

The Almanac

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

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Stargazers catch sight of the Northern Lights at Windy Hill

By Eleanor Raab

At Windy Hill in Portola Valley, nearly 100 stargazers gathered for the rare chance to see the northern lights in the Bay Area on Friday and Saturday nights, May 10 and May 11. Though the lights were faint to the naked eye, they were very visible through camera lenses.

‘I’ve probably seen the Northern Lights 50 times now, but it’s so special every time, and even more special at home.’

EUGENE BEH, MENLO PARK RESIDENT

“It’s kind of surreal, I never thought I would be able to see them at home,” said Kyra Niyogi, a Mountain View resident who ventured to the top of Windy Hill to see the aurora borealis. “It’s definitely something that I’ve wanted to see for a long time.”

“It’s just amazing,” said another local resident, Kiana Zah. “Last February we had the snow up on Skyline which was crazy, and now this year we have the aurora! It’s so cool that we had



Eleanor Raab

See **NORTHERN LIGHTS**, page 12 Stargazers gather under the Northern Lights at Windy Hill on Friday, May 10.

President Biden is met with protesters in Portola Valley, Palo Alto ahead of fundraisers

By Eleanor Raab

President Joe Biden’s trip to the Bay Area to attend fundraisers with wealthy donors for his reelection campaign on Friday, May 10, spurred pro-Palestinian protests in Portola Valley and Palo Alto.

A group of about 50 protesters met in advance of Biden’s arrival at a fundraiser held at the

Portola Valley home of Vinod Khosla, a tech entrepreneur. Khosla has given approximately \$1.4 million to Democratic campaigns and organizations over the course of this election cycle, according to Federal Election Commission records.

The protesters gathered at Rossotti Field on Alpine Road at 11 a.m. to march to the intersection of Alpine Road and Los

Trancos Road. The fundraiser was held on Los Trancos Road.

“While Israel imposes a famine on top of its bombing of Gaza, Bay Area billionaires are having a party,” said a post announcing the protest from @BayResistance on Instagram. “Come tell them what you think!”

“The idea is to let them know that this is not OK, to be a visible

signal that this is not OK,” said Michelle, an organizer of the protest.

The protest remained peaceful, with attendees holding up signs and playing music as they walked along Alpine Road.

“We are out here because we are protesting Biden who is actively participating in and attending multiple fundraisers in the area,” said another

attendee named Nadine, who identified herself as Palestinian. “This is an individual who is actively aiding and abetting a genocide.”

Alpine Road was closed to traffic as Biden’s motorcade drove through the town.

Around 80 people were in attendance at the Portola Valley

See **PROTESTERS**, page 16

INSIDE

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Read up-to-the-minute news on AlmanacNews.com

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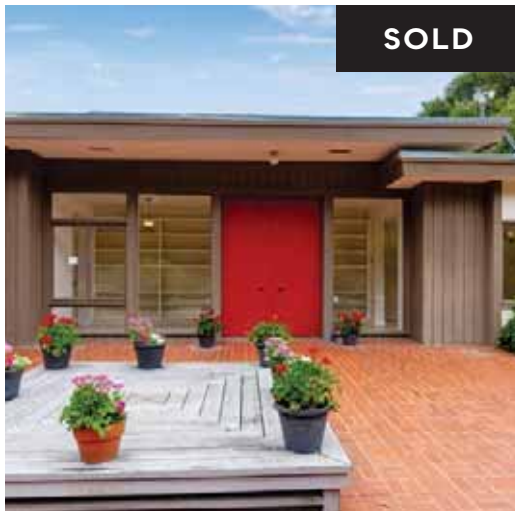
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Goats lounge and graze at Sharon Hills Park in Menlo Park on May 10.

Goats munch away wildfire hazards at Sharon Hills Park

By Eleanor Raab

To eliminate possible fire hazards, Menlo Park has employed a team of goats to munch on dry weeds and grass at Sharon Hills Park over the last week.

Menlo Park uses goats from a company called Ecosystem Concepts Inc., a goat-based weed-mitigation company

based in Dixon, California. The company was started by Dr. Debrann McGrew, a veterinarian, and Robert McGrew, a firefighter.

Menlo Park has been employing goats for this purpose for at least 15 years, said Assistant Public Works Director Brian Henry.

Henry also said that the goats are cared for 24/7 by an on-site

shepherd and herding dogs to ensure their safety, and make sure that they are doing their jobs. “The dogs help keep the goats moving through the park and help direct them to areas where the weeds are still tall, and the shepherd uses temporary electric fences to move the goats to areas that they haven’t

See **GOATS**, page 20

Former Peninsula Congressman Pete McCloskey dies at 96

By Sarah Wright

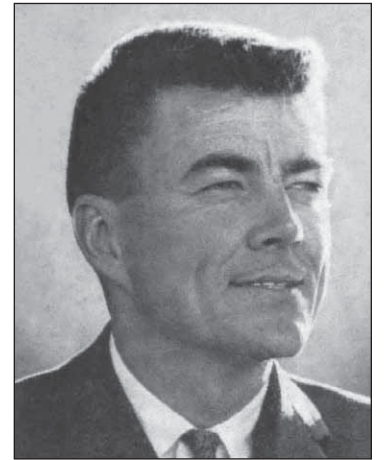
Pete McCloskey, war hero, former congressman, environmental warrior and founder of a Palo Alto law firm, died at his home in Winters, California, on Wednesday, May 8. He was 96.

McCloskey represented parts of the Peninsula and Silicon Valley in the U.S. House of Representatives for 15 years before running unsuccessfully for president against Richard Nixon in 1972 on an anti-Vietnam War platform. He was known for his pioneering work in environmental law, including co-authoring the 1973 Endangered Species Act and co-chairing the first Earth Day in 1970.

“He was a key sponsor of the Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act. All those early federal laws that protect our planet,” recalled Lennie Roberts, legislative advocate for Palo Alto-based environmental protection nonprofit Green Foothills.

He died of heart and kidney failure at his home, according to his wife Helen Hooper McCloskey, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

McCloskey was born in Loma Linda, attended Occidental College and later graduated



Courtesy Congressional Pictorial Directory via Bay City News

Paul Norton “Pete” McCloskey Jr., in an undated photo, was an American politician who represented San Mateo County as a Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1967 to 1983.

from Stanford University and Stanford Law School. He then served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War, earning both the Navy Cross and Silver Star, as well as two Purple Hearts. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1945 to 1947.

Roberts said she was moved by McCloskey’s lifetime of service. She said she was perhaps most moved by his return to Korea after the war to reconcile with

See **MCCLOSKEY**, page 20

Ladera residents sue Las Lomas district over use of school campus

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Ladera residents are taking the Las Lomas Elementary School District to court. They’re asking the district to extend public access to the field behind the Woodland School, at 360 La Cuesta Drive, which the district leases to the private school. A federal judge has already thrown out the residents’ case for a temporary restraining order, which would force the district to withdraw authorization of the the school’s use permit application for the site.

Ladera residents filed the lawsuit on April 23 which states that “Woodland erected signs around the LLESD property

and began kicking taxpayers and public school students off the property, accusing them of trespass, abuse and harassment.” The complaint states that LLESD and Woodland’s lease agreement violates “the Civic Center Act because it restricts all public and community use of the play areas ... prevents the play areas from being a civic center or nurturing community development.”

“This is a classic land use dispute that is typically resolved at the level of the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors, with the losing party filing an action in Superior Court if still dissatisfied,” said U.S. District Judge William Orrick notes in a May 1 ruling

over the temporary restraining order. “I am unaware of authority that would allow me to interfere with that process in this circumstance. The balance of equities does not tip in plaintiff’s favor for a federal court to act here, and the public interest supports following state-authorized procedures.”

The school district filed an opposition statement to the temporary restraining order, claiming it would be “legally improper” considering Woodland’s CUP has not been considered by the county yet. The counterclaim also states that the injunctive relief would intervene with the district’s proper policies as a landowner and take away their role in managing land

transactions, according to the suit.

The district also claims that terminating Woodland’s lease would cut off a portion of annual funds that the district relies on.

Attorney Susanna L. Chenette filed the suit on behalf of the Ladera residents. Resident Trevor Oliver, who has been outspoken about his concerns about access to the field, signed the court filing. The suit names LLESD, district governing board and Superintendent Beth Polito as defendants.

The district declined to comment on the suit for this story, but the district argues in legal documents in response to the Ladera community’s complaint,

that residents erroneously make a case against the district rather than Woodland School, the entity that filed the conditional use permit application.

Through an investigation, Ladera residents found that there had been multiple cases of “illegal gifts to Woodland” which were allowed by the LLESD school board and Polito, according to the suit. In addition to the free license for the play areas and the two separate gifts of additional leased area, LLESD then made a gift in executing Woodland’s CUP application, according to the court filing.

The suit alleges that “a

See **LAS LOMITAS**, page 18

Notice of Public Hearings

The Las Lomitas Elementary School District will hold two separate public hearings on the proposed Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), with the Budget Overview for Parents cover page, and the proposed Budget for fiscal year 2024-25 on June 6, 2024, at 7:00 pm, at La Entrada Middle School Atrium, 2200 Sharon Road, Menlo Park, 94025. Copies of the LCAP and Budget are available for review at the District office, 1011 Altschul Avenue, Menlo Park, from June 3 to June 6, 2024 between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm and posted on the District website, www.llesd.org. Contact Mei Chan, mchan@llesd.org, 650 854-6311 to request a printed or electronic copy. Public members or stakeholders may request to comment at the public hearing on the LCAP and proposed budget or any item therein, by following the instructions for public comment found on the District website

5/17/24

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THE ALMANAC

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The Almanac

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Courtesy Judith Hasko

A horse-drawn carriage leads people past Portola Valley Town Center in 2023.

Meet horses at the Portola Valley Horse Fair on May 18

Portola Valley's annual Horse Fair will be held on Saturday, May 18, at the Portola Valley Town Center, 765 Portola Road, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The event is free and open to all ages.

"Meet local horses, ride a pony, or take a loop on a carriage pulled by majestic Clydesdale horses," says a flier for the event.

There will also be food trucks, horse-themed crafts and information about local horse activities and lessons. Dogs will not be allowed at the event to prevent the horses from being scared by them.

Atherton ADU workshop on May 20

Join Atherton's Planning Department for an ADU workshop on May 20 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane.

"Learn how to utilize existing structures on your property and explore waived application fees for compliant projects," says an event listing on Atherton's website. "Join us to uncover the town's strategies for meeting housing mandates while preserving our community's character."

The event can also be attended virtually over Zoom at atherton.news/ADU-Workshop.

Youth poetry readings at Menlo Park City Council on May 21

Join the Menlo Park City Council on Tuesday, May 21, from 6-6:15 p.m. to hear poetry readings from young Menlo Park poets. There will be a brief ceremony honoring the young poets in addition to the reading.

Readings will be from students in grades 1-12 who submitted their original works during Menlo Park's Annual Youth Poetry Voices event in honor of National Poetry Month in April.

Join in person at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers at 751 Laurel Street.

Music from Afroholix at the Belle Haven Community Center on May 25

Join Afroholix, a jazz quartet hailing from Oakland, for a free concert at the Belle Haven Community Campus, 100 Terminal Ave. in Menlo Park, on Saturday, May 25, from 1-1:45 p.m.

"Afroholix promises a blend of funk, soul, and jazz improv from deep outer space," says an event listing from Menlo Park. "Afroholix combines many different genres of Black music to make something beautiful, funky and fresh. Every show is a unique event, with the band dropping soul, funk, hip-hop and jazz with love and soulful improvisation."

The band consists of Tony Peebles on saxophone, Steve Hogan on bass, Ronnie Smith on drums and Graal Swartz on guitar.

No registration is required for this free event.

—Eleanor Raab



Check out our Affordable Housing Month events using the QR code or at the link below

<https://hlcsmc.org/affordable-housing-month/>



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Holiday funds grant over \$1M to local nonprofit organizations

By Almanac staff

With a record-breaking amount of money raised over the holiday season from readers, businesses and foundations this year, The Almanac has made grants of \$35,000 each to 10 local nonprofit organizations serving families and children.

Just over \$1 million was the combined giving totals to the holiday funds of The Almanac (\$350,000), the Palo Alto Weekly (\$646,000) and the Mountain View Voice (\$53,000).

