and/or protests regarding the bidding process shall be subject to the following procedure. In submitting a Bid to the Town for this project, the Bidder agrees to comply with and to be bound by this procedure.

Any Bid protest must be submitted in writing to the Office of the City Clerk, Atherton Town Hall 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027, before 5:00 p.m. on the fifth (5th) working day following Bid opening.

The initial protest document must contain a complete statement of the basis for the protest, and all supporting documentation.

The party filing the protest must have actually submitted a Bid for the Work. A Subcontractor of a party submitting a Bid for the Work may not submit a Bid protest. A party may not rely on the Bid protest submitted by another Bidder, but must timely pursue its own protest.

The protest must refer to the specific portion of the Contract Documents which forms the basis for the protest.

The protest must include the name, address and telephone number of the person representing the protesting party.

The party filing the protest must concurrently transmit a copy of the initial protest document and any attached documentation to all other parties with a direct financial interest which may be adversely affected by the outcome of the protest. Such parties shall include all other Bidders who appear to have a reasonable prospect of receiving an award depending upon the outcome of the protest.

The Town will give the protested Bidder five (5) working days after the receipt of the protest to submit a written response. The responding Bidder shall transmit the response to the protesting Bidder concurrent with delivery to the Town.

The procedure and time limits set forth in this paragraph are mandatory and are the Bidder’s sole and exclusive remedy in the event of Bid protest. The Bidder’s failure to comply with these procedures shall constitute a waiver of any right to further pursue the Bid protest, including filing a Government Code Claim or legal proceedings.

If the Town determines that a protest is frivolous, the protesting Bidder may be determined to be non-responsive, and that Bidder may be determined to be ineligible for future contract awards.

17. List of Subcontractors: Each Bidder shall set forth in its Bid (on the form provided here with) the following information in accordance with the provisions of Public Contract Code sections 4100-4113: The name, Contractor’s license number, public works Contractor registration number and the location of the place of business of each Subcontractor who will perform work or labor or render service to the prime Contractor and/or the construction of the work or improvement, or a Subcontractor licensed by the State of California who, under subcontract to the prime Contractor, specifically fabricates and installs a portion of the work or improvement according to the Contract Documents, in any amount in excess of one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the prime Contractor’s total Bid, or ten thousand dollars($10,000.00), whichever is greater.

The portion of the work which will be done by each such Subcontractor. Only one Subcontractor shall be listed for each such portion of the work as defined in the Bid.

The Bidder is considered the Prime Contractor and shall perform at least fifty percent (50%) of the work, as determined by a percentage of the value of the work.

If the Bidder fails to specify a Subcontractor for any portion of the work to be performed under the Contract, the Bidder agrees to perform that portion of the work itself.

By: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Robert Ovadia, P.E., City Engineer
reception hosted by the library, be published in a commemorative anthology which will be displayed in the Local Authors Collection.

Submissions will be accepted until April 30. Featured poets will be invited to present their poem to the council on May 21.

Apply at menlopark.gov/ youthpoetry.

— Angela Swartz

Compost giveaway for Portola Valley residents

The town of Portola Valley is hosting a free compost giveaway in collaboration with GreenWaste on April 19. The giveaway will take place at the Portola Valley schoolhouse parking lot in the afternoon for residents.

Each household is entitled to one bag on a first-come, first-serve basis. The town is aiming to promote sustainable waste management and the positive impacts of composting on the soil and the environment. The compost is made from recycled green and yard waste to be used as a supplemental basis. The town is aiming to serve this compost to Portola Valley residents after April 19. The giveaway will be hosted in collaboration with GreenWaste.

Each household is entitled to one bag on a first-come, first-serve basis. The town is aiming to promote sustainable waste management and the positive impacts of composting on the soil and the environment. The compost is made from recycled green and yard waste to be used as a supplemental basis. The town is aiming to serve this compost to Portola Valley residents after April 19. The giveaway will be hosted in collaboration with GreenWaste.

SHERIFF
continued from page 5

questions, the suit said, Corpus sent a written response to the PAC indicating that she would not participate.

