

The Almanac

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

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Horse Fair in Portola Valley celebrates town's equestrian culture

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Horses are a beloved animal in Portola Valley and as an equestrian-centered community, the town's Trails and Paths Committee hosted the annual Horse Fair on May 18. As the sun beamed across the lawn at Town Center, children and families had the opportunity to see horses, chickens, goats, rabbits, pigs and ducks.

The event was well attended with parking lots full and people coming from across the Bay Area. The lines were stretched long for pony rides and entry into the petting zoo pen, a popular attraction for young children.

Portola Valley community members brought their horses to the event allowing people to interact with them up close and learn about horses. Council member Mary Hufty had her three Icelandic horses at the fair, all were used to let people listen to the horse's heartbeat through a stethoscope.

"It's the best it's ever been," said Hufty about the event. "Everyone is participating and showing up."

Steve Roon, executive director of The Horse Park at Woodside, showed off his horse Billy, who he brought over to Woodside from Ireland in 2010. Roon and Billy compete in dressage,



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Polo player Emily Rubin feeding her horse Calurosa during the Portola Valley Horse Fair on May 18.

See **HORSE FAIR**, page 17

Menlo Park City Council explores new design for proposed Parkline development, which would replace the SRI campus

The new plan includes 250 additional residential units

By Eleanor Raab

The Menlo Park City Council heard from city staff, Menlo Park residents, housing advocates, and more at a study session on a new design for the proposed Parkline development, which would be located on the SRI campus at 333 Ravenswood Ave. The new

design has increased the number of proposed residential units that would be available on the site from 550 to 800 units.

The study session was well attended, with 31 commenters voicing their support and concerns about the proposed development. Discussion of the project lasted for nearly three hours. Questions about traffic impacts

of the development, building heights, the need for more office space when major tech companies are getting rid of real estate, and even bio safety hazards from research labs at the development, swirled during the meeting.

The council and public commenters were very enthusiastic about adding new housing, especially affordable housing, to

the site, with some commenters requesting that the developer and council consider adding even more housing to the design. However, many were concerned about the heritage tree removal and potential traffic, congestion and parking impacts that would come with the addition of 800 or more housing units to the area.

"Seeing the uptick number of

housing units and the increase in the land dedication for affordable housing. That is great to see," said council member Maria Doerr.

Attendees and the council heard a presentation from developers Lane Partners LLC, who is working with SRI International

See **PARKLINE**, page 11

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

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The fastest growing age group needs our help.

We hope that Spring finds you in good health and good spirits. We are writing today to spotlight the urgency of the ongoing crisis facing seniors in our local communities, and to invite you to join **Peninsula Volunteers, Inc.** in creating a future where local seniors can **age in place** surrounded by the support and care services they need to thrive.

Seniors and their families are struggling to stay afloat right here in our own community.

Rising costs of living and economic uncertainty continue to place immense financial strain on the lives of older adults. Thousands of local seniors in our affluent SF Peninsula are **unsure of where their next meal will come from**. The “epidemic of loneliness” is equally pervasive, with countless older adults living in solitude, yearning for the warmth of human connection. **The U. S. Surgeon General** identified loneliness as epidemic in the U.S. and San Mateo County has declared loneliness a public health crisis. We are also confronting the staggering rise in Alzheimer’s and other dementias among our aging population and the care-giving challenge that families face dealing with these devastating diseases. With **less than 2% of institutional funding going to causes related to aging**, the fastest growing age group needs our help, and we are failing them miserably.

Those who are hurting are not strangers—they are our neighbors, parents, and grandparents!

Those who need support now are our neighbors, our parents, our grandparents; older adults on fixed incomes and often living alone, who have worked tirelessly throughout their lives only to **face the impossible choice** between buying groceries or other essential needs like rent, medicines, transportation, and utilities. This is not OK.

It is an everyday thing. Not just a holiday season thing.

Right now, **Berniece** runs out of money to buy food each week; **Patrick** is homebound and cannot shop or cook for himself. **Wendy** is struggling to work and manage care for her father who has Alzheimer’s; **Fatima** no longer drives and needs safe and easy transportation; **Lori** lives alone with no one to spend the day with. PVI is **transforming aging** in our local community with meaningful programs for critical needs just like these, **enabling seniors to age in place** with essential programs that also help address isolation and reduce the use of costly health care services.

Help us restore hope and help reach more seniors in need!

We are grateful that you make it possible for us to serve our community’s most vulnerable, more seniors like Berniece, Patrick, Wendy, Fatima, and Lori. By giving hope and help where you live, you provide the lifeline our local seniors so desperately need and so profoundly changes their daily lives.

Yes, I want to make life-changing impact today: Your special Spring gift of an amount that is right for you* means everything to the **thousands of local families relying on us** for their daily health and well-being. You may give securely online at www.1pvi.org/donate. If you did not have an opportunity to give over the holiday season, we are grateful for what you can do today. And if you have recently given, we thank you from our hearts.

* **\$500** supports one month of PVI Meals on Wheels for two at-risk seniors; or a fitness membership for one year; or helps fund Aging Life Solutions; **\$700** supports one week of Adult Day Services; ***\$2,500** supports an iPad and training for a senior; or Ride PVI transportation services for one month for five seniors.

With hope and gratitude,


Peter Olson
 Chief Executive Officer


Georgie Gleim
 Board President



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PATRICK

HEALTHY FOOD, PEACE OF MIND, AND CONNECTION

Patrick is in his mid-80s and has lived on the peninsula for most of his life. With the increased costs of living, he and his family were concerned yet committed to keeping him in his home. After Patrick’s wife passed away last year, he began struggling to access nutritious food and his health deteriorated. Patrick’s daughter, Marlene, connected with PVI’s Meals on Wheels and learned her father would be a good fit for the program. He began receiving meals and his health started to improve. An unexpected benefit for Marlene and Patrick is the friendship he developed with his Meals on Wheels delivery driver. His driver not only brings nutritious food, but genuine, friendly connection.

“My health has improved since I started receiving PVI’s home delivered meals. It brings my family peace of mind, knowing that I now have nutritious food at home.”
 - Patrick, PVI Meals on Wheels recipient

DAILY SENIOR IMPACT*

1 in 6 seniors is facing hunger.

1 in 2 seniors living alone are without the finances for basic needs.

1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer’s or other dementias.

1 in 4 seniors live alone and feel lonely.

Nearly 1 in 5 spousal caregivers passes away before their loved one.

Because you care, PVI is able to prepare, deliver and provide:

- Over **122,000** life-changing nutritious meals annually.
- Plus an additional **3,900** meals with a pending new route in Santa Clara County.
- Over **40,000** pounds of protein, dairy, fresh produce, and pantry staples to date to over 450 families weekly.
- Over **4,150** on-site café lunch meals to date.
- Over **54,600** essential transportation rides since program launch.
- Daily meaningful activities and social connections for over **6,000** households.
- Therapeutic daily care for those with Alzheimer’s.
- Aging Life Solutions for overwhelmed family caregivers.