The Almanac Holiday Fund began more than 25 years ago and each year selects 10 nonprofits providing needed services to residents of Menlo Park, Redwood City, North Fair Oaks or East Palo Alto to share equally of the funds raised. This year,



The Almanac and its readers supported the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, Ecumenical Hunger Program, Fair Oaks Community Center, LifeMoves, Literacy Partners Menlo Park, Ravenswood Family Health Center, Second Harvest, Star Vista, St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room and Upward Scholars.

"These organizations are leaders in consistently providing critical services to the community," said Embarcadero Media Foundation president Adam Dawes. "Highlighting the work of nonprofits on the

Midpeninsula is one of The Almanac's important missions and we are gratified for the outpouring of support our readers provide each holiday season for these local agencies," he said.

The nonprofit Embarcadero Media Foundation, which publishes The Almanac and Palo Alto Weekly as well as the Mountain View Voice and Redwood City Pulse community news websites, raised more than \$1 million for the holiday fund program across all its communities. The foundation covers all the expenses of the campaign, so all the money raised goes to the recipient organizations. The Packard, Hewlett and Menlo Park Rotary foundations all provide support, as do several family foundations that prefer to give anonymously. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



The Spring Market Moves Into Summer

Dear Monica: I want to buy a house but have not been successful so far. Should I keep actively looking in the summer? Rose G.

Dear Rose: The real estate market has been strong this spring with more inventory than we saw last year. The pace generally slows down though in the summer because buyers and sellers go on vacation.

But even if you have missed out on properties this year you should stay in the market. There will still be properties available and there will be fewer buyers to compete with. Summer can be a good time to buy.

Contact me at monica@monicacorman.com: Office: 650-465-5971, COMPASS. WSJ Nationally Ranked. Real Trends Bay Area Top 100 Agents

State Sen. Josh Becker names Lutticken's Deli & After 5 Restaurant Small Business of the Year

By Eleanor Raab

On Friday, May 3, State Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, recognized Lutticken's Deli & After 5 Restaurant as Senate District 13's 2024 Small Business of the Year.

As Becker presented a framed placard to the Menlo Park deli owner Bob Lutticken, he applauded Lutticken's community spirit and long history of service to the community.

"I am pleased to recognize Lutticken's Deli & After 5 Restaurant as Senate District 13's 2024 Small Business of the Year," said Becker. "Luttickens has been a fixture of Menlo Park for over 40 years and has distinguished itself with a long history of supporting the community, whether it is donating food to local veterans, sponsoring local sports teams, feeding homeless and hungry people, or providing assistance to those in need during the pandemic. Lutticken's is the place where our neighbors gather to celebrate, relax, and have great food."

The text of the resolution specifically acknowledges Lutticken's efforts in "donating food to Street Life Ministries and St. Francis Center in support of their efforts to feed homeless and hungry people" and Lutticken's campaign to raise "more than \$6,000 to



Courtesy Josh Becker

State Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, presents Bob Lutticken, owner of Lutticken's Deli & After 5 Restaurant with the honor of Small Business of the Year.

provide additional support to local people in need of assistance" during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lutticken's first opened its doors in 1981, and has

been located on the corner of Alameda de las Pulgas and Gordon Avenue ever since. ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.



LAS LOMITAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OF PROPOSAL FOR INCREASING SCHOOL FACILITIES FEES AS AUTHORIZED BY EDUCATION CODE SECTION 17620 AND GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65995

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that immediately following a public hearing on the matter, a resolution will be considered by the Board of Trustees of the Las Lomitas Elementary School District at its regular meeting on June 6, 2024 which, if adopted by the Board, will increase development fees established by the District against residential construction and reconstruction to \$5.17 per square foot and against new commercial or industrial construction to \$0.84 per square foot. The proposed fees are authorized by Education Code Section 17620 and Government Code Section 65995. Data pertaining to the cost of school facilities is available for inspection during regular business hours at the District's administrative offices at 1011 Altschul Avenue in Menlo Park. The increased fees, if approved by the Board of Trustees, will become effective on August 6, 2024 which is 60 days after the proposed adoption by the Board of the resolution levying such fee.

Employment

BUSINESS

Mainspring Energy Inc is accepting resumes for Manufacturing Quality Engineer in Menlo Park, CA. Implement Process Control Plans and improve in-line testing strategies. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary \$88,629-\$102,300/yr. Email resume to careers@mainspringenergy.com. Must reference Ref. MQ-CJ.

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If you wish to learn more about the employment advertising options, please visit AlmanacNews.com/employment_ads/.



IN MEMORY OF



SEPTEMBER 29, 1927 - MAY 8, 2024

PAUL N. "PETE" McCLOSKEY, JR.

Former Congressman, environmental champion, decorated Marine veteran, Stanford and Stanford Law alumni and partner in the law firm of Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, died peacefully at his home in Winters, California, in the care of his wife of forty-two years, Helen, and their five dogs.

"He stood for everyone without a voice, and was especially passionate about our environment -- he was afraid of nothing or anyone who sought to take advantage of another. He was the epitome of a leader, as demonstrated throughout his entire life."
- Joe Cotchett, Law partner

"Mere words cannot convey the magnitude of Pete's environmental legacy. As a warrior for Planet Earth, he has given us cleaned-up water, cleaned up the air, and protections for endangered species."
- Lennie Roberts, Green Foothills

"For him to give me one of his Purple Hearts, it took my breath away. That's an extraordinary gift, a gesture that makes me smile about humanity. He's a war hero, but incredibly humble about it. He's one of America's giants in public life."
- Jackie Speier, Former House Member

"Pete was a true American hero -- a man of profound courage and integrity who always followed his conscience to reach the right and just result."
- Frank Pitre, Law partner

"The bravest man I have ever known, both in war and politics."
- Lew Butler, Former law partner



Menlo Park council makes Middle Avenue parking ban permanent, approves pilot for new parking design outside Nealon Park

By Eleanor Raab

At a meeting on May 7, the Menlo Park City Council voted to make the no parking zones and buffered bike lanes along Middle Avenue permanent in a 4-1 vote with Vice Mayor Drew Combs opposed. The council also opted to pilot a back-in parking design outside Nealon Park, at 800 Middle Ave., to respond to concerns about diminished parking. Menlo Park will also continue with the temporary closure of Blake Street to vehicular traffic at Middle Avenue.

The city will begin to design the new back-in parking stalls at Nealon Park over the summer, with construction starting in the fall or winter. The parking design will be piloted until summer 2025, when staff will return to the council with a final recommendation for parking design.

The buffered bike lane and parking ban along Middle Avenue was originally approved as a six-month pilot program by the council in February 2023, and installed in October 2023.



Eleanor Raab

The Middle Avenue buffered bike lane on May 13.

According to a staff report, the pilot program showed that over the six months it was installed, there were no significant changes in vehicle speeds, or vehicle, pedestrian and bike volumes. Parking surveys also showed that nearby cross streets were not overburdened with parking as parking demand shifted from Middle Ave.

In a public survey, 89% of

drivers indicated no change to their driving patterns, and 60% of bikers felt safer.

However 38% of respondents said that they had difficulty finding parking, and attendees of stakeholder meetings indicated that they would like the town to work to alleviate parking demands along Middle Avenue, especially near Nealon Park.

Mayor Cecilia Taylor and

Council members Maria Doerr, Jen Wolosin and Betsy Nash voted in favor of keeping the bike lane and parking ban.

“This is about our youth, and it’s about everyone, and it’s about the future vision for our community. So that’s why I’m supportive of this,” said Doerr.

“I live on Santa Cruz Avenue, where our parking was used for bike lanes and it actually has been a wonderful change,” said Nash. “It’s not a unique hardship for the people on that street.”

Fifteen community members, many of whom are parents of children who bike to school, commented in support of making the buffered bike lanes permanent. Residents cited increased biking safety for school-aged children, easier commuter biking, decreased car traffic and Vision Zero goals as reasons to make the buffered bike lane and Middle Avenue parking ban permanent.

“As Menlo Park grows, we have people ... complaining and worrying about traffic, parking and congestion. We’re never going to get rid of cars, nor would we ever want to. The

long-term solution is to advocate for more people around town to walk, bike and take public transportation as a way to reduce some of these concerns,” said Menlo Park resident Ross Silverstein.

Resident Emily Bailard said her 8-year-old transitioned to being able to bike to Oak Knoll School without an adult this year, in large part, because of changes made from the bike lane pilot.

Katherine, an Oak Knoll student, said “the new bike lane is very spacious and very helpful when I am getting to school.”

Many commenters also acknowledged that the changes will be inconvenient for other residents, but said that increased safety for bikers and pedestrians outweighs those problems.

“I do agree there was a loss of convenience for some of our neighbors, myself included,” said Sandy Napel, a resident of the Allied Arts neighborhood. “I would just ask that this loss of convenience be weighed against the improvement and safety for

See MIDDLE AVENUE, page 20

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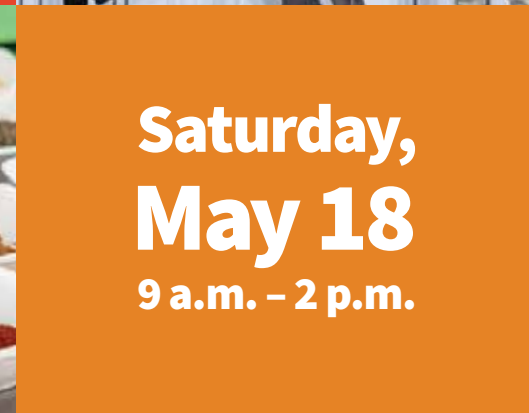


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Building a strong foundation for local news

Our news organization was a nonprofit a long time before our official transition to a 501(c)3 foundation in January. We haven't turned a profit in five years and it is likely that without government support during the pandemic, we would have joined the ranks of newspapers that have shuttered across the nation at the rate of almost three per week.

It's important to remember what is at stake for the health of our communities and local democracy. Without us, it would be much harder for citizens to know how to vote. People would not understand how our police departments investigate misconduct or the rates they stop people by race. Parents would have little visibility into student absenteeism or how math should be taught in our schools. We would struggle to

understand how effective our efforts are at helping the homeless off the streets or to engage in the housing debate as our cities struggle to meet state mandates. When storms hit and streets are flooded and the power is out, we help people navigate their daily lives and focus city resources.



All this work enables residents to participate in our local democracy and engage in the issues that drive our collective quality of life.

Unfortunately, this work is becoming harder and harder to sustain. Our print advertising revenue has been cut in half since the onset of the pandemic. Local retail has been subsumed by e-commerce and national chains while real estate listings have shrunk due to high interest rates. We have been working feverishly to rebuild our business model with reader revenue (up to nearly \$1M in 2023) and digital advertising (also nearly \$1M) while also making painful cuts to close the shortfall (over \$800K). Unfortunately, this is not going to be enough to sustain us as we move forward. That's why we converted to a non-profit in January so that we could tap into the resources of our community and why we need help from people like you to keep our mission alive.

Our goal is to build a new philanthropic revenue stream to stabilize our business and provide a platform for growth. With this new philanthropic funding, less than half of our budget will come from print advertising. While we hope print advertising won't decline further, it becomes less of an existential concern for our company when it is one of many revenue streams. This is a remarkable diversification in the eight years since we launched our reader revenue program when our print advertising was 94% of total revenue. We believe we can serve as a powerful and much-needed example to the legacy industry of how to transition and rebuild a local news operation.

If you feel a strong local press is imperative to an informed citizenry and healthy community, please join others and help us with this transformation and become a member or make a tax-free, one-time donation. Now, during our Spring Membership Drive, your gift will be tripled with help from two generous donors up to \$50K.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Adam Dawes
Peninsula Publisher
CEO Embarcadero Media

The Almanac

Checking out the best recommendations at Peninsula libraries

By Devin Roberts

These aren't your parents' libraries. Gone are the days of pin-drop silence and borrowing cards stamped inside the front covers of tattered tomes.

While the voracious readers amongst us can still find an abundance of books ranging endless topics and decades of publication, the libraries of the Peninsula have been diversifying and expanding their scope over the past few years. There are numerous libraries in the 650, and each one boasts unique and interesting offerings. There are now a myriad of items to check out, free weekly events and access to the latest technology.