"Corpus thought that the questions selected by the PAC were hostile and not relevant to the process because they had been selected by Mr. Wozniak," the suit said.

Based on the information gathered and in accordance with union bylaws, the suit said, the PAC voted to back Bolanos. However, the union’s board decided to remain neutral throughout that election race and not explicitly support either candidate.

Corpus went on to win the election and was installed as the new sheriff in January 2023.

Aenlle — who became part of a team to help Corpus transition into office — was vocal about his dislike of Mr. Wozniak to multiple employees within the Sheriff’s Office, the suit said. Both he and Corpus saw Wozniak being union president as a "problem" and "headache" for the Sheriff’s Office.

Meanwhile, Wozniak was promoted from deputy to acting sergeant in August 2022, the suit said.

"Mr. Wozniak was successful in the role of acting sergeant and received a positive performance review from his supervisor," the suit said. Just before leaving office, Bolanos also commended Wozniak’s work in his new position.

However, the suit said Wozniak received a letter from Corpus informing him that he would return to the designation of deputy in February 2023.

"From August 2022 through February 2023, there were no issues with Mr. Wozniak’s performance in the role of acting sergeant," the suit said, "and by all appearances, he was headed towards a promotion to sergeant after completing his probationary period in the acting sergeant role." Based on information and belief, it is unprecedented for Mr. Wozniak to have been demoted back to the deputy sheriff role without being promoted to acting sergeant.

Because of Corpus and Aenlle’s actions and behavior, the suit said, Wozniak also suffered discrimination, reputational harm, humiliation, lost wages and other damages. He seeks a court order "retrospectively instating" him to the sergeant ranking, coverage of court costs and other relief, the suit said.

The suit is scheduled for a hearing on Aug. 19.

Email Contributing Writer

N E W S

Rotary Club of Menlo Park awards grants to nonprofits

The Rotary Club of Menlo Park granted 12 local nonprofit agencies with a total of $43,000 in community grants. Each grant ranged from $1,500 to $5,000 from the Rotary Club of Menlo Park, the club’s foundation and Tour de Menlo, the club’s annual bicycle ride.

Grants were focused on youth and senior food insecurity, arts and culture, human trafficking and education. The recipients of the grants include:

- CoolineKids will be using the grant for a summer program in East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park for K-8 students.

The program will provide kids with a safe space to learn skills in communication, science, leadership and more.

- Ecumenical Hunger Project is an East Palo Alto organization that will use the grant to provide bagged meals to children struggling with food insecurity.

- Foundation for a College Education plans to use the grant to support low-income East Palo Alto students graduate from a four-year college.

The program provides support in tutoring, financial aid, test preparation, scholarships and the cost of college applications for five high school seniors and community college transfer students.

- LifeMoves, an organization that supports unhoused families, will provide students of the 23 Haven Family House in East Menlo Park with educational resources to support academic success.

- Live in Peace will be using the grant to help at-risk high school students with reclaiming their vision of the future by mentoring, tutoring and one-on-one coaching.

- Meals on Wheels will be using the grant to continue their program that delivers nutritious foods to seniors and adults with disabilities.

- Menlo-Atherton Learning Center plans to partner with organizations that support veterans, the elderly, the environment and public health.

- Menlo College is supporting students by providing SafeWAY gift cards and stocking their community kitchen to address food insecurity on campus.

- Peninsula Bridge will be using the grant to help 38 highly motivated low income students from East Palo Alto achieve college and career success.

The grant will also be used to pay teachers in the summer and for after-school programs.

- Ravenswood Education Foundation will be providing arts education to all K-8 students at Ravenswood Elementary School. The grant will fund materials and salaries for the art and music program at Belle Haven Elementary School.

- St. Anthony’s Kitchen plans to create a 5-minute video on building compassion and awareness for the organization’s services and to attract volunteers to help in their kitchen and dining room.