*Data Source: Meals on Wheels America, Council of Aging, County of San Mateo, Surgeon General of the U.S., AARP, Supervisor David Canepa

For over 75 years, Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. has enabled seniors to age in place, driven by a profound legacy of caring and our core values of respect, commitment, trust, dedication, and compassion. Our four core programs serve over 6,000 households and address the most pressing issues of aging adults by offering critical services to sustain their daily physical, nutritional, emotional, and mental health while achieving dignity and independence in their lives. PVI’s programs include Nutrition Services/Meals on Wheels; Adult Day Services at Rosener House; Senior Activity Center at Little House; and RIDE PVI, our on-demand transportation service.

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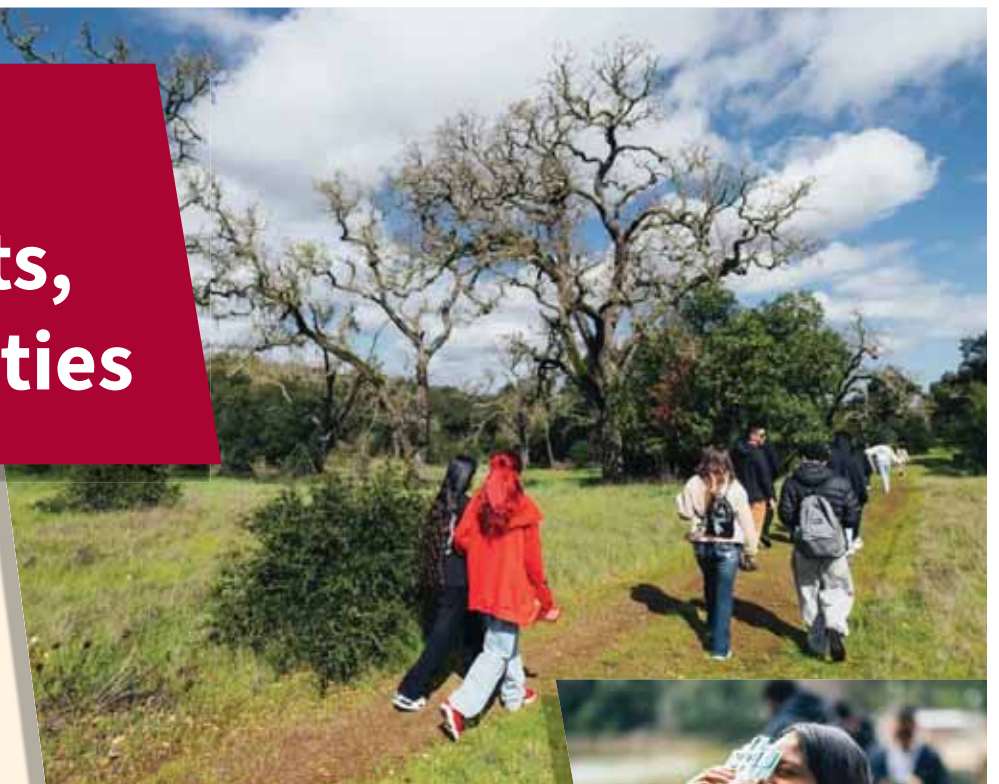
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Stanford visit sparks high schoolers' interests, inspires future possibilities

Stanford University brings high school students from low-income communities to the campus as part of a dual-credit course program that provides talented students with access to advanced material while encouraging them to apply to selective colleges.

“The school is very prestigious and looking around, it's more diverse than I thought it would be, and so far, everyone's been really nice and welcoming,” said visiting student Jared Garcia, a high school junior. “It's inspirational, and it helps for students to see a different environment.” **SCAN TO READ THE SPOTLIGHT**



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Local News

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Anna Hoch-Kenney

A pile of concrete from old walkways continues to grow as construction teams work on the Flood Park renovation project in Menlo Park on May 16.

Demolition begins at Flood Park to make way for new amenities

By Eleanor Raab

Demolition began at Flood Park near North Fair Oaks in Menlo Park on May 16. This renovation is being completed as part of San Mateo County's Realize Flood Park Project, which aims to revitalize the community park and introduce new amenities to the recreation area.

The county is currently working on constructing the first phase of the project, which will include construction of

picnic areas as well as a multi-use sports field and sports courts. These sports facilities will support basketball, tennis, pickleball, sand volleyball and more.

Contractors have already demolished old asphalt pathways to make room for the new picnic areas and sports fields. In order to protect sensitive areas, county biologists flagged off areas where nesting birds and roosting bats reside. The Realize Flood Park Project also

includes a habitat restoration component.

Access to the bicycle pump track will be allowed throughout most of the construction process.

The park will partially reopen in the fall of this year, and will fully reopen in winter of this year.

View the construction schedule on the county's website: tinyurl.com/realizefloodpark. ■

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

Hundreds attend the grand opening of the Belle Haven Community Campus

By Eleanor Raab

On Saturday, May 18, Menlo Park city officials marked the grand opening of the new Belle Haven Community Campus with a ribbon cutting ceremony, tours of the new campus, food trucks and music. Hundreds of people from around the Peninsula attended the event. About a dozen protesters, who objected to the new name of the building, also attended.

"It is a remarkable achievement, and a testament to our dedication, our leadership and our care for our community," said Menlo Park Mayor Cecilia Taylor in a speech before the ribbon cutting ceremony. "The goal of this project was to unify all ages, and provide space for us all to learn, build and be a part of our collective community."

Konstance Kirkendoll, a teacher at the nearby Beechwood School, told the gathered onlookers how much this new

community campus means for her students.

"I just wanted to express my excitement for what my students will be able to continue to do at this facility, whether that's going and learning valuable lessons in the pool, getting some more education in the library, interacting with the senior citizens here. It's a very exciting opportunity that's going to continue," she said.

See **BELLE HAVEN**, page 18

West Nile virus detected in dead bird in Menlo Park

Vector Control District urges residents to dump standing water

By Eleanor Raab

West Nile virus has been detected in a dead bird in Menlo Park, according to a May 15 press release from the San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District. The district is encouraging residents to dump all standing water in their yards to prevent mosquito problems around their homes, report biting mosquitoes and report dead birds so they can be tested for the virus.

Dr. Rachel Curtis-Robles, the district's public health education and outreach officer, said that this is the second bird with West Nile virus that has been found in Menlo Park this year.

"The previous bird was collected in mid-April. The test result from the first bird indicated it was unlikely to have been recently infected," said Curtis-Robles. "In contrast, the test result from this second

bird indicated it may have been recently infected."

There have also been two West-Nile-virus-positive dead birds found in Foster City, two in Palo Alto and one in Mountain View, according to a report from the California Department of Public Health.

This year's wet winter has led to additional habitat for mosquitoes to breed, as there is more stagnant water. According to the press release, California experienced "very high West Nile virus activity in 2023, and district staff are concerned that this year could be another long mosquito season."