The Peninsula and California have an interesting library history. On the Peninsula, there are city libraries and county libraries. According to Redwood City Public Library Director Derek Wolfram, "Many of the city libraries are quite old. In 1913, California passed a county free library law establishing that each county would have a library system to serve all the residents not already served by city libraries."

"In the 1970s, the Peninsula Library System was formed and is a cooperative of the city libraries and the county libraries, including a shared library catalog, some shared technology infrastructure and a delivery system to move books across jurisdictions so every resident of San Mateo County would have access to every public library in San Mateo County regardless of city residence," Wolfram added.

Of the many libraries to choose from, here are nine of the most interesting. Some are city libraries, some are county libraries (marked with *) and all are unique libraries!

South San Francisco

Last fall, the South San Francisco Main Library moved to a new, state-of-the-art building shared with the city's Parks and Recreation Department. The library houses the Discovery Center, Teen Zone and meeting rooms, alongside the Parks and Recreation Department's fitness studios, classrooms, teaching kitchen and spacious event spaces. There is also a large park and playground outside the building.

The impressive Discovery Center is a highlight at this

library and offers a variety of STEM tools and games, including 3D printers, Raspberry Pi kits, iPads and more. According to Supervising Library Specialist Monte Gordon, "We want to circulate nontraditional items that are tech-driven and more hands-on in order to reach kids through technology and help supplement education."

Events at the South San Francisco Library include Lego club, bilingual storytime, Tech Tuesday classes and more.

901 Civic Campus Way, South San Francisco.

Millbrae*

The Millbrae Library serves a diverse clientele from all over the world and is part of the San Mateo County Library system. The hand-painted murals in the children's areas and high ceilings "create an airy, inviting atmosphere that our libraries are known for," according to Carine Risley, deputy director of library services for San Mateo County Libraries. On the horizon, construction is underway for a makerspace that will open this year.

As for interesting offerings Risley shared, "We have an ever-growing library of things we call Try it Out to give people the chance to explore new activities and hobbies. Items in our collection beyond books include San Mateo County Parks and California State Parks passes, bikes (with helmets and bike locks), energy kits, ukuleles, sewing machines, hiking poles, GoPros, Discovery Skills backpack (and) karaoke machines. That's all in addition to more typical fare like CDs, DVDs, magazines and newspapers and streaming services like eBooks, movies, music, online classes and more."

Events at the Millbrae Library include sewing class, Super Smash Bros. tournaments, martial arts demonstrations and more.

1 Library Ave., Millbrae.

Burlingame

Nicknamed "the jewel of Burlingame" by the American Library Journal, Burlingame Library is known for its Italian Renaissance architecture. The front facade of the building and front rooms are still the original build from the 1920s. The rest of the library was updated in the 1990s, but with the same aesthetic as the original design by Burlingame architect Col. E. L. Norberg.

In addition to a beautiful

space, the library is filled with interesting offerings such as digitizing kits, high-speed photo scanners and a "repair cafe" run by volunteers. Unique among most of the libraries I visited is a cafe on-site serving food and drinks. Cafe Fika is an independent restaurant owned and operated by Ghana Albaghah and serving Mediterranean food and international coffee.

Events at Burlingame Library include a sound-healing class, "Star Wars" bingo and speaker series events put on by the Burlingame Library Foundation that have brought in well-known guests like Ira Glass and Michael McFall.

480 Primrose Road, Burlingame.

San Mateo

The San Mateo Main Library is an airy three-story facility adjacent to downtown San Mateo. It stands as one of the largest libraries on the Peninsula and boasts a comprehensive collection of resources and services for the San Mateo community.

The items available to borrow here are vast. There are tech-focused items such as Chromebooks and robots, along with musical instruments like ukuleles and keyboards. As a photographer, my personal favorite is that the library offers a portable photo studio! The California State Park passes are among the most popular items, according to Senior Library Assistant Reggie Mallorca. The passes can be checked out for three weeks and can be used to gain access to over 200 participating state parks.

Events at San Mateo Library include teen movie nights, trivia nights, afternoon sewing group and more.

55 W 3rd Ave., San Mateo.

Foster City*

The Foster City Library is conveniently located across the street from Leo J. Ryan Park and is part of the San Mateo County Libraries system. The library opened in 1997 and was renovated in 2010, making it one of the newer additions on this list.

This location truly feels like a community hub for children and adults. There is a spacious children's area complete with a large wooden ship named "The Jolly Reader." Risley shared that all of the San Mateo County libraries including Foster City "regularly host storytimes for little ones and Power Up Afternoons, a

See LIBRARIES, page 18

Midpen ecologists work to ensure endangered butterfly isn't adversely impacted by new trail opening

By Ashwini Gangal

A few weeks ago a new, 630-foot-long trail was opened up near the northwest section of the Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve.

The unnamed trail provides a new public access point of entry

into the preserve, at the end of Los Vientos Way in the city of San Carlos.

Before the trail was created, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District ecologists worked hard to ensure the Bay checkerspot butterfly, an endangered species, would not be adversely

impacted in the process.

Their work involved a thorough search for this type of butterfly along the length of what is now the completed trail. To this end, two surveys were conducted this spring, one in March and another in April.

"Before we (did) any sort of work, we wanted to see what natural resources we have at the site that we want to protect," said Coty Sifuentes-Winter, supervisory vegetation ecologist for the district, in an interview with The Almanac. "Part of our mission at Midpen is to protect and restore the natural environment."

Factors that endanger the Bay checkerspot butterfly include a combination of habitat fragmentation, which occurs when roads and freeways are built in the middle of their natural habitat, and car pollutants.

To thrive, the Bay checkerspot butterfly requires a certain type of environment — serpentine grassland, which comprises a special kind of rock that tends to be rich in heavy metals and low in nutrients.



Michelle Le

Before the trail was created, ecologists worked hard to ensure the Bay checkerspot butterfly, an endangered species, would not be adversely impacted in the process.



Angela Swartz

A new stretch of trail in the Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve.

"Although we don't have serpentine at this location, which is sort of the requirement of the butterfly, it does have the host plant and it is very close to Edgewood which we know has the butterfly," Sifuentes-Winter said.

The butterfly's host plant is the dwarf plantain, scientifically known as *plantago erecta* (commonly known as the dot-seed plantain or California plantain), which is where it lays its eggs and rears its young. Once the eggs hatch they feed on the host plant before going through several other stages in their lifecycle that require them to be near the plant.

"So we actually wanted to get out to the site and verify that it (the butterfly) wasn't present. The objective was to make sure it wasn't there," he said. "If it was there then we would want to change our design of what this trail might look like and how we'd do the work there."

For instance, if they had found the butterfly, they might have considered using hand tools instead of big machines or creating a seasonal trail, he said.

The survey is known as a "butterfly transect walk," a process that Sifuentes-Winter carried out with eight other biologists. They all went to the site and walked along the path at a certain pace and counted the butterflies they spotted along the way and classified them by type.

Last fall, when they were thinking of opening up a trail at this location, the team conducted a similar search specifically for the butterfly's host plant. At the time, Sifuentes-Winter did what he calls a "forensic botany," or a search

for the dead host plant, which is an annual plant, which means it grows and dies every year.

And he did find it. "So we got verification that the host plant is there," he said.

But the butterfly was not there. To be sure of this, it was important to carry out the search in warm, sunny weather, because that's when the butterflies come out. A search in wet, windy weather that does not yield any butterflies does not necessarily mean they aren't there; it could simply mean they're hiding. That's why an important tool in their search mission is a hand-held weather station that reads the wind, temperature and humidity.

They also did a review of the host plant to check whether the butterfly had laid eggs and was eating it. "The dwarf plantain is really small — it could be anywhere from 1-inch tall to up to 2 or 3 inches tall, so you're down on your belly looking for tell-tale signs that it is being eaten," he said.

Sifuentes-Winter, who grew up in rural Idaho, has been in the Bay Area for 25 years. He was inspired to get into this line of work since he first beheld a park ranger at the age of 5. His ambition was cemented a few years later when he watched "Never Cry Wolf," a Disney movie about a biologist's adventures in the Arctic. Before coming to Midpen he worked for the National Park Service for several years.

"I get paid to play in the mud and count flowers," he said. ■

Email Contributing Writer
Ashwini Gangal at
ashwinigangal@gmail.com.

Palo Alto Citywide



YARD SALE

Saturday, June 1st from 8am to 2pm

Shop the Sale

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NORTHERN LIGHTS

continued from page 1

both of those things in the last few years."

Skyline Boulevard, which is usually fairly quiet after sunset, was packed with cars as people sought to find a place away from the city lights to see the aurora.

"Well, it's pretty special. You know, seeing them in California is so cool. I mean, I've probably seen the Northern Lights 50

times now, but it's so special every time, and even more special at home," said Eugene Beh, a Menlo Park resident and amateur aurora enthusiast.

Beh explained that this unique occurrence was due to a powerful solar storm that hit the Earth. The northern lights are only visible this far south every 10 to 20 years. ■

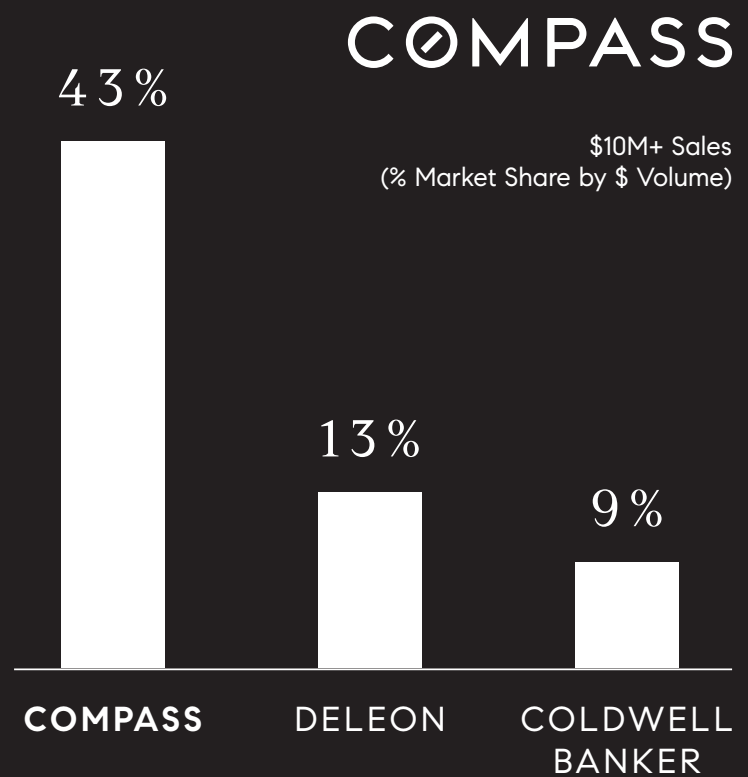
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Jennifer Buenrostro | DRE 01733750



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By Appointment



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HISTORY CORNER

Actress Shirley Temple Black at her home in Woodside, California, where she lived from 1961 until her death in 2014, according to The Almanac's archives. Temple Black was considered the most popular child movie star of all time.

In the photo, she drinks from a teacup while reading the local newspaper of the day, the San Mateo Times, a special edition for the 101st anniversary of San Mateo County.

Temple Black could be seen shopping at Roberts Market in Woodside and was "a very down-to-earth person, not like a celebrity," owner George Roberts told The Almanac.

In the late 1970s, she was grand marshal of the Woodside May Day parade.



Courtesy Norton Pearl Photography / San Mateo County Historical Association (2015.1.847.33)

Shirley Temple Black by Norton Pearl in 1957 in Woodside.



Eleanor Raab

Protesters gather at Rossotti Field on May 10.

PROTESTERS

continued from page 1

fundraising event, with several people wearing pins with United States and Israel flags or holding small Israel flags, according to White House press pool reporters.

Later in the day at 1 p.m., more than 50 people gathered at the corner of El Camino Real and Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto in protest.

People dressed in keffiyehs and shirts reading "Not in our name, Jews say ceasefire now," gathered at the corner that advocacy group Vigil4Gaza meets every Sunday.