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi
LIST WITH THE DELEON TEAM FOR
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TOTAL COMMISSION

We have entered a new era where sellers no longer need to pay 2.5% or more to the buyer’s agent. Most of our sellers now offer only $10,000 to the buyer’s agent, and if the agent wants more, the buyer covers the difference – if not, the DeLeon Buyer’s Team will represent the buyer on our listing at no charge, even waiving the $10,000! This client-centric approach saves our sellers money and boosts buyer interest.

Our sellers work directly with Michael Repka, Audrey Sun, and our team of talented in-house professionals. They also enjoy access to our robust list of complimentary services, industry-leading marketing, and targeted outreach to the Chinese and Indian communities. Our record of success sets us apart from the competition. Schedule an appointment today to experience firsthand why so many Silicon Valley residents have entrusted us with selling their homes!

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PORTOLA VALLEY
SOLD FOR
$4,000,000
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SOLD FOR $500K+ OVER ASKING
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963 VAN AUKEN CIRCLE
PALO ALTO
SOLD FOR
$2,700,000
RECEIVED 17 OFFERS
SOLD FOR $700K+ OVER ASKING
ONLY $10K PAID TO BUYER’S AGENT

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

Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 | 650.785.5822 | Equal Housing Opportunity | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

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Michael Repka
DRE #01854880
650.488.7325
An unparalleled living experience awaits in this architectural masterpiece nestled on over a third of an acre in esteemed Sharon Heights, one of Silicon Valley’s premier neighborhoods. Encompassing over 4,400 square feet of living space, this stately home presents a seamless fusion of grand Colonial aesthetics and contemporary elegance. Immerse yourself in the epitome of luxury living through a thoughtfully designed floorplan featuring expansive formal rooms, the chef’s kitchen with top appliances, a family room, and the lavish, retreat-like primary suite with its own fireplace. Enjoy a harmonious connection to the outdoors on multi-level grounds that offer serene, private spaces for al fresco entertaining, complemented by a guest house. And this home affords the opportunity to experience everything its prime location has to offer – from one of the area’s finest golf and country clubs to upscale shopping and dining, meticulously maintained parks, and access to renowned schools (buyer to verify eligibility). Welcome home to the pinnacle of Silicon Valley living.

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Stanford names Jonathan Levin, business school dean, as new president
By Sarah Wright

Stanford University announced April 4 that Jonathan Levin, current dean of the Graduate School of Business, will be the new university president starting in time for the fall term.

Levin will succeed Richard Saller, who has been serving as president on an interim basis since September 2023. Saller took over after former Stanford President Michael D. Hess, who resigned as president last summer after a panel of experts found significant flaws in numerous studies that he had supervised more than a decade ago.

The resignation of Tessier-Lavigne, a neuroscientist, was sparked by a series of articles that the student newspaper, The Stanford Daily, had published about Tessier-Lavigne’s work last summer after a panel concluded that there were “serious flaws in the presentation of research data” and that at least four of the five papers in which he was a principal author had “apparent manipulation by others,” but it did not conclude that Tessier-Lavigne had knowledge of the manipulation.

While Saller served as interim president, the university had a 20-member committee search of his successor. The Presidential Search Committee had spent seven months recruiting and assessing candidates, according to the university.

Jerry Yang, president of the university’s Board of Trustees, announced on April 4 that Levin will be the unanimous choice of both the search committee and the trustees.

“Jon brings a rare combination of qualities: a deep understanding and love of Stanford, an impressive track record of academic and leadership success, the analytical prowess to tackle complex strategic issues, and a collaborative and optimistic leadership style,” Yang said in the news release announcing the appointment. “He is consistently described by those who know him as principled, humble, authentic, thoughtful, and inspiring. We are excited about Stanford’s future under Jon’s leadership.”

Levin joined the Stanford faculty in 2000 and has also won awards for his work in economics. He is a member of President Joe Biden’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and has served as dean of the business school for the last eight years, according to the university.

“I am grateful and humbled to be asked to lead Stanford — a university that has meant so much to me for more than three decades,” Levin said in a statement.