There have been 14 cases of West Nile virus detected in dead birds throughout California as of May 10. That represents almost five times more detections than at the same time last year.

The virus can be transmitted

See **WEST NILE VIRUS**, page 14



Courtesy San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District

A San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District employee checking for standing water.

Notice of Public Hearings

The Menlo Park City 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 6:00 pm at the Menlo Park City School District, TERC, 181 Encinal Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027 or Zoom <https://mpcsd.zoom.us/j/97658957198>. Copies of the LCAP and Budget are available for review at the District office from June 3 to June 6, 2024, between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm and posted on the District website, www.mpcsd.org. Contact Jammie Behrendt, jbehrendt@mpcsd.org, 650-321-7140, ext. 5605 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.

5/24/24

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Notice of Public Hearings

The Ravenswood City 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 13, 2024, at 7:00 pm, at the Ravenswood City School District, 2130 Euclid Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303. Copies of the LCAP and Budget are available for review at the District office, noted above from June 10, 2024, to June 13, 2024, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm and posted on the District website, https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings/SB_MeetingListing.aspx?S=36030390. Contact Reece Matsumoto, rmatsumoto@ravenswoodschools.org, 650-329-2800 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.

5/24/24

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Employment

Genesys Cloud Services, Inc. seeks Senior Software Engineer in Menlo Park, CA to be responsible for migrations involving PureConnect (Genesys) Dialer: Develop custom tooling for Product Development enhancements and testing tools. Telecommuting allowed for this position. Salary range: \$113,443 to \$163,443. Send resume to: Miriam.Graeff@genesys.com. Include job code JR104312 in reply. EOE.

Sr SW Engineer & Principal Product Designer
Quicken, Inc. has openings in Menlo Park, CA. Part time remote work may be permitted in Menlo Park area for all roles. Sr SW Engr (Microservices/Solutions): Solve technical problems; deliver back-end/server code; implement solutions; create & present technical documentation; monitor production environment. May be assigned to various, unanticipated sites throughout the US. Salary range: \$215,197 - \$215,197 per yr. Principal Product Designer (Standards/Reviews): lead initiatives; conduct user research & usability testing; develop design strategies. Salary range \$180,000 - \$210,000 per yr. Submit resume (principals only) to: HR@quicken.com Must include recruitment source + full job title/s of interest in subject line. EOE

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Established 1965

The Almanac

Serving Menlo Park,
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Applications for below-market-rate housing at Stanford's Middle Plaza due May 31

Menlo Park announced that applications are now open for below-market-rate rental units at Stanford's Middle Plaza development at 400a El Camino Real. There are currently four one-bedroom apartments available at the low-income level, with preference for people who work or live in Menlo Park. As of May 2024, the below-market apartments will be rented for \$2,600 per month. Applications are due at 11:59 p.m. on May 31, and a lottery will take place after June 7.

Apply for this opportunity at: middleplaza.stanford.edu/living-here/bmr-interest-list

Entries due for Safe Routes to School poster and video challenge on May 31

Menlo Park students are invited to share their school community with the Safe Routes to School Program through the yearly video and poster challenge. Elementary students are asked to share a poster drawing showing how they get to school, while middle and high school students are asked to submit a video to promote safe biking etiquette.

The winners in each category will receive a \$50 gift card to a local business, with second place receiving \$40 and third place receiving \$30.

Read the rules and submit your videos or posters online at: tinyurl.com/saferoutespostercontest.

Holbrook-Palmer playground open house on May 29

Join the town of Atherton for an open house to discuss the design for the new playground at Holbrook-Palmer Park. There will be a presentation on the conceptual design, interactive discussions on the proposed features of the playground and opportunities to provide feedback to the town.

"This is your chance to dive into the creative process and share your ideas and feedback on this dynamic community space," says a town announcement.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 29, from 5-7 p.m. at the park playground at 150 Watkins Ave.

—Eleanor Raab

Local students awarded National Merit Scholarships

On May 8, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation awarded 2,500 students with \$2,500 for its annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Local students from Menlo-Atherton High School (Ajax R. Fu and Sina S. Kassayan), Menlo School (Jackson Deutch, Andrea Li, Eric Li-Len Feng and Samuel Warman), Sacred Heart Preparatory School (Sina S. Kassayan and Noelle B. Mendoza) and Woodside High School (Patrick George Van Hoven and Spencer G. Bergland) were among the list of recipients.

Scholarship winners are judged in each state by their skills, accomplishments and potential for success in college. The students were selected by a committee of high school counselors and college admissions officers who reviewed academic records, test scores, extracurriculars, essay submissions and letters of recommendations.

Students have been screened for the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Competition since October 2022 when they took the PSAT/NMSQT exam in their junior year of high school. By the end of the 2024 program, over 6,000 students will have earned the "Merit Scholar" title and received a total of about \$26 million in scholarships.

SamTrans summer youth passes

Summer Youth Passes are now on sale for those who are 18 years old and younger. Passes are sold for \$40 and offer unlimited rides on any SamTrans route from June 1 through Aug. 31. Passes can be purchased on the SamTrans mobile app, online at SamTrans.com/SYP or in person at the SamTrans headquarters at 1250 San Carlos Ave.

—Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Class of 2024: Woodside High School graduate conquers high school and a move to a new country

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

From Lima, Peru to Redwood City, 17-year-old Tiffany Sanez Rubio has overcome the challenges of moving to a new country, learning a new language and surviving high school. Sanez Rubio is a graduating senior at Woodside High School and will be on her way to college at the University of California at Santa Barbara hoping to pursue marketing.

Sanez Rubio moved to the United States in the eighth grade and attended Kennedy Middle School. She describes her younger self as shy but that description no longer holds true as she has grown to become a leader in multiple clubs and student government during her high school years, she said.

"It was a huge change for me to switch from such a small country to a bigger one," said Sanez Rubio.

When Sanez Rubio emigrated with her mother and younger brother they lived with family members during their first years in the U.S. During her



Courtesy Tiffany Sanez Rubio

Tiffany Sanez Rubio is a graduating senior at Woodside High School and will be on her way to college at the University of California at Santa Barbara in the fall.

junior year of high school they moved into a two-bedroom apartment with her aunt and cousin where she shared a room with her mother and brother.

"I don't know how I really managed it but somehow I did,"

said Sanez Rubio, who found a way to balance her leadership roles, education, caring for her sibling and acting as a translator for the family.

As Sanez Rubio entered high school, she was looking to grow her leadership skills. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she attended a club rush event on Zoom, looking to start a club for international students and other English language learners.

She spoke with Leslie With, a teacher at WHS, who welcomed her to join an existing International Student Ambassadors club, however Sanez Rubio wanted to play a role as a leader.

"[With] saw potential in me somehow, which I didn't see at the time," said Sanez Rubio. "She assisted me with creating my schedule for the next year and made sure I had leadership in my schedule."

As a senior, she served as a Senator for the school's Board of Student Affairs. She was excited to experience school spirit events, student government and gain leadership, something she never had

in Peru or at Kennedy Middle School.