As cars honked in support, young children and adults alike carried signs reading "Babies are not collateral damage" and "Prez Biden, use tax \$ for peace."

The group marched toward the corner of Addison Avenue and Webster Street, where President Biden was attending a re-election fundraiser in Palo Alto.

At the corner of Addison Avenue and Middlefield Road, the march came to a stop, when the streets were barricaded by police — some wearing riot gear. They were met with counter protesters on the other side of barricades, holding American and Israeli flags and signs reading "Thank you, Joe."

"He [Biden] is green-lighting genocide," said Michelle Higgins. "We're sending a message that fundraising millions of dollars during this time is not okay."

Palo Alto resident Jeanine Savello tried to get a glimpse of the president from the cordoned

off intersection of Waverley and Addison streets on Friday afternoon. She had a small child in a stroller with her. "He's the president and I'm glad to see him in town, no matter what you think of him. It's one of the great things about living here," she said, adding that she also tried to get a glimpse of then-President George W. Bush when he visited the area.

Addison Elementary, Hays Elementary and Green Middle School closed around noon in anticipation of the president's arrival in the neighborhood. The last-minute closure caused stress for some parents, as the schools only received notice about the presidential event in recent days.

Biden then attended a reception at the Palo Alto home of former Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer and her husband DCVC Co-founder Zack Bogue.

At the fundraiser, he was introduced by Mayer and made short remarks to a small crowd of around 30 people, including Mayer and Jennifer Siebel Newsom, Gov. Gavin Newsom's wife, who he praised as women leaders.

"It's important that people have someone to look to," Biden said, looking toward them, "You could be governor and you could be president. I'm not joking. I'm being deadly earnest. A lot's changing."

Biden focused his remarks on the momentum of his campaign, which he says is in his favor with 1.6 million people having donated, 97% in amounts under \$200.

He said his campaign has opened 150 offices in battleground states "and Trump has opened zero offices. And it's not just because he's on trial," Biden said.

Biden, who was in San Francisco in the Fairmont Hotel earlier in the day, landed in a field at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory around 12:30 p.m.

Biden arrived in the Bay Area Thursday evening, touching down at Mountain View's Moffett Field Air Base around 8 p.m. He left for Seattle Friday afternoon. ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.

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Caltrain showcases its new electrified trains in San Carlos

By Lisa Moreno

As California assembly member Diane Papan, D-San Mateo, praised the brand-new electrified Caltrain model gleaming in fresh red and white on the tracks behind her, an old train, covered in black soot, sped by, drowning out her speech.

A crowd of nearly 100 people at the San Carlos event unveiling the new rounded electric trains erupted in laughter, admiring the differences between the two.

After over 20 years of reimagining its design, Caltrain showcased on Saturday, May 11, its new electric train, which will begin operating from San Francisco to San Jose in September.

The event welcomed various politicians like U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, who has advocated for the train upgrades for years.

Eshoo said it's been a difficult journey to make Caltrain the Peninsula's own high-speed rail system, connecting local businesses, riders and environmental groups to support the project.

"An electrified Caltrain will be the modern world-class transportation system that our innovative region deserves, with faster, quieter, cleaner trains that will improve air quality and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions," she said in a speech.

The new trains are set to replace 75% of the old fleet in the fall — transitioning from diesel to electric and operating on motors rather than a push-pull locomotive system. Thirty-four of the old trains will be auctioned off, said Dan Lieberman, public information officer for Caltrain.

While the new trains themselves won't have greater

capacity, the increased frequency of stops and faster speeds will promote a more efficient traffic flow to accommodate more riders, Lieberman said, shortening the trip from San Francisco to San Jose to just under an hour.

Evenly distributed airflow — in the form of tiny holes throughout the ceilings of the trains — will replace vents directly over some seats, he said. And doors connecting each train car will now open with the push of a button.

The new trains will also offer free Wi-Fi and outlets under almost every seat — which will now be covered in vinyl rather than cloth.

Through online polls and discussion with bike-advocacy groups, Caltrain created a new design for bike riders, which will hold 72 bikes in two dedicated cars and add more seats to these areas.



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Yun Lin (left) and Katherine Moore of San Carlos try out the seating on an all new electric train during Caltrain's 160th Anniversary Celebration at the San Carlos station on May 11.

During Saturday's event, hundreds of people toured the trains in San Carlos, snapping photos and testing out the new seats.

"I've been riding the train for over 20 years, commuting to

work," local commuter Will Tull said. "I think the new trains are just amazing." ■

Email Staff Writer Lisa Moreno at lmoreno@paweeekly.com.

LAS LOMITAS

continued from page 5

Woodland representative bragged in a publicly posted video about Woodland paying below-market-rate rent to LLES D and about how no one at LLES D is paying attention, allowing Woodland to do whatever it wants with LLES D's property."

Ladera residents brought up the possibility of a suit in November 2023. They expressed their disapproval for how the

district is handling this issue during prior school board meetings. They also started a website to raise awareness about their concerns and a petition, which they say has been signed by 400 people, according to the suit.

On March 7, Woodland School filed for a conditional use permit from San Mateo County, including a request to approve a new 6-foot tall fence along the perimeter of the campus for security and a new parking lot.

The San Mateo County Planning Commission

was scheduled to be review Woodland's CUP on May 8, but the hearing has been postponed to May 22, according to San Mateo County Planner Luis Topete.

Woodland won a bid to lease the property for \$710,000 in 2011. LLES D also gave Woodland a 25-year exclusive license to use the play areas for free along with the lease for free. The license allows Woodland to use the property during weekdays until 3:30 p.m. all year except for school holidays,

according to the complaint.

According to Woodland's Head of School Jennifer Warren, the school pays about \$80,000 a month under the terms of the 2012 lease, amounting to almost \$1 million per year. The lease also holds Woodland responsible for maintenance of the play area and field to which it has additionally invested another \$1 million toward.

In December 2017, the lease was amended to extend school hours to 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., closing off the area to the public

after school. The current lease expires in 2038.

The LLES D governing board discussed the lease with Woodland School during a Wednesday, May 8, closed session meeting. No action was reported out of closed session. Before the session began, Ladera residents spoke during public comment about their concerns about access to the property. ■

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

LIBRARIES

continued from page 11

program for school-age youth designed to enrich and activate after-school experiences."

Risley added, "For adults, we regularly offer tech courses, ESL classes, book clubs, arts programming and author events. The tech offerings range from learning computer basics to discovering AI. We also host events helping people in their job searches, seeking U.S. citizenship, retirement planning, meditation journeys, gardening and more." Some of the most popular events include Chess Club Fridays and After-School Gaming.

1000 E Hillsdale Blvd., Foster City.

Atherton*

The Atherton Library is the third entry on this list that is part of the San Mateo County Library system. Visitors to the library, which opened in 2022 after three years of construction, are met by a large and welcoming front porch, and the building

is tucked away under a canopy of beautiful old-growth oak trees.

The patio shares space with local French patisserie Mademoiselle Colette. The renowned cafe offers a selection of coffees, teas and pastries. Inside the library there is a cutting-edge makerspace and digital lab with 3D printers, a high-performance laser cutter and more. As with the other San Mateo County libraries there is a large selection of items beyond books to try out, including the always popular karaoke machines.

Events at Atherton Library include yoga classes, gem painting, drawing studio and more.

2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton.

Redwood City

The Redwood City Main Library is located in downtown Redwood City in the former Fire Station No. 1 that was remodeled and expanded in 1989. The large brick building houses a massive library space.

The library holds a maker-space, teen room, children's area,

and local history room. Inside the local history room you can view the Morrish Collection. The bulk of the collection includes original correspondences sent to J. Elmer Morrish from Japanese Americans from Redwood City who were interned during World War II.

The most unique feature of the Redwood City Library has to be the honey bees that have lived on the roof since 2018. They have three hives, and in the summer the population can grow to over 150,000 bees. As for items to check out, Wolfgram said that there are "a few fun unusual things, including home energy toolkits, WiFi hot spots, iPads, and county and state park passes."

Events at the Redwood City Library include Crafty Wednesdays, drop-in Lego robotics, Anime Club and more.

1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City.

Rinconada (Palo Alto)

Rinconada Library is located across from the Palo Alto Art

Center. It was built in 1958, had a major renovation in 2013 and reopened in 2015. Originally designed by renowned architect Edward Durell Stone, the library is enclosed in an iconic terracotta "veil" that surrounds the building and two courtyards.

The library houses picturesque meeting spaces, the Teen Zone and ReBoot Room. Unique items to check out include canning sets, Chromebooks and care kits for families caring for individuals with dementia or Alzheimer's. These kits stood out among many of the distinctive items I came across because they help address a very poignant issue.

Events at the Rinconada Library include film screenings, celebrations for Earth Day and Nowruz (Persian New Year) and more.

1213 Newell Road, Palo Alto.

Mountain View

The Mountain View Library is located just off the bustling Castro Street and is flanked by the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts and

Pioneer Memorial Park. It is a spacious structure with one of the largest Children's Services areas on this list.

The building also features the History Center, which houses a collection that is historically significant to Mountain View and Santa Clara County. Not only does the library loan out park passes, but it also offers a full Park Pass Backpack complete with binoculars, compass and field guides. In addition to print media, patrons can check their e-books, audiobooks and streaming media, including thousands of movies and TV shows. One of the most interesting items is located just outside the building in the form of a real slab of the Berlin Wall.

Events at the Mountain View Library include free tax prep assistance, ukulele jams, author talks and more.

585 Franklin St., Mountain View. ■

Email Contributing Writer Devin Roberts at devinroberts1981@gmail.com.



115 RINCONADA AVENUE PALO ALTO



SPECTACULAR NEW CONSTRUCTION IN OLD PALO ALTO

Indulge in the epitome of contemporary living in this pristine, brand-new home nestled in sought-after Old Palo Alto. Completed in 2024, this 4-bedroom residence showcases nearly 1,900 square feet of bright and airy interiors. The living room features a cozy fireplace and seamlessly connects to a generous front patio, blurring the lines between indoor and outdoor spaces. The chef's kitchen, equipped with top-of-the-line Thermador appliances, flows seamlessly into the family room, while all bedrooms offer en suite bathrooms ensuring comfort and privacy for family and guests. Additional amenities include air conditioning, and an attached garage for added convenience. Everything Palo Alto has to offer is within easy reach from this outstanding location – walk to beautiful parks, enjoy vibrant shopping and dining experiences along California Avenue, appreciate easy access to Caltrain and Highway 101, and be just minutes away from Stanford University. Plus, acclaimed schools Walter Hays Elementary, Greene Middle, and Palo Alto High are all within approximately 1 mile or less of your front door (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE

SAT & SUN 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

115Rinconada.com

Listed at \$3,288,000

Notice to Buyers:

Although a good buyer's agent can add significant insight and value, you are not required to use one to purchase a DeLeon listing. If you would like to submit an offer to us directly, please contact the DeLeon Buyer's Team at **650.543.8528** and we will waive 100% of the buyer's-side commission.

Listed by Michael Repka and Audrey Sun of the DeLeon Team

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MCCLOSKEY*continued from page 5*

former combatants. And she marveled at all he accomplished in one lifetime.

"I changed my political party and walked a precinct for him in Palo Alto when he first ran for Congress," she recalled on Wednesday.

Prior to his time in Congress, McCloskey served as deputy district attorney for Alameda County and practiced law in Palo Alto, co-founding the firm McCloskey, Wilson & Mosher, which is now Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati. During his legal career, McCloskey tried more than 100 cases in front of juries. He was also a lecturer at the law schools of both Stanford and Santa Clara universities.

McCloskey became a partner in the Peninsula law firm of Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy in 2004, but attorney Joe Cotchett fondly recalls decades of friendship and legal work together long before that formal partnership.

"We've been together for 45 years or more," Cotchett said on May 9. "When he was in Congress he had a small little law office in Woodside and we would do business together. The man was one of my closest and dearest friends. He was one of the most passionate people about other people and the environment you have ever met. He would speak for anyone who had no voice."

Cotchett recalls a time about a decade ago when his firm entertained lawyers and judges from China in its Burlingame office. He said the visitors were so tired they were on the verge of falling asleep after their journey. Until, that is, McCloskey spoke to them and harkened back to China's involvement on the opposite side of McCloskey's Marines during the Korean War.