Dr. Bonnie Maldonado, co-chair of the Presidential Search Committee, described Levin as “a leader who drives change in a way that engages faculty, students, and other stakeholders. Moreover, Jon’s academic background, analytical skills, and experience have provided him with the skillset and ability to oversee this incredibly complex institution.” Maldonado said in the statement.

Email Editor Sarah Wright at swright@paweekly.com.

PROM continued from page 1

the PTA has collected around 300 dresses, half of which are new with tags, and around 50 suits and tuxedos.

“Before this big event, we only had about 70 dresses and it was nothing like it is today,” said Perkins-Sledge. “It makes my heart so happy that so many people donate together and the love from our PTA dropping everything and working late nights to collect dresses has just been inspiring.”

Macy’s also granted the PTA $2,500 to provide students with gift certificates. Sephora donated 75 gift bags. There were also donations from the Men’s Warehouse and Rin Bridal and an anonymous donation of 100

The prom closet was a two-day event where “personal shoppers” helped students choose their dresses and suits and get fitted. Volunteer seamstresses pinned and altered garments, using their sewing skills to help students feel comfortable in their attire.

Yvonne Murray, an M-A parent, said her volunteer experience was “loving how much money they receive from the closet as well.

Parents of students are also loving how much money they can save through the PTA’s efforts. M-A parent Patricia Harris said that the money they save on dresses and shoes will go toward a vacation instead.

As the prom closet has expanded, teachers and students from TIDE Academy in Menlo Park and East Palo Alto Academy have also expressed interest in the program. Students from these schools were invited to the closet as well.

“School (M-A) is a huge melting pot between a very wide range of socioeconomics,” said Suzanne Buettner, an M-A parent and alumna. “I think the amount of need in the student body can sometimes be invisible and we’re giving them a safe space to do something new and help them feel special.”

Perkins-Sledge hopes that in the future, M-A leadership, community members, teachers and staff will contribute to the prom closet to make prom accessible to everyone.

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

Flood Park construction began Monday, April 8
By Almanac staff

Flood Park, near North Fair Oaks and Menlo Park closed on Monday, April 8, as demolition begins prior to construction of the first phase of the "Realize Flood Park" project, according to an April 4 San Mateo County press release.

Construction crew work hours will be Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. There won’t be construction on weekends and holidays.

In December 2023, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties expect to complete the 21-acre county park, located at 215 Bay Road, $1.3 million. The money came from the $10.3 million Santa Clara County San Mateo County funded.

The first phase is expected to last most of 2024, according to the county. It includes construction of picnic areas, a multi-use sports field and sports courts that include basketball, tennis, pickleball and volleyball courts.

On April 8, the San Mateo county will install security fencing. The same day, it will begin heavy demolition of the site and bring in construction equipment. The bike pump track is scheduled to close during this week while the surface is sealed.

The pump track — a mountain/dirt bike course that debuted in October 2023 — will be open throughout most of the project. There will be periods when flaggers halt car and bike traffic to move materials and equipment. The pump track will be closed for several weeks this summer while parking areas are paved.

The park is expected to partially reopen with some restrictions on newly landscaped areas in the fall.

Officials plan to fully reopen the park next winter.

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

BELLE HAVEN continued from page 10

the case, Posada said, “there are a lot of complexities with rentals that we would want to make sure” receives attention before they could possibly be included.

In other matters, the council heard updates on:

• The new Belle Haven Community Center

The project earned a temporary certificate of occupancy March 7, staff said in a report. The final certificate of occupancy is expected mid-April.

But wrap-up work is still being done inside the complex such as furniture and equipment installation, inspections, and staff training and orientation to prepare for public opening possibly by the end of May, staff said.

• City-run child care programs

Preschool enrollment has been going up slowly but has yet to match pre-pandemic levels, staff said in another report.

The Belle Haven Child Development Center, for instance, consistently saw enrollment at or near its maximum capacity of 76 children before the pandemic, according to staff. But for the past year, the center’s monthly enrollment has hovered between the 40s and 60s.