As a member of BOSA, she planned field days, prom, homecoming and spirit events. Sanez Rubio worked hard to successfully bring them to life. She feels proud of all that she's done in planning events for her peers.

Through her experience in leadership, she found enjoyment from the creative aspects of making flyers and social media posts to promote school events. She hopes to be able to pursue a career in marketing in the future.

Sanez Rubio's ambitions got her accepted into multiple colleges including Santa Clara University, Chapman University and Fordham University. She ultimately chose UCSB, a school that's been in her top list since her freshman year.

"I really want to feel independent and do things by myself, which I've been doing in past years but this time, just me," said Sanez Rubio who already found a roommate for her college dorm.

Sanez Rubio will be receiving a \$20,000 scholarship from the

College Track Thrive program as the first recipient of the Ron Reis Memorial Scholarship.

She was selected out of three other candidates at WHS and was chosen for her 4.1 GPA, involvement in student government, enrollment into Advanced Placement classes and "displaying remarkable poise and sharing compelling stories in her personal statement," according to an email announcing her award.

The scholarship was created in memory of Reis, an alumnus of WHS and senior class president in 1964. Sanez Rubio was the only candidate to be involved in student government.

She was also awarded a \$24,000 scholarship from the University Club in Palo Alto.

"This is not just for me. It's for my whole family that made tons of sacrifices to come here and still are," said Sanez Rubio.

As she reflects on her time at WHS, she has one advice for her freshman self: "Don't worry about the future. You'll be okay." She attributes her achievements to her persistence and ability to always motivate herself to push forward. ■

Email Staff Writer
Jennifer Yoshikoshi at

[jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com](mailto: jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com).

Woodside High seniors celebrate their next steps

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Seniors at Woodside High School gathered to celebrate Senior Day on May 3 while dressed in their college gear and colors. Students were gleaming with joy as they took photos with their friends and painted their college logos on the admin office windows.

"I spent four years here and it's a little bittersweet to think about graduating. I love this school," said Kyla Burfoot who will be majoring in cognitive science at the University of

California at Berkeley.

These students started their freshman year of high school with remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic and after four years at Woodside High School, the Class of 2024 will be dispersing across the world. Students will be taking different paths as they go to community college, a 4-year university, a certificate program, the military, a gap year or into the workforce.

Justin Lee who will be attending

See SENIORS, page 18



Courtesy Arthur Wilkie

Seniors at Woodside High School celebrate their future endeavors.

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Children's Health

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Teachers question hiring process for interim East Palo Alto Academy principal

By Angela Swartz

Teachers say their district superintendent subverted a search committee's hiring process for a high school's new principal by choosing a candidate not considered by the committee, they told the Sequoia Union High School District governing board during an April 24 meeting.

Teachers described Superintendent Crystal Leach's selection of current East Palo Alto Academy Vice Principal Veronica Miranda-Pinkney to succeed longtime EPAA Principal Amika Guillaume for the 2024-25 school year on an interim-basis as "unilateral."

"The superintendent chose to undermine an entire process, ultimately naming as an interim principal someone who was never in the applicant pool to begin with," said EPAA social studies teacher Marilyn Travis, who was on the hiring committee. The 16-member committee, made up of certified and classified staff, a union representative, a parent, a student and other community members conducted two rounds of interviews, according

to committee members who spoke during the meeting. "And she (Leach) did this without consulting or involving the principal selection committee."

Travis said the superintendent failed to provide an evidence-based rationale to either to the committee or the EPAA community other than that she didn't think the committee's selection was "a good choice." Travis noted that the call to reconvene the committee is independent of Miranda-Pinkney's qualifications.

A day before the board meeting, Leach announced that Miranda-Pinkney would fill the role. Guillaume, who has led the school since 2015, is departing from her role at the end of June, according to a March 6 staff report. Guillaume told the school community in an email that in August she plans to begin a position at Peninsula Bridge, working with students from fourth grade through their college and career transitions.

Despite the concerns, the school board did not pull her hiring from the consent agenda. Board members

voted unanimously, part of a consent agenda, to hire Miranda-Pinkney as interim principal.

EPAA teacher Soo Shin said the superintendent's hiring decision was "dismissive at best, and disrespectful of our time and energy at worst" in the community's good faith efforts to find a strong leader who's "acutely aware" of the school's needs. The district established the school, at 1050 Myrtle St. in East Palo Alto, through a partnership with Stanford University, to help first-generation, low-income students gain access high-quality education in 2001, according to the East Palo Alto Academy Foundation's website.

EPAA teacher Orman Ramirez Parra said the hiring of the interim principal showed a "lack of faith and support to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) administrators."

EPAA was the city's first public high school in 25 years, according to the foundation website. It moved to its current campus in 2014.

The district hired Miranda-Pinkney as vice principal of school in 2022. In an April 25



Angela Swartz

Students mingle in the East Palo Alto Academy campus courtyard in 2023.

Q&A with Miranda-Pinkney, the East Palo Alto Academy Foundation notes that she came to EPAA after 26 years as a bilingual educator and instructional coach in Southern California and the Bay Area.

"She is a fierce advocate for public education and has served on several committees at the state and national levels that support English learners and the families we serve," the foundation post states. "During her time at EPAA, Veronica has inspired us through her tireless dedication to our students and families, her strong relationships with faculty and other administrators, and her thoughtful partnership with the foundation family."

Miranda-Pinkney told the foundation that "stepping into the role of principal fills me with boundless excitement and gratitude. Transitioning from vice principal, I see an opportunity not just to lead but to build upon the foundation laid by those who

came before me. I am deeply appreciative of the dedication and hard work that have brought us to this point, and I carry forward a profound respect for the legacy they have created."

Guillaume told the school community in the email that: "The memories we've created, the incredible milestones we've achieved, and the bonds we've formed are treasures I will carry with me into this new chapter of my life. I am immensely proud of the accomplishments of our students, the dedication of our team, and the sense of community and 'familia' that defines East Palo Alto Academy."

The district did not respond to a request for a comment. District spokesperson Arthur Wilkie said a copy Miranda-Pinkney's contract for the 2024-25 school year will be available on her first day in the new position, July 1. ■

Email Editor Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

Encinal Avenue railroad crossing will be closed for maintenance

By Eleanor Raab

The Encinal Avenue railroad crossing will be closed for a second weekend so that Caltrain can complete track maintenance work,

according to a city news bulletin. The crossing will be closed from Friday, May 31, at 8 p.m. until Monday, June 3, at 5 a.m.

The work will include resurfacing and realigning of both railroad tracks. New pavement and striping will also be installed at the crossing.

During this closure, vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles will not be able to cross the tracks at this location. Menlo Park and Caltrain will establish detour routes along Laurel Street and Glenwood Avenue.

The crossing was first closed from Friday, May 17, at 8 p.m. until Monday, May 20, at 5 a.m. ■

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



Town of Atherton

Town Administrative Offices
80 Fair Oaks Lane
Atherton, California 94027
650-752-0500

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing to consider an ordinance to amend Chapter 15.19 of the Atherton Municipal Code (Green Building Code).