"I introduced Pete and here's what he said to them, 'I am so proud of you. And I am so proud of your fathers. Tell them they were the toughest warriors I ever knew.'"

"Every one of them wanted a photo with Pete afterward," Cotchett remembered.

McCloskey was first elected to Congress in 1967. Many long-time Peninsula residents will remember those heady days.

"He asked me if I would do Palo Alto for him," recalled Jeanne Ware. "By that he meant serve as precinct chairman for two of his elections. I found all the people to walk the district for him. Politicking is so different now."

Ware recalls an interesting and intelligent cadre of McCloskey supporters in those days.

"All those people who worked for Pete were highly intelligent — and humorous — people," she remembered. She said her late husband Leonard Ware might have had political aspirations at one time — until he realized how much energy it took to run a campaign the way McCloskey ran his.

"He had more energy than anyone," Ware said.

McCloskey served in Congress

until 1983 and had one unsuccessful bid for Senate and president each.

A vocal opponent of the Vietnam War, McCloskey was the first member of Congress to call for President Richard Nixon's impeachment following Watergate and visited Cambodia in 1975 to witness the effects of U.S. military action.

After leaving Congress, he practiced law in Redwood City while living in Woodside and Portola Valley and continued lecturing at local universities.

He later settled in rural Yolo County on his farm and continued his legal and public service, including work as a trustee for the Monterey Institute of International Studies, according to *The New York Times*.

"When you look at the arc of what his life has been and for him to have a moral compass that allowed him to buck the system and still keep friends," Roberts said. "You want to hear a wonderful story? Pete was in his 80s and he goes over to Martin's

Beach (on the San Mateo County coast, where there is an ongoing battle over beach access) and he gets out of the car and the gate is closed and the sheriff is there. Pete climbs over the gate and says to the deputies, 'Are you gonna arrest me?'"

They did not. Instead, McCloskey was able to capture the attention of the public once more after a lifetime of standing up for what he thought was right.

"He had a great sense of fun as well as a seriousness about principles and policy," Roberts said. "If all of us could just take a little bit of Pete McCloskey and make something good happen that would be wonderful."

Pete is survived by his wife Helen, four children — Nancy, Peter, John, and Kathleen McCloskey — and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews. ■

Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

Email Editor Sarah Wright at swright@paweekly.com.

MIDDLE AVENUE*continued from page 9*

the adult and child pedestrians and bicyclists."

Matthew Rascoff, co-chair of the Safe Routes to Schools Committee at Oak Knoll agreed, saying "it doesn't have to be perfect. We're showing progress, and we're showing improvement. We shouldn't let the perfect be the enemy of the good."

Council member Wolosin also acknowledged the inconvenience that residents now face, but said that ultimately the new street design is worth it for safety.

"I think this is really a future looking endeavor in moving our city in the direction that we want to go in," said Wolosin. "So I really wanna thank everyone who's participated in this project. ... I have not forgotten the

many, many emails that have come in over the last couple of years from people who are agreeing with my position, people who are not agreeing with my position. Just because we're not necessarily seeing eye to eye on this topic doesn't mean we don't respect and understand where you're coming from."

However, other community members were upset by the changes to the area, stating that the designs were unacceptable. Residents were particularly dissatisfied with the challenges that closing Blake Street and removing the parking along Middle Avenue has created.

"Since the reconfiguration of the parking with the pilot, I have not been able to walk in either direction down my block of Middle at almost any time without seeing cars parked in

the bike lane and on the sidewalk, making both impassable," said Neil Wolf, a resident of Middle Avenue. "You keep saying removing the parking and closing Blake street is going to make things safer, but it does not. It's truly unsafe and much worse than it was before the pilot started."

Vice Mayor Combs sided with the residents who are being affected by the parking removal, though noting that he is in favor of traffic calming measures in general.

"I do think that the complete removal of parking had lots of challenging effects for the residents on Middle," said Combs, who ultimately voted against approving the permanent buffered bike lane and parking ban. "I'm not supportive, because I think that possibly there were

other approaches that took into account the concerns and the impacts to the changes of the quality of life."

Back-in parking at Nealon Park

To address parking concerns, staff proposed changing the current parallel parking in front of Nealon Park to angled back-in parking. This would increase the parking in front of the park from 14 to 26 spaces.

Taylor and Combs expressed concerns about drivers' ability to park successfully in this uncommon parking configuration.

"It doesn't take into account familiarity and norms," said Combs. "It is different because you are pulling up and then backing into a confined space. That's challenging, and it's not something that you normally do. ... I think it increases the danger of the street in this specific section of the street."

"I'm not confident people can back up without hitting something," said Taylor. "You have

26 people parking at whatever amount of times per day on a busy street, trying to get into an angled parking spot. ... I'm just saying, I don't believe that everybody has the same parking skills."

She ended up supporting the pilot with the condition that staff explore widening the parking spaces to make backing in easier for cars.

This type of parking, though not very common, has been employed successfully nearby along Stanford Avenue near The Dish.

The permanent parking ban along Middle Avenue as well as the buffered bike lane and changes to Nealon Park parking were approved alongside a change to the speed limit along Middle Avenue. All of these changes were initiated as part of Menlo Park's Vision Zero initiative to eliminate traffic fatalities and reduce traffic injuries in the city. ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Louise Rockhold, 91, a native of Hawaii and a former Menlo Park resident, who graduated from Mountain View High School, who married at Stanford Memorial Church and tailgated Stanford University football games, who was a talented interior designer, floral arranger and avid traveler, and who volunteered for the Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary benefiting Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford, both with their shop at the Allied Arts Guild and chairing their major Tally Ho fundraiser several times, on Dec. 22, 2023.

Maxine Hoffland Tucker, 86, who moved to Palo Alto in 1962 and worked as a school social worker in East San Jose and was an active parent serving leadership roles at Friends Nursery School, Green Gables Elementary, and Jordan Middle Schools, before working for the San Mateo County Office of Education and later the county's mental health department, assisting students with autism and their families, and who was described as a voracious reader, and avid card player and a great cook, on April 19, 2024.

Alma Phillips, 88, a long-time Palo Alto resident whose

teaching career turned into educational volunteerism and advocacy at the local level, working with the Environmental Volunteers and giving students geology and wildlife tours of the Los Trancos Open Space Preserve, as well as served as a docent for Deer Hollow Farm and tutoring reading to children through Avenidas, and who worked with the Palo Alto Housing Corporation to advocate for fair housing, on April 19, 2024.

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

GOATS*continued from page 5*

grazed yet so that the whole park gets evenly mowed."

The goats aren't the only method of weed mitigation that Menlo Park uses.

"The goats are a non-toxic alternative to using herbicides, one of the many environmentally friendly practices of the city's Integrated Pest Management Plan," said the city of Menlo Park in a public notice. The city doesn't use any herbicides in its parks, according to Henry.

In Sharon Hills Park, goats may be even more effective at cutting grass than lawn mowers.

"What's unique about Sharon Hills Park is that it's on a steep slope. So if we were to use a traditional mower, there's a potential for a spark or fire hazard," said Henry.

After the goats finish their job at Sharon Hills Park, they will move to graze the undeveloped section of Sharon Park Drive.

Visitors are welcome to stop by and watch the goats do their work, as long as dogs are leashed and under control. ■

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

Reimagine your commute

By Isobel Readdie

GUEST OPINION

The big, blue expanse of the Bay stretches out for miles as we cut across it, making our way to the San Mateo County shoreline. From my seat on the upper deck of the San Francisco Bay Ferry, I open my laptop and get a head start on the workday. Seabirds fly alongside us as the morning sunshine slowly breaks through the fog. About 40 minutes pass and the familiar pillars of the marina catch my eye as we pull into the South San Francisco Ferry terminal. I pack up, grab my bike from the back deck of the ferry, tap my Clipper card, and ride along the Bay Trail to my office. I arrive feeling productive from the ferry ride and energized from bicycling.

Growing up, I always pictured myself entering the workforce after college and driving my car to and from work — as is the

norm. I certainly never imagined my commute to involve traveling by boat. Now, I would not have it any other way. I am right on-brand with my Sustainability Service Corps fellowship host site, Commute.org, a public agency in San Mateo County that encourages commuters to use alternative transportation modes rather than driving alone to work. The agency envisions a region where all residents and workers have access to equitable, sustainable, affordable, and safe transportation options and works to reduce drive-alone miles to reduce traffic, help the environment, and improve quality of life in the county.

The benefits I get from taking public transportation and biking far outweigh the ostensibly convenient drive. For one, the combined expenses of the

Bay Bridge toll, gas, and car maintenance are greater than the cost of my ferry ticket and bicycle upkeep. On the ferry, I can also maximize my commute time by getting a head start on my workday or catching up on social media, rather than sitting frustrated and stuck in traffic. Riding my bike to and from the ferry also helps me exercise and boosts my energy levels throughout the day.

Beyond the personal advantages, there is also a significant environmental benefit to ditching your car. As a fellow, I am learning about just how important sustainable transportation is in mitigating climate change — particularly in reducing carbon emissions. In fact, the transportation industry is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the State of California and made up to 40% of the total emissions in the Bay Area, according to a report

from the Bay Area Council Economic Institute. Decreasing your dependency on driving alone can be a positive habit for both you and the planet.

Don't just take my word for it — many others have shared the personal, economic, and environmental reasons why they choose to make non-drive-alone trips. Each year, Commute.org hosts the Commuter Challenge in the county, offering a \$250 raffle to those who pledge to commute sustainably from April to May. Many pledgers regularly use alternative modes and shared why they choose to do so. One transit rider said they enjoy being able to rest or read on BART and not be stressed with traffic. Another commuter shared that in their carpool, they like to relax and enjoy the ride when they're not driving and can significantly reduce their monthly expenses while helping the environment at the same time.

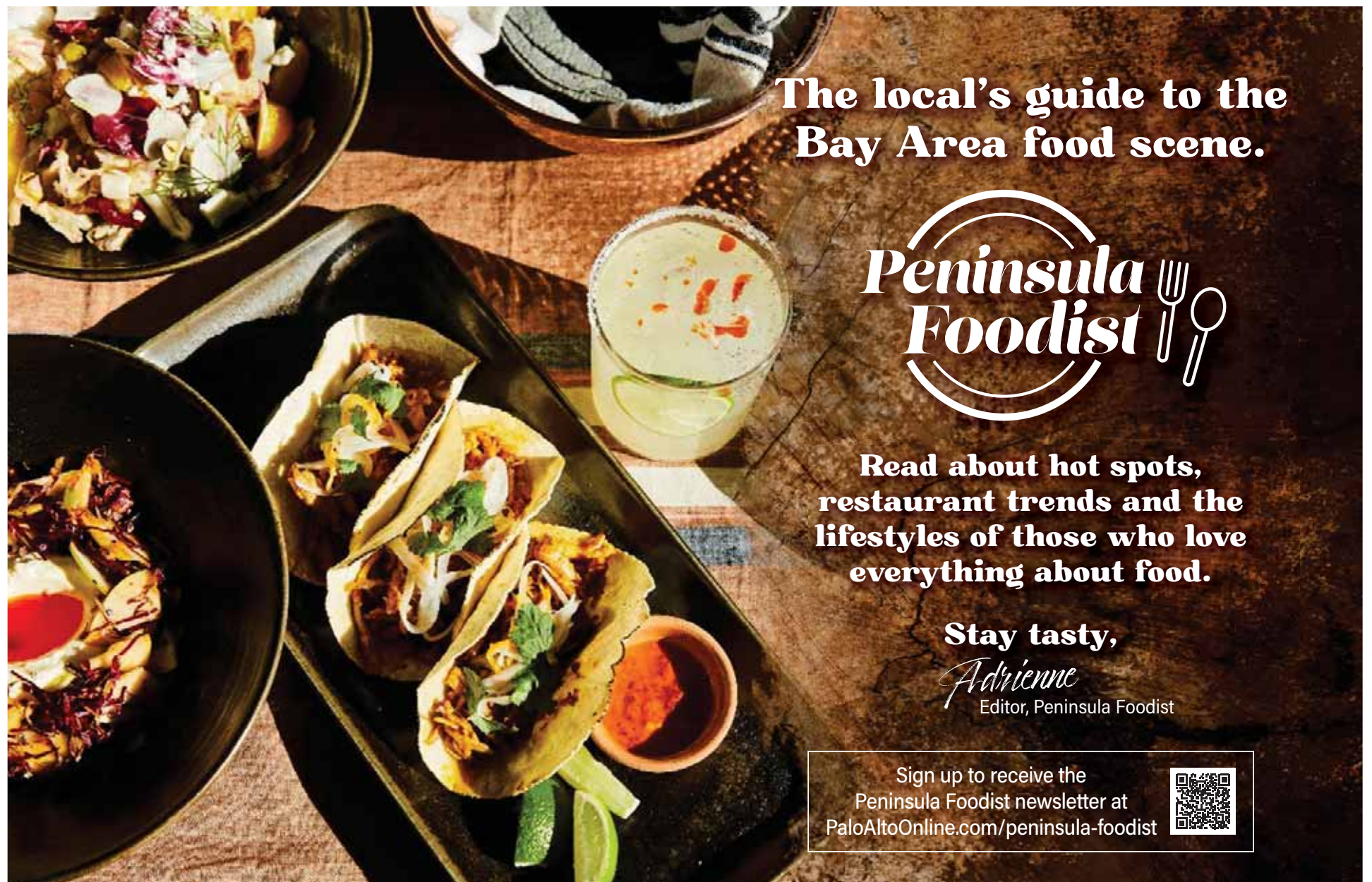
Driving alone may feel like the only option to commute. Sometimes, driving is the most feasible option, depending on where you are traveling to and other responsibilities you have. However, I challenge you to explore commuting habits beyond this, and all the advantages that come with trying new ways of getting around. ■

Isobel Readdie is an Oakland resident and an AmeriCorps fellow with Commute.org.