Several factors could be at play for the lower enrollment, staff said, including continuing concerns about the spread of communicable illnesses and the work-from-home trend.

The city is exploring strategies to bolster enrollment such as expanding subsidized child care to Menlo Children’s Center through state grant funding and English immersion transitional kindergarten program at public schools for families that need continued service later in the day, staff said.

There is also expected to delve further into the issues involving the city’s child care programs at a future study session.

Email Contributing Writer Neil Gonzales at ngonzales92@yahoo.com.
STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME 

File No. M-289547

The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business name statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):

RESTAURANT MUSITUNI
325 Sharon Park Dr, SUITE A-2
Menlo Park, CA 94025

This business was CONDUCTED BY: a Corporation.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on April 03, 2024.

(ALM Apr 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 2024)

REPAIR CARPET CALIFORNIA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-296961

The following person (persons) (are) doing business as:
1.) REPAIR CARPET CALIFORNIA, located at 1451 Beach Blvd, Unit 201, Foster City, CA, 94404.

Registered owner(s):
ALHAMBRA REAL ESTATE
1451 Beach Blvd, Unit 201
Foster City, CA 94404

This business is conducted by an Individual. 

Registered owner 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 March 19, 2024.

(ALM Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

ELIO ACADEMY OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-296950

The following person (persons) (are) doing business as:
1.) ELIO ACADEMY OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, located at 2108 N ST, STE N, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s): SOL SCIENTIFIC LLC
2108 N ST, STE N
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

Business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company.

Registered owner 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 March 15, 2024.

(ALM Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

MB POOL SERVICE

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-297045

The following person (persons) (are) doing business as:
1.) MB POOL SERVICE, located at 1035 Bradley Way, East Palo Alto, CA 94303.

Registered owner(s): AGUSTIN MACHASTY BARRAGAN
1035 Bradley Way
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

This business is conducted by an Individual.

Registered owner 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 May 05, 2024.

(ALM Mar 29, Apr 5, 12 and 19, 2024)

FRESH FOCUS FILMS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-297050

The following person (persons) (are) doing business as:
1.) FRESH FOCUS FILMS, located at 45 Tinten Lane, Portola Valley, CA 94028.

Registered owner(s): NICOLAS CHURCHILL TIEMARSH
45 Tinten Lane
Portola Valley, CA 94028

This business is conducted by an Individual.

Registered owner 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 March 29, 2024.

(ALM Apr 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 2024)

FLEX DUMP BURGER

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-297032

The following person (persons) (are) doing business as:
1.) FLEX DUMP BURGER, located at 1100 PARK PLACE, BL DG 2, 70T, 20, SAN MATEO, CA 94403.

Registered owner(s): MING CHI
340 Objective St
San Mateo, CA 94401

This business is conducted by an Individual.

Registered owner 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 March 28, 2024.

(ALM Apr 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 2024)

SUPER DUPER BURGER

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-297032

The following person (persons) (are) doing business as:
1.) SUPER DUPER BURGER, located at 1100 PARK PLACE, BL DG 2, 70T, 20, SAN MATEO, CA 94403.

Registered owner(s): MING CHI
340 Objective St
San Mateo, CA 94401

This business is conducted by an Individual.

Registered owner 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 March 28, 2024.

(ALM Apr 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 2024)

MINO FOOD COMPANY

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-296659

The following person (persons) (are) doing business as:
1.) MINO FOOD COMPANY, located at 420 Santa Rita Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner/s:
CAROLINE FULLERTON STONE
PO BOX 441, 655 Oak Grove Ave
Menlo Park, CA 94025

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

This business is conducted by an Individual.

Registered owner 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 22, 2024.

(ALM Mar 22, 29, Apr 5 and 12, 2024)

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

Case No.: 24-CIV-01355

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Serena Yu-Ching Yeung-Levy

FILED in this court with a decree for changing names as follows: SERENA YU-CHING YEUNG-LEVY to SERENA YU CHEN

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: 05/09/2024, 9:00am, Dept. 17, Master Calendar, Courtroom 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:

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Where to celebrate Earth Day on the Peninsula

Celebrate the Earth and learn how to help take care of the planet at these local events

By Julia Brown

Although April 22 is officially Earth Day, many Earth Day-themed events now take place all throughout April, making it Earth Month — and why not? — the planet could always use some extra love. Here’s where to find Peninsula cities and community groups celebrating our big blue marble and highlighting the ways we can help the Earth.