The meeting will be held on June 19, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers, located at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027. The public may also participate in the City Council Meeting via: Zoom Meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/506897786>

Dial: 1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

Remote Public Comments:

Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting.

Email: council@ci.atherton.ca.us

Description: The purpose of hearing is to consider an ordinance to amend Chapter 15.19 of the Atherton Municipal Code (Green Building Code), which mandates energy efficiency in new buildings. The amendments are proposed in order to bring Chapter 15.19 in conformity with a recent decision by the 9th Circuit of the Federal Court of Appeals. The City Council will also consider whether to find the proposed ordinance exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the Class 7 (CEQA Guidelines § 15307 – actions taken by regulatory agencies for the protection of the environment) and Class 8 (CEQA Guidelines § 15307 – actions taken by regulatory agencies for the protection of natural resources) exemptions. A copy of the City Council staff report and supporting documents can be found online, by Friday, June 14, 2024 here: <https://atherton.news/Agendas-Minutes>

If you have any questions on the item please contact Anthony Suber, City Clerk, at asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us or 650-752-0529. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the City Clerk's Office Building Division at (650) 752-0529 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Date Published: May 17, 2024

Date Posted: May 17, 2024

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL
/s/ Anthony Suber
Anthony Suber, City Clerk

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- Upper-level: library/office; game room; extra-large storage rooms; bedroom with walk-in closet and en-suite bath; two additional bedrooms; hallway bath
- Lower-level: custom temperature-controlled wine cellar with space for dining and more than 3,000 bottles
- Solar-heated pool and spa, barbecue area, fire pit, bocce court, and tennis court, also striped for 2 pickleball courts
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Menlo Park takes first steps toward building pedestrian and bicycle railroad undercrossing near Middle Avenue

By Eleanor Raab

During its meeting on May 7, the Menlo Park City Council unanimously voted to enter into a \$2 million memorandum of understanding with Caltrain to complete the design, environmental clearance, and contractor selection for a pedestrian and bicycle undercrossing of the Caltrain railroad in the vicinity of Middle Avenue. Though all council members were supportive of the project in concept, many expressed concerns about rising cost estimates from Caltrain.

The undercrossing will connect Alma Street near Burgess Park to El Camino Real at the open space plaza that is part of Stanford's Middle Plaza at 500 El Camino Real, according to a city webpage about the project.

Preliminary plans for the project were approved by council in August 2023. The \$2 million will be spent on the first phase of the project, which Menlo Park is completing in partnership with Caltrain. Construction of the undercrossing is scheduled to take place starting in 2026.

Though this is just the preliminary phase of the project, the council expressed excitement for the connectivity that this undercrossing will bring to the city for pedestrians and cyclists once it is completed.

"This Middle (Avenue) undercrossing project is really a centerpiece of what we're trying to accomplish here in our city with connectivity," said Council member Jen Wolosin.

Vice Mayor Drew Combs agreed, saying, "I think that there has been no debate, that this is a critical project for the community. ... I just want to reiterate that this is something of which there is as close to unanimity as you're ever gonna get in Menlo Park, and support across the community."

Concerns over potential project costs

Project cost estimates have been updated a number of times. In September 2023, the construction costs were estimated to range between \$23 to \$35 million, and the soft costs for design, environmental review, project management and other

staff time were estimated at \$2.2 million. In February 2024, those estimates were raised to \$34 million for construction, based on a review of construction bids from other projects, and \$6.1 million for soft costs.

Most recently in March 2024, soft costs were again raised to an estimated \$28 million. Construction estimates remained the same, bringing the total estimated cost of the project to \$62 million.

"I have to say it was really jaw dropping to read the staff report and to learn about the costs that Caltrain is projecting and the fee that they're projecting to charge Menlo Park. And, to be honest, it almost feels ... like Caltrain doesn't want this project to happen," said Wolosin. "I mean, the costs have escalated so much that I feel like it's putting the entire project in jeopardy, which really hurts our city's ability to have a connected community."

Adina Levin, a Menlo Park resident, was also concerned about the rising cost estimates for this project.

"The staff report and the costs

are kind of perplexing. Is the doubling of the cost due to utility relocation?" asked Levin. "What is the reason for the higher than the industry norms in terms of soft costs? There are cost escalations all around."

Caltrain representative Robert Bernard responded, saying that the high cost estimates include allowances for unforeseen costs.

"The soft costs that we shared also included an extensive level of contingencies, project reserves, and money for escalation kind of rolled into that. So it's not all staff time," said Bernard. "It is what we think is the unallocated project risk in that number as well."

Bernard said that the initial \$2 million that the council approved will be spent on increasing the level of certainty around what the project will actually cost.

"Our next step is to invest a small amount of money to

increase our level of cost certainty and schedule certainty," he said. "And really define what is the appropriate level of contingency as opposed to what we think it is today."

Menlo Park's Public Works Director Azalea Mitch said that the initial \$2 million spent on this project will likely be taken from grant funding that the city has received.

"We are currently working on a grant application to address the funding shortfalls on the project," said Mitch.

Menlo Park has taken other steps toward completing the undercrossing project. On May 6, the city closed on the purchase of a property in the 700-800 block of El Camino Real to serve as a location for the project. ■

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

First houses in Atherton's bait house program have been established

By Eleanor Raab

The Atherton Police Department has announced that they have set up the first residences in the town's bait house program. This program, which involves placing GPS trackers in decoy items such as luxury purses, was created by the town to address home burglaries.

Atherton Police Cmdr. Daniel Larsen said that the town was not able to share the number of bait homes that have been set up so far. However, as of March 28, at least 50 residents had expressed interest in participating in the program.

There have been 15 residential burglaries in Atherton so far in 2024, according to the Atherton Police Department.

Larsen explained that the GPS tracking system would let the police respond as soon as a burglary is detected.

"We will get instant notification of the burglary and start our response," he said.

He also explained that though the bait houses are set up on a different system, the GPS trackers can be used in conjunction with the town's automated license plate reader system to identify suspects' cars.

"It will allow us to know where the GPS devices travel with a timestamp that will be used to check the ALPR system

for the subject's vehicle," said Larsen.

Atherton hopes that the bait house program will be able to help prevent burglaries in town, and reinforce the police department's relationship with the community.

"Through our bait house program, we are proud to strengthen our partnership with the community," said Larsen. "By working together, we can more effectively deter crime and ensure the safety of our neighborhoods. This initiative reflects our shared commitment to creating a secure environment for all residents."

The town is planning to add more bait houses to this initial crop.

"As the program progresses, more residences will be established," said police Chief Steven McCulley in a town news release. "Please be aware that you may be contacted in the future to participate in setting up your residence as part of the bait house program. Your ongoing support and cooperation are greatly appreciated."