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

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

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



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

Peninsula Foodist

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

Stay tasty,
Adrienne
Editor, Peninsula Foodist

Sign up to receive the Peninsula Foodist newsletter at PaloAltoOnline.com/peninsula-foodist



Public Notices

Exemption from School Parcel Tax

An exemption from the Portola Valley School District \$471 parcel tax is available to eligible seniors (age 65 or older by June 30), or persons receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Applicants must occupy the property they own, located within the boundary of the School District. The exemption application is available at www.pvpsd.net or by calling (650) 851-1777. Application and supporting documents must be submitted by June 15. (ALM May 10 and 17, 2024)

T.S. No.: 146-019653 Title Order No. 91229367 APN: 069-041-030 Property Address: 235 HARCROSS ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 12/23/2019. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale of the Trustor's interest will be made to the highest bidder for lawful money of the United States, payable at the time of sale in cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: NIRVANA INVESTMENT GROUP, LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Duly Appointed Trustee: PLM LOAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC. Recorded 12/31/2019, as Instrument No. 2019-111954, The subject Deed of Trust was modified by Loan Modification recorded on 7/1/2022 as Instrument No. 2022-051776 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, Date of Sale: 6/5/2024 at 1:00 PM Place of Sale: Outside the Marshall Street entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$4,617,784.53 (estimated as of the first publication date) Street Address or other common designation of real property: 235 HARCROSS ROAD WOODSIDE, CA 94062 A.P.N.: 069-041-030 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. The following statements; NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS and NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER are statutory notices for all one to four single family residences and a courtesy notice for all other types of properties. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the

rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (844)477-7869 or visit this Internet Website www.stoxposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 146-019653. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (844)477-7869, or visit this internet website www.stoxposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 146-019653 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 5/1/2024 PLM LOAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC., as Trustee Phone: 408-370-4030 5446 Thornwood Drive, Second Floor San Jose, California 95123 Elizabeth Godbey, Vice President (ALM May 10, 17 and 24, 2024)

JPR PRO PAINTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297314
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) JPR PRO PAINTING, located at 203 Dumbarton Av APT. B, Redwood City, CA 94063.
Registered owner(s):
JORGE PEREZ
203 Dumbarton Av APT. B
Redwood City, CA 94063
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 April 29, 2024. (ALM May 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2024)

WHOLE KID SCHOOL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297396
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) WHOLE KID SCHOOL, located at 135 Willow Rd, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
WUND3RKID
2248 Addison Ave
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
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 01/01/2022.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 08, 2024. (ALM May 17, 24, 31 and Jun 7, 2024)

AV CAPITAL II
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297411
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) AV CAPITAL II, located at 25 Dwight Road, Burlingame, CA 94010.
Registered owner(s):
AUSTEN VASQUEZ
25 Dwight Road
Burlingame, CA 94010
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 May 10, 2024. (ALM May 17, 24, 31 and Jun 7, 2024)

HEIRLOOM MOON
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297255
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) HEIRLOOM MOON, located at 950 S. Humboldt St., San Mateo, CA 94402.
Registered owner(s):
MICHELLE ROSE MORALES
950 S. HUMBOLDT ST.
SAN MATEO, CA 94402
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 April 22, 2024. (ALM May 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2024)

MOLLIE STONE'S MARKET
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297323
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) MOLLIE STONE'S MARKET, located at 1477 Chapin Avenue, Burlingame, CA, 94010.
Registered owner(s):
ALBECCO, INC.
150 Shoreline Hwy Bldg D
Mill Valley, CA, 94941
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 4/4/1988.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 30, 2024. (ALM May 17, 24, 31 and Jun 7, 2024)

2 PROTECH & SERVE SECURITY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297415
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) 2 PROTECH & SERVE SECURITY, located at 60 Amberwood Circle, South San Francisco, CA 94080.
Registered owner(s):
PROFESSIONAL TECHNICAL SECURITY SERVICES, INC.
60 Amberwood Circle
South San Francisco, CA 94080
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 10, 2024. (ALM May 17, 24, 31 and Jun 7, 2024)

WEATHER OR NOT LLC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297370
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) WEATHER OR NOT LLC, located at 1370 CLOUD AVENUE, MENLO PARK, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
WEATHER OR NOT LLC
1370 CLOUD AVENUE
MENLO PARK, CA 94025
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 May 07, 2024. (ALM May 17, 24, 31 and Jun 7, 2024)

IKON ELECTRIC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297273
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) IKON ELECTRIC, located at 3198 RAMONA ST., PALO ALTO, CA., 94306.
Registered owner(s):
HOOD GENERAL CONTRACTING, INC.
3198 RAMONA STREET
PALO ALTO, CA 94306
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 24, 2024. (ALM May 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2024)

JULIE CARR LANDSCAPE DESIGN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297368
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) JULIE CARR LANDSCAPE DESIGN, located at 341 La Mesa Dr, Portola Valley, CA, 94028.
Registered owner(s):
JULIE RANDAU CARR
341 La Mesa Dr
Portola Valley, CA, 94028
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 05/06/2024.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 07, 2024. (ALM May 17, 24, 31 and Jun 7, 2024)

AXIS PERSONAL TRAINERS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297198
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) AXIS PERSONAL TRAINERS, located at 550 Ravenswood Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
APT, LLC
550 Ravenswood Ave
Menlo Park, CA 94025
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 10/02/2008.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 16, 2024. (ALM May 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2024)

ACCESS CABLING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297311
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) ACCESS CABLING, located at 303 Twin Dolph Dr. 6th Floor, Redwood City, CA 94065.
Mailing Address: 12060 Industrial Blvd, STE 1010, Jackson, CA 95642.
Registered owner(s):
FIRESIDE SECURITY GROUP INC.
12060 Industry Blvd. STE 1010
Jackson, CA 95642
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 01/03/2014.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 29, 2024. (ALM May 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2024)

DEL MAR PROPERTIES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-297164
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) DEL MAR PROPERTIES, located at 980 The Alameda, El Granada, CA 94018. Mailing Address: PO BOX 216, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019.
Registered owner(s):
CAFE REAL ESTATE INCORPORATED
980 The Alameda
El Granada, CA 94018
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 12/3/2003.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 12, 2024. (ALM May 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2024)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
JOSHUA CHIA-SHUO CHANG
Case No.: 24PR000494
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JOSHUA CHIA-SHUO CHANG.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: CONNIE TRAN in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.
The Petition for Probate requests that: CONNIE TRAN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on June 25 2024 at 9:00 AM in Dept. 1 of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Petitioner in Pro Per:
Connie Tran
882 30th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94121
415-439-3182
(ALM May 10, 17 and 24, 2024)

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
Case No. (Numero del Caso):
23CV000793
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:

(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
The Testate and Intestate Successors of James Richard Kurtz, Deceased, and All Persons Claiming By, Through, or Under Such Decedent YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
STEFFANY SIMS, an individual and SANDRA L. SIMS, an individual
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento
813 6th Street
Sacramento, California 5814

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Gina Arico-Smith (SBN 139645)
Fidelity National Law Group
2999 Oak Road, Suite 550, Walnut Creek, CA 94597
925-817-3715
Date (Fecha)
June 12, 2023
Clerk, by
(Secretario)
, Deputy
(Adjunto)
(ALM May 17, 24, 31 and Jun 7, 2024)

To place a legal notice visit
AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Teens to sing for female empowerment at youth concert

Conductor Elena Sharkova discusses Cantabile Youth Singers' upcoming concert in Palo Alto

Courtesy Kristy Andrews

Cantabile Youth Singers of Silicon Valley perform their spring concert, "What Happens When a Woman Takes Power," on May 18 in Palo Alto.

By Ashwini Gangal

What happens when a woman takes power?

That's not a rhetorical or trick question. It's the title of a local youth choir's upcoming spring concert slated for May 18 in Palo Alto, at which around 75 teenagers will perform.

The genre-agnostic concert is organized by Cantabile Youth Singers, which is a 30-year-old community nonprofit helmed by choral conductor Elena Sharkova, who has served as artistic director of the organization since 2004.

"What Happens When A Woman Takes Power?" is the title of the central piece that the choir will perform. "It's a piece with very strong lyrics," said Sharkova, during an interview over Zoom, about the interrogative song, written by a women's trio called Artemisia. "It's practically a song of protest."

Sharkova has in fact been teaching her students several protest songs over the years, for example "Hymn to Freedom," "We Shall Overcome," "Imagine," "Bridge Over Troubled Water" and "March for Our Lives."

"It's one of those things that I teach my students; I give them a lot of tools on how to be leaders," she said. "How do you, for

instance, lead a public protest? Where do they teach you that? Well, I teach them that, but I teach it through song. These are all songs that you can start singing in the streets; it doesn't necessarily have to be political."

This concert's theme is close to Sharkova's heart. "As a performer, as a conductor, as a leader, I choose a focus ... my idea was to bring as many women composers, women lyricists into the programs," she said. "If we were to say 'for the next five years we'll only sing and play music by women composers,' we would never run out of music! It's incredible. When I started digging, I was ashamed that there were so many women composers that I didn't know (about)!"

Cantabile's most recent concert was similarly themed; the May 4 show was titled "She Who Lights the Way."

"It was a celebration of women who lit the way for a family, for a community," Sharkova said.

She asked her students to write a paragraph about women they're inspired by. While many of them wrote about famous personalities like Ruth Bader Ginsburg for instance, many also said they take inspiration from the women in their own lives, like their grandmothers, mothers, aunts and teachers.

"I wanted the families to know about each other," she said. "It's my constant wish, desire, passion to make our families understand that this is not just a choir. This is a community where we enrich each other."

Her effort to push the cause goes beyond her work at Cantabile. Her recent concert titled "In Her Own Voice" with Florida-based vocal ensemble Seraphic Fire, was also based along similar lines.

At Cantabile, Sharkova integrates her knowledge of the energetic arts, like qi gong, tai chi and yoga, to bring in aspects like movement, mindfulness and meditation into the musical experience. It's something she started including in her rehearsals around 15 years ago, all in a bid to help her students focus better.

"I could not get the students to be fully present in the moment; they come from school, absolutely crazed, after sitting down the whole day. It's important for them to relax," she said. "If you're stressed all your muscles are going to be tight and you're not going to sound good."

Besides Cantabile, Sharkova also works as director of choral music at Symphony San Jose. She began her music career in Russia as an ensemble singer in a professional choir. After completing her

graduate studies in St. Petersburg, she moved to the United States where she continued to build a musical career in academics and on stage. She has worked as a guest conductor in over 30 countries.