Love Our Earth Festival, East Palo Alto

350 Silicon Valley hosts this event featuring a home electrification showcase, clean vehicle expo highlighting new and used electric vehicles, electric motorcycles, bikes and more, a market of plant-based food and drink, community groups sharing their expertise, crafts and activities for families, including a live reptile encounter, plus live music and performances.

April 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Bloomhouse, 2555 Pulgas Ave., East Palo Alto; free admission. eventbrite.com.

San Mateo County libraries: ongoing

The San Mateo County Libraries mark Earth Month with various activities at various branches, including an online event on food preservation (April 13), a storytime and sunflower seed planting (April 23, Woodside), Earth Day-themed escape rooms (multiple dates and locations), a craft workshop to make plantable paper seed balls (San Carlos, April 23) and a trash-to-art competition (Foster City, April 27).

Throughout April at various San Mateo County library locations. smcl.bibliocommons.com.

Stanford, ongoing

Stanford University hosts a variety of events to celebrate Earth Month, including Earth Tones, a day of music, food and speakers at O’Donohue Family Farm (April 23); film screenings (April 24 and 25) talks on activism and a service day in the Arizona Cactus Garden.

Throughout April at various Stanford University campus locations. sustainable.stanford.edu.

Sunnyvale Earth Day Festival

The city of Sunnyvale marks Earth Day with the grand opening of its new civic center in an event that features family-friendly, sustainability-focused activities and information from local organizations. Activities include sustainable arts and crafts for kids, a cooking demonstration from the Zero-Waste Chef, Anne-Marie Bonneau, live entertainment, guided urban canopy tours, a display of electric vehicles and info on home composting from master composters.

April 20, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Sunnyvale Civic Center, 456 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale. sunnyvale.ca.gov.

Arbor and Earth Day Celebration

The city of Mountain View combines its celebrations for Arbor Day and Earth Day into an event that features booths with Earth-friendly resources and information, workshops, an electric vehicle showcase, live music and animal programs, kids’ activity area and rock-climbing wall, plant-based food, tree walks and a group bike ride and a tree planting by the mayor.

April 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Rengstorff Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. mountainview.gov.

Earth Day Author Event: Heather Ferranti Kinser

The Palo Alto Library hosts author Heather Ferranti Kinser who reads from her new book “In a Cave” at this event geared for toddlers and young children.

April 20, 3-4 p.m. at Mitchell Park Library, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Free, but registration is required at tinyurl.com/EarthDayAuthorPA.

Atherton Earth Day Festival

The town of Atherton celebrates the planet and promotes sustainable living with an event featuring green technology demonstrations, plant-based food, exhibits and activities. April 21, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave., Atherton. ci.atherton.ca.us/625/Earth-Day.

Palo Alto Earth Day Festival

Families can join the city of Palo Alto for a celebration with live animal encounters, pollinator garden tours, eco-bingo, a live cooking demonstration and an upcycled art show. See EARTH DAY, page 24.
I'm not sure yet if this is a memoir or a manifesto, a love letter or a suicide note.

That's the first sentence of Mike Trigg's new novel "Burner," a thriller set in San Francisco that captures the present day zeitgeist of political unrest, wealth inequality, social media addiction and high tech.

The ethos of the present era is brought out through a tragic love story between Shane, the leader of a populist movement run amok and Chloe, a tech billionaire’s daughter who is abducted by the same group.