If Atherton residents are interested in participating in the bait house program, they can contact Detective Sgt. Taylor at jtaylor@ci.atherton.ca.us to be added to the list of interested residents. ■

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

Palo Alto Citywide



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A full-page map listing all participating sale locations and merchandise will be printed in the Friday, May 31, 2024 edition of the Palo Alto Weekly. The map and sale listings will also be available online at www.paloaltoonline.com/yardsale in late May.

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PARKLINE

continued from page 1

to reimagine the site. The developers are proposing to redevelop the SRI campus into a mixed-use neighborhood consisting of apartment buildings, town homes, office space and research and development labs. In addition, the proposed project would include 25 acres of publicly accessible open space, pedestrian and bicycle paths, a recreation area and a “community amenity building,” which may include public restrooms, bicycle repair and some retail.

The plan for the site has gone through several iterations since it was first presented to the city in 2021. The initial plan, which was presented to the council in 2021, would have added only 400 units of housing to the SRI site. Subsequently, the developer was directed by the planning commission to fit additional units in the development.

The next iteration of the plan increased base housing to 550 units. Following further discussions with the community and council, the developer was able to account for 800 units in this most recent plan after acquiring 201 Ravenswood Ave., which currently houses the First Church of Christ the Scientist and Alpha Kids Academy.

The 1.6 acres of the newly acquired church site would be dedicated to a nonprofit housing developer, who would be able to develop that site with 100% affordable housing. Up to 154 units of affordable housing may be constructed at the church site.

Twenty-one residents and housing advocates spoke in favor of the project, with nearly all citing the town’s dire need for housing as a reason to move forward with the project. Many residents were also excited about the possibility of increased community space offered by the proposed community amenities building.

“I really appreciate the proposal coming before you today in terms of what was done to use the land that the church is willing to sell to provide more homes, including more affordable homes to enable a more diverse and welcoming community,” said Menlo Park resident Adina Levin.

Council members agreed that the increased housing, especially affordable housing would be a boon to the city.

“I appreciate the changes that have been made since the first time this came to the City Council. And then also the increase in housing,” said Mayor Cecilia Taylor.

Multiple residents requested that the project include even more housing, and fewer office buildings.



Courtesy city of Menlo Park

A map showing the locations of housing, office and amenity buildings in the proposed Parkline Development at the SRI Campus.

“There’s no housing supply for families expanding or contracting,” said Jenny Michelle, a resident of the Willows neighborhood. “We are failing to meet our city mission. In the eyes of environmental justice. This project should include 3,000 housing units.”

Resident Morgan Ames asked why the plan includes building more office space when companies like Google and Meta are pulling away from millions of square feet of office space.

“SRI itself has been largely vacant for such a long time,” Ames said. “So we really need to seize this once in a generation opportunity to build as much housing as we can on this site. So I’d advocate for doubling, maybe tripling the amount of housing.”

A representative from Lane Partners responded, saying that demand for office and lab space has been slowly increasing.

Traffic concerns

Though commenters and council alike were excited by the prospect of more housing for Menlo Park, many were worried about how traffic might impact the city as over 800 new residents and many new office workers would occupy the development.

“Before long you’re going to be asked to consider new projects for the USGS property and or what used to be Sunset Magazine,” said Alison Elliott, who lives near Middlefield Road. “All of those homes and all those office buildings are going to have to rely on one public good, Middlefield Road,

which both Menlo Park and Palo Alto have recently reduced to one single lane each direction. Please think ahead and think that there are limits to our infrastructure.”

Resident Pat Kelly said: “What I need you to hear is what traffic is already like here now. You are already blocking quick access to every single hospital in the area with traffic, whether it’s Stanford (University), whether it’s Kaiser (Permanente). So I think we need to be really careful about what we’re doing and cannot imagine how we will handle traffic.”

Many council members echoed residents’ traffic concerns.

“What opportunities does the council even have to regulate (traffic)?” asked Council member Jen Wolosin.

City staff and council members explored how the city could put a cap on the number of car trips to and from the development in order to lessen traffic congestion. A similar trip cap has already been applied to the Willow Village development.

Council directed Menlo Park staff to explore options for limiting the number of car trips taken to and from the proposed development, as well as how to regulate parking on the site.

Other residents implored city council to think outside the box to improve traffic conditions near the proposed project site.

“I feel like we have an opportunity to dream really big,” said Ames. “We could move Menlo Park away from car-centric

designs, we could put light rail along arterials, we could put protected bike lanes that don’t feel as terrifying to us.”

Jenny Michelle said neighbors are concerned “about all things cars” when the city talks about adding housing, but should instead focus on how they themselves can reduce car congestion in the city.

“These are excellent examples of ‘car brain,’ or your brain on cars,” she said. “The best way forward is like sobering up. Get off the car man! Push yourself to abstain from using at least 40% each week.”

Wolosin noted that “everyone’s gonna be happy at the end, but I appreciate the efforts that have been made. I think you’d still have some details to work out. But we’ll get there.”

Biosafety levels

Several commenters and council members were concerned about the possibility that the research labs within the Parkline development may be allowed to operate biosafety level three research facilities. Biosafety level three is the second-highest biosafety designation.

These types of facilities typically involve “study (of) infectious agents or toxins that may be transmitted through the air and cause potentially lethal infections,” according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Microbes such as West Nile virus, Yersinia pestis (the plague), malaria and retroviruses including HIV are restricted

to study under biosafety level three conditions.

“I ask the City Council to consider carefully whether research use of the nonresidential buildings is appropriate for mixed-use development,” said Menlo Park resident Naomi Goodman. “SRI has a long history of research into infectious diseases, developing drugs for organisms such as HIV, Ebola, drug resistant bacteria, anthrax and Hepatitis-C. ... A biosafety level three or four biocontainment facility should not be located in 1,000 feet of housing.”

The Sierra Club has previously advocated for biosafety level three facilities to be banned from Menlo Park.

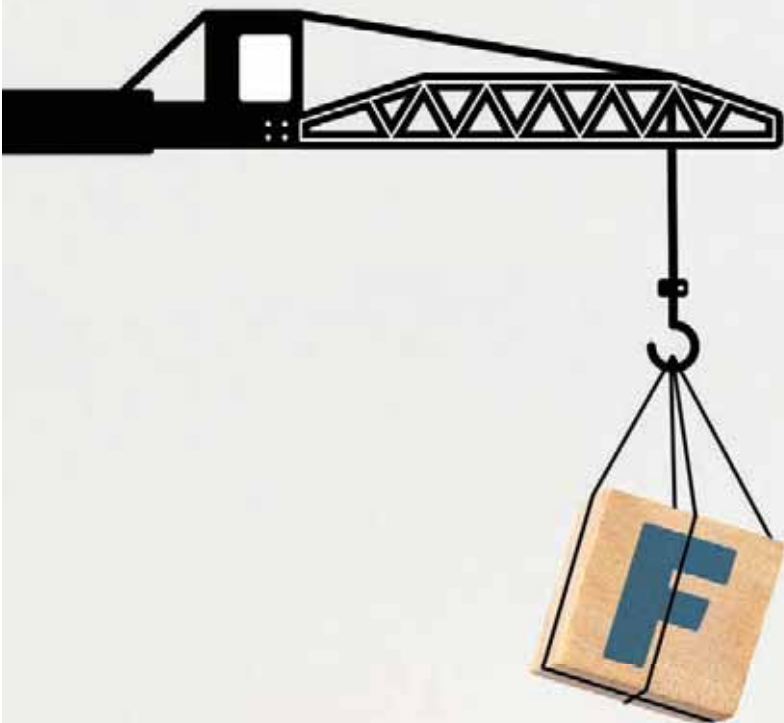
Several other cities in the Bay Area have moved to regulate these higher-risk research facilities. Biosafety level three facilities were banned from the city of San Carlos, for example, entirely in June 2023.