"The hardest thing for me is to make people here in Silicon Valley realize how important music and performance and arts are to their children, to themselves," she said.

Sharkova is a role model for her students. "She's really an inspiring female figure," said Asha Aggarwal, junior at Woodside High School, who is performing on the 18th. She has been with Cantabile for the last eight years.

Among other things, Aggarwal appreciates the stories Sharkova tells her students to get them interested in a piece and to understand its history and origin. "Her emphasis on precision and passion is something that she lives by," said the 16-year-old resident of Redwood City. "She has both physical style in terms of her fashion sense and she's also got musical style and that is something I haven't seen in a lot of other conductors."

At the concert, Aggarwal will sing in the choir, as part of a group called Aria, and will also perform solo. "For me personally it's always been easier to be in a

group and to be in a team and to work together to create what my conductor, when we do well, likes to call magic," she said. All the same, she is looking forward to her solo performance. "It's going to be something that I step out of my comfort zone for ... but this one seemed right for me."

She feels strongly about the theme of the concert and said the boys in the choir do too. "Our young generation is so willing to put the right people in power and they recognize that women deserve that power," said Aggarwal, who is interested in studying neuroscience, especially exploring the connection between music and the brain. "Music will always hold a strong place in my life no matter where I go in my career." ■

Email Contributing Writer
Ashwini Gangal at
ashwinigangal@gmail.com.

"What Happens When A Woman Takes Power?" by Cantabile Youth Singers will take place on May 18 at 1 p.m. at First Unified Methodist Church, Palo Alto. \$10 students/\$35 general admission/\$75 benefactor tickets. cantabile.org.

Portola Valley music festival highlights hyperlocal lineup

Now in its third year, PV Palooza features four stages of bands with ties to Portola Valley, Woodside or La Honda

By Kate Daly

This year PV Palooza, the all-day music festival, is back bigger than ever in Portola Valley on Saturday, June 1.

Now in its third year, the event will feature 30 bands playing on four outdoor stages at Portola Valley Town Center from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The brainchild of Portola Valley resident and music lover John Badger, PV Palooza has one caveat: each band must have at least one member who is a native and/or living in Portola Valley, Woodside or La Honda.

As for the genres, Badger described the range as “pretty wide,” appealing to all ages with a lot of “classic rock covers and dad bands,” but also some indie folk, Afro-funk-Cuban, jazz, original work, and a dozen “kids’ bands.”

The music festival has grown quite a bit since he founded it in 2022 when he chaired the Portola Valley Cultural Arts Committee.

What motivated him?

“I certainly love music; I don’t play or sing, I’m not a musician,” he said, but when he became an empty nester, he missed something. He remembered how he “found myself in my happy place” when he was acting as manager, booking agent and roadie for his son Christopher’s Woodside High

School band, Indygo Rhythm Section.

Getting involved in a music festival felt like a natural step to take.

Christopher plays with two bands and performed at the first PV Palooza. He is now graduating from Berklee College of Music in Boston and will be performing at this next PV Palooza.

Badger’s vision is “we want to provide a way for musical talent in our community to have a place to perform music in front of fans they know well ... it’s a real way to connect people.”

This year he expects a crowd of as many as 1,200 to attend, and suggests audiences bringing blankets and chairs to set up on the lawns next to the library and on the soccer field. Two bands will be performing at any given time, with main stage acts running for 50 minutes, and side stage acts running for 20.

The schedule can be found at pvpalooza.com. A promotional poster lists the following lineup: Dr. Sig & the Supernaturals, Alec Lytle & Them Rounders, Ginger + Bandits, Christopher Normann, Pathetic Honey, Whiskey Hill Billies, The Bubbles, Up & to the Right, Windy Hill, Squirrels of Wisdom, Slush, Los Trancolizers, Tehaya, Salty Licks, Zanzibar and Greg Barth.

In addition to the musical acts, refreshments will be available



Courtesy John Badger/PV Palooza

Since its founding in 2022, summer music festival PV Palooza has highlighted local music. This year’s event marks the largest festival so far, with 30 bands in the lineup.

for purchase and local art vendors will set up booths for face painting, jewelry, floral creations and other wares. Devil’s Canyon Brewing Co. will sell drinks and Lord of the Ribs, Melina’s Kitchen and Mister Softee will provide food options.

Badger emphasizes the focus is on local — as in local vendors, business sponsors and individuals participating in and supporting the local community, but he could see replicating “this little festival as a model for this elsewhere.”

“This year the event will cost about \$45,000, and we have raised that much money,” Badger said.

Each musician is getting paid \$250 to perform. Licensing fees for songs are another line item, as well as expenses to hire an audio engineer and rent sound and stage equipment.

As the festival grew in size and scope over the past two years, Badger said the town asked him to set up the PV Palooza Foundation to run the event. He started the 501(c)(3) nonprofit in January along with a group of locals who are “mostly musicians,” some of whom are performing on June 1.

Badger serves as Executive Director of the Board and is joined by a volunteer team

which includes Ivy Margolis as Corporate Secretary, Sherri Schmidt, Ryan Breen, Dan Newitt, Wesley Barrow, Steve Dunne, Phil Barth, Jerrie Welch, Susan Lauer, Fallon Falore and Renata Dionello. ■

Kate Daly is a Contributing Writer.

PV Palooza takes place June 1, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. at Portola Valley Town Center, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Admission is free. For more information, visit pvpalooza.com.

6 Questions with PACO Music Director Scott Krijnen

The musician and educator reflects on his first season at the helm of Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra

By Heather Zimmerman

Cellist and educator Scott Krijnen is only the third person to serve as the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra music director in the organization’s 60-year history. Krijnen stepped into the role at the start of the 2023-24 season, taking up the mantle from Ben Simon, who was in the role for 20 years. The orchestra, called PACO for short, is made up of five ensembles of young musicians, who range in age from elementary school through high school.

Krijnen is a lifelong musician who grew up with music. He was born in Belgium, where he lived for the first six years of his life before moving to the Bay Area with his mother, a Californian and herself a violist who had been traveling through Europe for work.

This season isn’t Krijnen’s first outing with PACO by any means — he knows Simon well and has

been active for many years with the organization. The Almanac caught up with Krijnen to get his thoughts as he winds up his first season of working as the group’s music director, ahead of a May 18 concert by PACO’s senior ensemble.

Almanac: How did you get into teaching?

Scott Krijnen: We moved quite a bit. There were some predictable struggles with going from one country to another. Every time we moved, my mother would usually start a new program. So if you go to a school, there was no music there, she would start a music program or an after-school club or whatever it might be.

The first few times that happened, I was a beginner, so I’m just learning with everybody else. But then as I got older, the program (at a new school) was brand new, so I was surrounded by beginners, but that was my fourth year or fifth year playing.

And so I became teachers’ aid there to help kids. As a kid that didn’t fit in very well — I didn’t speak English till I was 7 so that was kind of one of those first hurdles, just kind of figuring that out. ... Getting to teach and connect with people and see them be successful gave me a lot of confidence, gave me a voice. So I really wanted to become a teacher at a pretty young age of like 12 or 13.

Almanac: So down to the basics here: What is a chamber orchestra?

Scott Krijnen: A chamber ensemble, per definition, is one to a part. So it’s going to be a much smaller ensemble than, say, the San Francisco Symphony. If you go to the symphony, you’ll have 16 first violins, 16 second violins; 10 to 14 violas; 10 to 14 cellos; six to eight basses. In string quartets, it’s one on a part. It’s all small.



Courtesy Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra

Scott Krijnen is finishing up his first season as music director of the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra.

See 6 QUESTIONS, page 25

6 QUESTIONS

continued from page 24

For chamber orchestra, therefore, it's just a smaller section: So maybe two to a part or four to a part will be standard. Since we're in this educational field with the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra, what we're trying to do is have as many students as we can without sacrificing that small nature. We usually have between six and eight as a maximum per section. So we might have six first violins; six second violins; four to six violas; four to six cellos and one bass player. Our ensembles are on average, somewhere between 25 and 30. That means that we have access to music that was written specifically for that ensemble. With composers, their most special music is usually their chamber work because it's the most intimate; it's for individual voices, they can really work with their craft.

Almanac: What does that experience of playing in a chamber orchestra bring to students?

Scott Krijnen: Communication and listening are key to anything. With chamber music, if two people are playing an F sharp, and one of them is sure they are right and the other person is too, and neither one will adjust, then you just have something that's out of tune, dissonant and unpleasant for everyone involved. But if both people are willing to accept that by playing together and in tune is better for the individuals involved and for everybody listening, then right away, you're doing something together for a common good.

It just allows for this sort of mindset of flexibility and awareness. The listening skills that come with chamber music, the communication skills, the non-verbal communication skills — you learn how to exchange ideas and concepts live while playing through.

Also you just have to be incredibly diligent and responsible in learning and rehearsing your part and then be willing to be flexible after you've spent all this time learning in a certain way.

Almanac: What is a typical day like for you as a music director?

Scott Krijnen: A lot of emails. I knew that going in of course. I mean, when you're running an organization, there's a lot of needs: there's of course, just managing the space and making sure this space is meeting the needs of the students.

There's the vision part: "this is where we want to go, this is what we're trying to provide and how we're trying to get there." There's the fundraising component where you're always trying to make sure that you're solvent

to be able to support all these programs and make sure that the students that have less access still have access to PACO.

We have five really dynamic faculty, so (I'm) making sure that their needs are met, they have the resources necessary, and that they're able to communicate as they wish with all their students. There's working with the office manager and making sure our facilities are set for rehearsals and for concerts. We're always also looking to the future. So I'm reaching out and getting people from master classes.

There's making sure that we're being really inclusive, so, setting programs that make sure we have a variety of leadership, a variety in master classes and a variety of composers in choosing repertoire. So all those things are sort of sprinkled in throughout the day.

Almanac: What have been some of the highlights of your first year?

Scott Krijnen: Well, it's been nothing but highlights. Even the board meetings — I leave the board meetings feeling good, which is something not too many people will say about board meetings. There's just so many caring, thoughtful, capable people that want to see PACO do well.

What I find is that the best parts of my day involve the success of students, because there's just nothing like seeing a kid go from not understanding to understanding and that happens all the time, which is really special.

All the highlights are involved with just connecting with the people that you're working with. And I'm just very fortunate to work with a lot of great people.

Almanac: What are you most looking forward to in your work with the orchestra?

Scott Krijnen: I'm always most looking forward to the next rehearsal. I leave rehearsal with so much energy and excitement and joy, and drive home and I do all my blogs, then I do some score study and I still have energy. It's so incredible the amount that the students are willing to put into those rehearsals.

Then of course, it's really nice to work towards those concerts. It's because it's a moment to share. ■

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

The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra's senior ensemble performs May 18, 7:30 p.m., at Cubberley Theatre, 4120 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. pacomusic.org.

Worth a Look

'Dance Series 2'

Smuin Ballet — celebrating 30 years of melding classical ballet and contemporary dance — brings "Dance Series 2" to Mountain View, offering the world premiere of Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's Elvis Presley-inspired "Tupelo Tornado," plus Smuin Associate Artistic Director Amy Seiwert's "Broken Open," Smuin dancer Brennan Wall's swirling "Untwine," and Michael Smuin's own dreamy "Starshadows," which Smuin's website notes was one of its earliest works for the company, choreographed in 1998. "Tupelo Tornado," set to a rockin' Elvis soundtrack, is Colombian-Belgian choreographer Lopez Ochoa's first creation for Smuin. And at the end of this season, Seiwert will step up to head the company, replacing outgoing Artistic Director Celia Fushille, according to a press release.

May 17-19, Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View; \$59-\$84 for adults, \$25 for students 21 and under; tickets.mvcpa.com.



Courtesy Chris Hardy

Jace Pauly in Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's "Tupelo Tornado," part of Smuin Ballet's Dance Series 2.

'Huppet'

"Huppet," an original new puppet musical by Stanford students Lana Tleimat and Sebastian Blue Hochman, will get its developmental stage debut on campus. The show is the story of teen Lisa, who has a human mom and a puppet dad (hence, "huppet") and journeys to Puppetland to meet her puppet family and try to figure out where she fits in. "On one hand, the show's a funny, poignant musical comedy explaining ourselves and where we come from. But it's also about living a mixed experience in America right now," Hochman's website states. This workshop production is presented by the Stanford Asian American Theater Project and Stanford Theater Laboratory.