While the opening line came to Trigg in what he calls "a fever dream," the idea to write this book is something he has lived with for many years. Before he became an author, he spent over two decades in the tech industry, prior to which he worked for several years on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

"I was there during a very tumultuous time in the early '90s — it was the rise of right-wing radio, it was the rise of Newt Gingrich’s 'Contract With America', the 'Unabomber' happened around then, the Oklahoma City bombing happened around then, we had ricin mailed to the Capitol around then," he said. "It was sort of the first time in contemporary politics where we really saw the seeds of what has become even more extreme politics in our country."

That's when his interest in the subject began to grow. "I've been very fascinated, in a good and bad way, with the intersection of technology and politics, how technology platforms have been used and abused for driving political polarization, driving extremism," he said about his inspiration for the book.

After percolating through his consciousness for years, the idea crystallized on Jan. 6, 2021, when a riotous mob of Donald Trump’s supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol building.

"When that happened, I think it was a wake up call for everybody — both on the left and the right, I hope — about the dangers of populism untethered," he said, about toxic realities that eventually formed the basis of his fiction.

“What happens to democratic society when you don’t have a common definition of the truth? The core question we wrestle with in America right now is ‘what are the limits of free speech?’” Trigg feels strongly about the sway that wealthy individuals and foreign governments have over the democratic process and is disturbed by the way social media platforms are exploited for propaganda.

“When I wrote the book, I thought it would be a retrospective critique,” he said. But in the run up to this...
city staff will be on hand with games, giveaways and resources to help residents make their homes and daily lives more sustainable.

April 21, 1-4 p.m., Rinconada Library, 1213 Newell Road, Palo Alto. cityofpaloalto.org.

**CuriOdyssey’s Earth Day Celebration**

Kids’ science museum and zoo CuriOdyssey hosts a day of eco-activities for kids of all ages that also features Earth Day vendor market, music, food from Satay on the Bay and Mozzarella and a chance to learn about conservation at CuriOdyssey and get ideas and information on how to team up to help take better care of the planet.

April 21, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at CuriOdyssey, 1651 Coyote Point Drive, San Mateo. curiodyssey.org.

Find more Earth Month events at almanacnews.com/arts-culture.

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**‘BURNER’ continued from page 23**

year’s elections, as he pointed out, a lot of the same issues are being discussed in the news every day.

“I have tremendous anxiety about the 2024 elections,” he said. “I worry about that for our country. I worry about that for our children. That was a big inspiration for the book.”

“Burner” will publish on April 16. This is Trigg’s second literary endeavor. His first novel, “Bit Flip,” which was published in August 2022, is a Silicon Valley-based satire of local tech culture.

“My lane as a writer is contemporary thrillers that examine the impact of technology on modern life,” he said, classifying his books as “cautionary tales.”

While his work is crafted to entertain readers, it also bears a stamp of his personal brand of activism. “Both books very much have a message to them,” Trigg said. He is genuinely concerned about the potentially toxic side to technology.

His concern is not unfounded. Social media connects people but also creates virtual alter egos with fragmented identities. The internet has a wealth of information but also creates virtual alter egos with fragmented identities.

“The internet and mobile phone outage — it has a lot of the same notes — technology, politics,” he said about his next thriller.

He reads novels at the staggering pace of a book a week. “I read 52 books a year,” he said. Books he enjoyed in recent times include “Wellness” by Nathan Hill, “Wandering Stars” by Tommy Orange and “Chain-Gang All-Stars” by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah.

Actively participating in the literary world is an important part of Trigg’s life as an author. He is part of International Thriller Writers, an honorary society of writers from this genre. The group organizes an annual conference in New York called Thrillerfest. They also give away an annual book prize for which Trigg judges the e-book competition.

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**Manchester Collective with Abel Selaocoe**

Britain’s Manchester Collective and South African cellist Abel Selaocoe join forces to present “Sirocco,” described by the collective as a celebration of folk traditions around the world. The high-energy program includes original South African music and new takes on Western traditional and classical tunes, featuring Selaocoe’s standout cello solos. Manchester Collective was formed in 2016 with the goal of pushing classical music’s boundaries and has released three albums.

Selaocoe, a rising star, is also a boundary pusher, crossing genres with his cello and aiming to bring classical music to more diverse audiences.