The council directed staff to look further into issues surrounding biosafety levels within the development.

Since this was a study session, the council took no action on this development during the meeting.

The draft environmental impact report for the project will be released in late June, and will be subject to a 45-day public review period. The Planning Commission will hold a study session reviewing the draft EIR in July. ■

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



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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

Accessory dwelling units still play a key role in Atherton's affordable housing plans

By Eleanor Raab

As Atherton works toward state approval of its housing element, the town continues to emphasize the role that accessory dwelling units will play in earning the state's seal of approval.

The town hopes to fulfill approximately 80% of its state-mandated housing requirements through construction and rental of ADUs. Atherton has maintained this plan, despite a letter from a 2023 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, which called out several wealthy Peninsula towns, including Atherton, for using ADUs to shirk their affordable housing responsibilities.

ADUs, also known as in-law units or granny flats, are small homes or apartments that share single-family lots with a primary residence. These small residences allow for more square footage on a single plot of land.

Every eight years, each municipality in California is required to update its housing plans to account for its assigned Regional Housing Needs Allocation. This determines the number of housing units each town is required to develop at a variety of affordability levels. In the current housing cycle, Atherton must plan for 348 new residential units between now and 2031, 148 of which must be set aside for low-income housing.

An internal town survey of Atherton residents was sent out to determine whether ADUs are

being rented out, and if they are being rented, at what rate they are being rented for.

The survey, which was sent out to Atherton residents through multiple channels, concludes that ADUs in Atherton are "rented for a median of \$0 — that is, the property not charging rent on the occupant — and an average rent of \$765."

Jeremy Levine, the policy manager for the Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County, said in an interview that ADUs are often not as affordable as Atherton is making them out to be.

"If you look for an ADU in Atherton on Zillow for rent, it costs much more than the estimates in their report, and ADUs that are not listed, which is the vast majority of ADUs, are either pool houses or houses for people's families. And they do not further fair housing goals."

Atherton has been in the midst of a drawn-out housing element update process since 2022, and is still not in compliance with state requirements after the town's plans were rejected by the state in April 2023.

Tracking ADU usage in town

Based on the rate at which ADUs were constructed in Atherton over the last three years, the town expects 280 new ADUs to be built during this housing cycle. Atherton's housing element plan says that the town predicts that 112 of

those units will be produced for households in the very-low to low-income brackets, and 56 for households with moderate income. In other words, the town estimates that 50% of its ADUs will be rented to residents in low- and moderate- income categories.

Atherton seems to have already seen success with its ADU program. In the most recent draft of its housing element, Atherton says that it was able to entirely fulfill its RHNA goal for low-income housing in the prior period (2015-22) due to its ADU program.

Atherton is hoping to see even higher rates of ADU construction and rental for its current housing cycle.

"We're on target to build 35 or 40 per year," Atherton City Manager George Rodericks told this news organization.

Atherton Town Planner Brittany Bendix agreed during the May 20 ADU workshop that rates of ADU construction are looking good for the town.

"We're on track, so things are looking good," she said. "But this is kind of our first push since we've adopted the ordinance... to really get those numbers coming in year after year."

The survey has informed the town that people have been building ADUs and that there are a lot of ADUs out there available for rental, but not many people are actually renting them, said Rodericks.

According to the U.S. Census

Bureau's American Community Survey Data, 67% of rental units in Atherton rent for more than \$3,000 per month. Atherton's internal survey data paints a different picture of housing stock in the town than the Census data.

The town's housing element acknowledges and explains this difference: "as implied by the low rents, these ADUs are often rented to a close friend or family member and may be difficult to find for workers or other community members."

In order to encourage further production and rental of ADUs in town, Atherton has implemented and is planning to roll out more ADU-focused programs over the course of its housing element update process. These programs include an updated ADU ordinance, expanding community outreach programs to help residents build and rent ADUs, waiving planning fees for ADUs that meet certain requirements and adopting an affordable housing impact fee on newly constructed single family homes that choose not to build ADUs.

To help residents rent their ADUs to low-income families and individuals, Atherton has partnered with an organization called HIP Housing. This San Mateo County-based program helps match Atherton residents with spare rooms with pre-vetted tenants.

"They've (HIP Housing) been doing a lot of the work of

background checks and reviews up front to help make it easier for you to find people to rent the unit," said Bendix.

Atherton is also working on drafting and implementing a new inclusionary housing ordinance. This ordinance would require at least 20% of any proposed multifamily development to be set aside for lower-income housing.

New ADU ordinance

On March 20, the town passed a new ADU ordinance, which makes it easier to build ADUs in the town. It also hosted a workshop for residents interested in adding an ADU to their property on May 20.

At the March 20 meeting, the Atherton council passed a new ADU ordinance, which encourages development of the structures by establishing a bonus ADU program and allowing for ADUs above detached garages, among other things.

Atherton's new ADU ordinance also brings the town into compliance with California's new ADU laws. This includes provisions that exempt ADUs and junior ADUs from the town's Heritage Tree Ordinance as long as the structures are 800 square feet or less, or 500 square feet or less respectively, as required by state law.

"Over the past year, the town, the Planning Commission and the City Council have had a number of hearings to kind of refine the adopted ADU ordinance in a way that meets the state's requirements and aligns with state law but also gives the

See **ADUs**, page 18



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.

WEST NILE VIRUS

continued from page 5

to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes. Though it is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in California, most people bitten by mosquitoes will not be infected, and most people infected will not feel symptoms. About 1 in 5 people who are infected will develop a fever and other mild symptoms, and 1 in 150 people who are infected will develop serious, sometimes fatal symptoms.

Dead birds are often the first sign of West Nile virus being present in an area, according to the district.

"The finding of West Nile virus in a dead bird can be a sign that West Nile virus is circulating in local mosquitoes," said Curtis-Robles. "However, because birds can fly quite far, it may also be that the bird was infected by a mosquito elsewhere." For this reason, our staff do additional work to determine whether there are infected mosquitoes in the area

near where the positive dead bird was found."

This additional work includes setting mosquito surveillance traps in the area near where the bird was found, and an extra check of potential mosquito breeding sources in the immediate vicinity.