May 17-18 at 7 p.m. and May 19 at 2 p.m.; Nitery Theater, 514 Lasuen Mall, Stanford; Free; eventbrite.com.

SUSTO

Longtime indie-rock band SUSTO, led by Justin Osborne, released its most recent album, "My Entire Life," in the summer of 2023. SUSTO Stringband, a lineup featuring Osborne backed by American six-piece Moonsville Collective and performing SUSTO songs in more folksy arrangements, will come to the Guild Theatre this week.

May 17, 8 p.m., The Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; \$28-\$65; tixr.com/groups/guildtheatre.

Cien Mil Mangos

Cien Mil Mangos, a Stanford-based salsa band, will perform a free al fresco show in Palo Alto's Johnson Park, presented by Earthwise Productions. The group

was also in the lineup of April's 3rdThursday event on California Avenue.

May 17, 6 p.m., Johnson Park, 268 Waverley St., Palo Alto; free; eventbrite.com.

Frost Music & Arts Festival

The Frost Music & Arts Festival, organized by the Stanford Concert Network, this year stars West Coast rapper and singer Blixst, who's collaborated with the likes of Snoop Dog and Nas and been named an "artist to watch" by Billboard. The festival also features UMI and Alameda. The Stanford Concert Network is a student organization that brings live music to campus and provides educational experience in the music business.

May 18, 6:30 p.m., Frost Amphitheater, 351 Lasuen St., Stanford; \$49.50 general admission; live.stanford.edu.

Nicholas Kristof

For 40 years, bestselling author Nicholas Kristof has been a familiar byline in the "New York Times," in a variety of roles from foreign correspondent to columnist. He's also a winner of two Pulitzer Prizes. Kristof comes to Kepler's Books to share his latest book, "Chasing Hope: A Reporter's Life," which captures memorable moments from his work throughout the world. The book also shares the stories of many remarkable people doing heroic work that Kristof has encountered in his reporting. Kristof is featured in conversation with Angie Coiro.

May 19, 4 p.m., at Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; \$15-\$46; keplers.org.

Food & Drink

it's Wine Time



Learn about two new wine bars:

family-run **Elleary Wine** and AAPI women-owned **a²**

By Adrienne Mitchel

Here are the stories behind two new wine bars along the Peninsula that aim to foster conversations and introduce you to your new favorite wines.

Elleary Wine

Take a trip to Napa in a new downtown Los Altos wine bar so small, it only seats eight (10 if you count outdoor seating).

Replacing jewelry shop Judy's Collection along 2nd Street, Los Altos Hills residents Shawn and Vivien Karimi opened the tasting room for their Napa winery Elleary Wine on April 5. The wine bar is open only on Friday and Saturday evenings, but Shawn said he plans to eventually expand the hours. Passersby will notice a vibrant mural along the side of the building depicting lush green vineyards, sprawling

hills and a blue sky accented with purple clouds.

"Napa's landscape is beautiful, and it takes you away from normal things that go on in your life," Shawn said. "When I go to Napa, I'm in a different world immediately, the minute I see the wineries. So the idea was to look at it and say, 'This thing is taking me two hours away from here to Napa.'"

And while the size of the tasting room is quite small, it's the perfect size for the Karimis, who are busy operating their own non-wine-related businesses (Shawn is in medical imaging and Vivien is a partner at Deloitte) as well as raising two kids.

"We've been wanting to open up a tasting room for a while, and we wanted to open a smaller tasting room that doesn't require 60 hours a week of attention," Shawn said. "We can display the wine, interested parties can come sit down, have a tasting and some cheese, and we can talk about wine."

Shawn, originally from Iran,

Above: A few of the wines offered at the new Elleary Wines Tasting Room in downtown Los Altos. Photo by Anna Hoch-Kenney.

Bottom left: Elleary Wine owners Shawn Karimi, left, and Vivien Karimi, right, at their tasting room in downtown Los Altos. Photo by Adrienne Mitchel.

'(Our goal) is to really connect with the community and share our unique product, which is a very family-collaborated product.'

VIVIEN KARIMI
CO-OWNER, ELLEARY WINE



and Vivien, originally from China, met at Shawn's Persian New Year party in Los Altos Hills in 2006. (Some Elleary wine labels mistakenly say the couple met in 2007, but Vivien says "it's men's memory versus reality.")

"I happened to have a friend in town from Asia staying with me," Vivien said. "I thought, 'What a wonderful opportunity to show her this different culture.' So I said yes to the invitation (from my dentist)...and we showed up at this Persian New Year party. And that's the house we're living in right now."

Shawn has a slightly different version ("the correct version," he said) of how they met. Two weeks prior to hosting his New Year party, he ran into an old clergy friend at a Persian store in Sunnyvale who asked why Shawn wasn't married.

"He said, 'Have you asked God to give you the right person?'" Shawn said. "I said, 'No, I have not.' He said, 'We'll do this

together right now. We'll raise our hands to the sky and ask God to give you the right woman in two weeks.' So we asked God. Two weeks later, we had the Persian New Year. Guess who walks in through the door?"

When Shawn and Vivien first met, neither of them knew much about wine. Four years later on Father's Day, they had their first child, Elle. The following year on Christmas Eve, they had their second child, Ary. After years of tasting wines all over California and Shawn studying winemaking at UC Davis, they decided to open Elleary and Karimi Family Vineyards in Napa, which had its first harvest in 2016.

"I remember my daughter was 30 days old when she was on her first trip to Napa," Vivien said. "Within the first three months, she went there at least four or five times. Both my kids know all the wineries that we have visited. They can name when we visited and what's the uniqueness of that winery."

The Los Altos tasting room offers seven cabernets, one merlot and one chardonnay, all made with grapes harvested from the Elleary Napa vineyard or in Los Altos Hills from 2016 to 2021. In addition to buying bottles previously only available online (\$52-\$95), customers can purchase pours by the glass (\$12-\$23) or tasting flights (\$30-\$45) and snack on cheese, olives and crackers.

The Karimis are more than happy to answer any questions about their wines, but if you want to know Shawn's favorite wine, he'll tell you "there's no such thing as a favorite wine."

"Each one represents a year that the grape is grown in and every year is different," he said. "It takes nine months from the time the bud breaks on the vines until it gets harvested in September or October. There's lots of elements involved that make the grape change, and that represents that year. It will have its own elements and you're going to appreciate it for that."

The Karimis are proud to share their wines with their community and welcome feedback from guests.

"(Our goal) is to really connect with the community and share our unique product, which is a very family-collaborated product," Vivien said. "I think we made it very well in terms of the quality

of the wine...We've spent a lot of effort to get the best quality for the price that is reasonable for the community here."

a²

With little signage and no flashy lighting, it's easy to miss that there's a new wine bar on B Street in downtown San Mateo. There is one exception — if it's a Friday night, you'll likely be drawn in by the sound of live jazz music.

"a² is all about helping local businesses and other local artists," said a² co-owner Asia Su. "Whether you're a musician or artist, you can come to us, and we will try our best to help you — let you perform or have your paintings on our walls."

Walk into the unassuming Japanese wabi-sabi inspired wine bar and you'll find paintings on display by local artists that are also available for purchase. Local bands perform live jazz music Friday nights, and the owners hope to eventually introduce live music Thursday and Saturday nights as well. The menu has 30 wines available by the glass (\$15-\$28) or bottle (\$60-\$295), five tasting flights (\$35-\$45) and five charcuterie boards (\$16-\$42).

"I want a² to be a place where people come and have a great time, just relax, you can chit-chat with your friends, you can enjoy a glass



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Asia Su (left) and Annie Zhao (right), owners of a² Wine Bar in downtown San Mateo, pose for a portrait behind the bar.

of wine, enjoy some music, have some conversations with other people," Su said.

a² soft opened March 1 and plans to have its grand opening later this month. The name of the bar isn't a wine term: It's a play off the owners' names.

"My partner and I are so lazy: My name is Annie. My partner's name is Asia," said a² co-owner Annie Zhao with a laugh. "We're two lazy ladies. a² is simple; it's easy to remember."

This is Zhao's second time owning a bar in San Mateo. About 15 years ago, she owned and operated T2, a bar that Su was a regular at.

The pair became great friends and bonded over their shared love of wine.

"I love wine," Zhao said. "I love doing tastings in Napa. It's my hobby. I think if your work is what you love, you'll do it better."

While Su has never owned a bar before, she has invested in a variety of businesses, including real estate, recycling and kitchen cabinets. She had her debut investing in the food and beverage industry with Michelin-starred Niku Steakhouse in San Francisco in 2019.

"I love wine bars," Su said. "I always wanted to open one. I just

'I want a² to be a place where people come and have a great time, just relax, you can chit-chat with your friends, you can enjoy a glass of wine, enjoy some music.'

ASIA SU,
CO-OWNER A²

never had time or the right partner to do it. I have so many businesses I need to look after. But when Annie said, 'We should do a wine bar,' I said, 'OK, let's do this.'"

Su and Zhao curate the wine list together and plan to rotate the menu every four months. The menu includes a selection of sparkling wine, white wine, rosé, new world red, Bordeaux red and organic wine. ■

Email Food Editor
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Elleary Wine, 188 2nd St.,
Los Altos. Open Friday
and Saturday 5-8:30 p.m.

a², 117 S B St., Suite A,
San Mateo. Open Wednesday
through Sunday 5-10 p.m.



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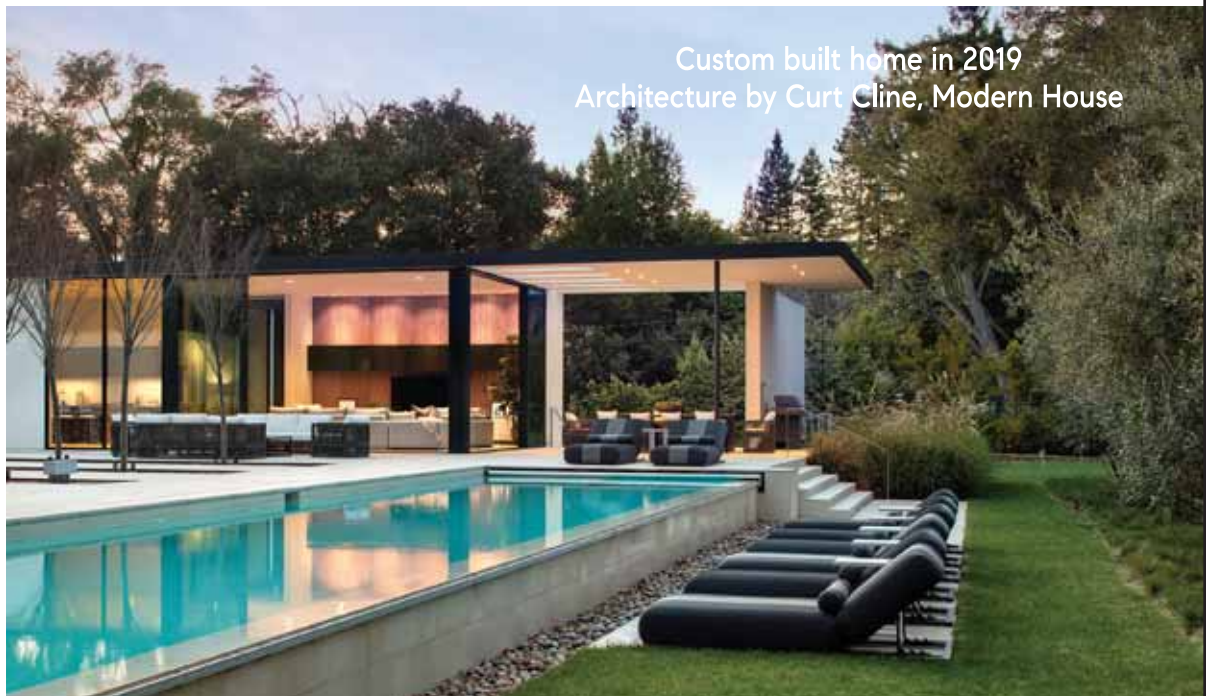
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