April 13, 7:30 p.m., Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford; $32; live.stanford.edu.

For more information, visit booksinc.net.

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**Cubberley Open Studios and ART for ALL Family Day**

Take a peek into the workspaces of Palo Alto’s Cubberley Artist Studio Program artists, who open their doors to the public twice annually to show and discuss their projects and artistic processes, including on Saturday, April 13. And on Sunday, April 14, hands-on art activities for kids and families, gallery conversations and live music outdoors are offered for visitors of all ages during Stanford University’s next ART for ALL Family Day, held between the Cantor Arts Center and its next-door neighbor Anderson Collection, both of which will be open for visiting.

Cubberley Open Studios, April 13, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Cubberley Community Center (E, F and U wings) 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto; cityofpaloalto.org.

ART for ALL Family Day, Sunday, April 14, activity sessions run 10 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m., Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford; eventbrite.com.

For more information, visit booksinc.net.
Our fourth annual Peninsula Restaurant Week is almost here! From April 19-27, celebrate the Peninsula’s restaurant scene with special prix fixe menus and offers at dozens of local eateries. I’m catching up with three restaurateurs participating in Peninsula Restaurant Week. This is the first interview in this year’s series.

For more information on Peninsula Restaurant Week, go to peninsularestaurantweek.com.

After 26 years since opening Bistro Vida, owner Ali El Safy is “having a new baby,” The due date is in June, and El Safy has already picked out her name: Loretta.

“I want next door to be a little bit more free, more casual, fun,” he said. “Bistro Vida is like my oldest son — he went to Cornell, he’s academic. My youngest son goes to (University of) Oregon — very free and hippie personality. So I based this identity with Loretta, he said, with his older son for its old, classic feel, he visualizes Loretta like this: “Natural-looking hair, very earthy, very hippie, easy-going, maybe vegan, maybe vegetarian...She’s just free.”

Slated to open in June, Loretta will offer classic cocktails as well as seasonal specialty cocktails, beer, wine, snacks, tapas and charcuterie, said El Safy. Guests will be able to order food from Bistro Vida and use Bistro Vida’s outdoor seating. While Loretta will not be offering happy hour, El Safy says he aims to keep prices affordable, with a typical cocktail priced around $15-$16.

“Our mussels are really nice and plump because the Italian family in San Francisco who I buy my fish from, they hand-pick them for me,” he said. “We make the best French onion soup because it’s actually a recipe that I got from a chef friend when I was living in Paris.”

For Peninsula Restaurant Week, Bistro Vida is offering a prix fixe menu for $40 a person. Diners have the choice between French onion soup and salad laitue for the appetizer, moules frites (mussels with French fries) and the French onion soup, said El Safy. “My husband was living in Paris.”

“We took over the whole sidewalk, and we threw parties every night,” he said. “It was crazy. And people were smoking cigarettes so there were cigarette butts everywhere. And then people complained to the city. It was fun.”

Not long after taking over La Luna, El Safy came across nearby ice cream and hot dog shop Stanford Ice Cream. The owner was ready to retire, and El Safy decided to take over the place, transforming it into Bistro Vida.

“I always wanted to do something really French,” he said. “When people think about romance and they think about food, they always think about Paris.”

El Safy decided to focus entirely on Bistro Vida and sold La Luna, which is now Singaporean restaurant Shikot. The two most popular dishes at Bistro Vida are the moules frites (mussels with French fries) and the French onion soup, said El Safy. “Our mussels are really nice and plump because the Italian family in San Francisco who I buy my fish from, they hand-pick them for me,” he said. “We make the best French onion soup because it’s actually a recipe that I got from a chef friend when I was living in Paris.”

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Bistro Vida, 641 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park; 650-462-1686, Instagram: @bistrovidamp. Open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 5-9 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 5-8 p.m.
Peninsula Photo Contest 2024

Presented by
Palo Alto Weekly & Palo Alto Art Center

Submission + Details
PeninsulaContest2024.artcall.org

Entry Deadline
April 14
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