"The mosquitoes in those traps are tested for West Nile virus. If mosquitoes are positive for West Nile virus, this indicates a local threat to public health, and additional mosquito control actions would be pursued," said Curtis-Robles. "In this particular case, we tested mosquitoes from the additional traps, and none of the mosquitoes were positive for West Nile virus."

The mosquitoes that carry West Nile virus mostly bite in the evening, night and early morning.

"Residents should use protective clothing (long pants and long sleeves) and an EPA-registered insect repellent if outdoors during those times," said Curtis-Robles.

If you are being bitten by mosquitoes on your property in San

Mateo County, you can request a visit from Vector Control District staff. They can help you identify the source of the mosquitoes, and suggest mitigation measures.

"Dumping standing water is a key action for residents to take to reduce mosquitoes in their area," said Curtis-Robles. "In cases where the water is unable to be dumped or drained, we would like people to report standing water so that our staff can assess the situation and determine how best to control mosquito breeding. In addition, we would like to remind people to report when mosquitoes are biting them in their homes and yards — public reports are a main way for us to detect mosquito breeding in an area."

The district is asking the public to report dead birds to the statewide West Nile Virus Call Center by phone at 877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or online at westnile.ca.gov. ■

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

Menlo Park council members give themselves a raise

By Eleanor Raab

During its meeting on May 21, the Menlo Park City Council voted unanimously as a consent item to approve a pay increase for council members for the first time since the year 2000, raising their stipends from \$640 to \$950 per month. This change will cost the city an additional \$18,600 per year.

This ordinance also codifies the position of vice mayor, which was previously called mayor

pro tempore, in Menlo Park's municipal code.

"I don't think any of us do this job to get rich, and so I think this is just something that is long overdue," said Council member Jen Wolosin during a first reading of the ordinance on May 14. "I've already announced that I'm not running again so I won't be a beneficiary of this, I think this is just trying to make this better for those who follow us."

This increase in Menlo Park council pay comes as a result of

Senate Bill 329, which was passed in June 2023 and gives cities in California a one-time opportunity to "reset" city council compensation to keep pace with inflation. City councils can later increase compensation beyond the limits of this initial "reset," but future pay hikes may not exceed 5% each year, or the rate of yearly inflation as determined by the California Consumer Price Index, whichever is greater.

Following the passage of SB 329, several cities around the Bay

Area also chose to approve pay increases for their city council members, including Belmont, Los Altos, Palo Alto, San Carlos and San Mateo.

"I am glad to see this as council stipends are a helpful way to cover costs for those serving in this role. Whether that be costs for babysitters, or transportation or material costs of printing out extra fliers and handing things out," said Council member Maria Doerr at the May 14 meeting. "Of course I want

to acknowledge that stipends, even with the upgrade, of course [are not enough to replace lost income. So it doesn't mean that it's the only way to help make councils more diverse and more representative of communities, but I think it is an important factor to help ensure there is recognition and some help to cover costs of serving."

The increase in compensation will be applied to the seated members of the council following the November 2024 election. ■

Plans for Belle Haven Community Health Center underway

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The Ravenswood City School District is making progress toward designing a new community health center at Belle Haven Elementary School through a partnership with the Ravenswood Family Health Network. The district's school board also unanimously approved the design and budget for its new office building.

During a school board meeting on May 9, Louisa Buada, RFHN's director of capital projects presented the board with the proposed services the Belle Haven Community Health Center would provide.

The health center is expected to be built on the northeast corner of the campus as a part of the redesign of the school, located at 415 Ivy Drive, that's expected to

be completed in 2026. The district is investing in this health clinic by offering RFHN a "no rent" lease, charging some rent but giving rent credit for services provided, explained Chief Business Officer Will Eger.

"The net effect of that is no rent, but it does highlight the significant financial benefit that our students will be healthier, more prepared for school, better screened, (have) better teeth as well as generally healthier," said Eger at the start of the presentation.

The health center will be open to the entire community. Buada proposed various services including dental care, pediatrics, women's health, prenatal care, behavioral health counseling, laboratory services and more.

Eger highlighted that access

to health resources will allow students to stay in school longer and receive support for healthier lifestyles. Through community engagement and outreach, the district received an outpouring of support from the community of Belle Haven to build a health clinic in the neighborhood, said Eger.

"In 2023, we served 1,289 residents of Belle Haven in our East Palo Alto site," said Buada during the presentation.

The organization also focuses on dental health, asthma care, vaccinations and hearing and vision screenings specifically for elementary school children. Their dental care services include cleanings, fluoride varnishes, sealants and X-rays.

Architect Scott Peterson

See **HEALTH CENTER**, page 17

Burgess Park playground to reopen after improvements

By Eleanor Raab

Burgess Park Playground will tentatively reopen in late May or early June, following a five-month closure as the city worked on playground improvements. The park was originally scheduled to reopen in late June.

"The playground was designed to include children with all abilities," said Menlo Park Project Manager Holani Vaka in an email to this news organization. "(It features) new play equipment and rubberized surfacing around the play area."

Improvements include a new play area sign, new benches and picnic tables, new fences with decorative laser-cut oak leaf designs and new play equipment. Vaka said that the city focused on developing a

new design for the play area, while preserving the park features and improving the accessibility of travel within and around the park.

Park maintenance also included the installation of utility

lines, drains and improvements to grading.

The park has been closed since Jan. 22, 2024. ■

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

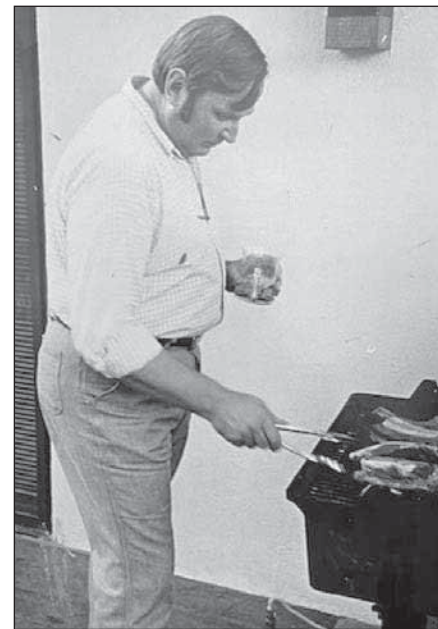


Courtesy city of Menlo Park

The new playground sign at Burgess Park.

Henry Robert Dulik

November 8, 1935 – January 26, 2024



Henry Robert Dulik, known by Bob, passed away peacefully after a long illness on January 26, 2024. The son of two Slovakian immigrants and raised in San Francisco, he was always very proud of his Slavic roots, traveling several times to the tiny village of Bukova in Slovakia where his father was born. Bob's father remembered surviving the massive San Francisco earthquake in 1906 and later set up the San Francisco Ironworks with several Dulik

brothers, who had also immigrated to California. Bob worked at the Ironworks and attended Stanford University, graduating in 1956, before starting his own business on the Peninsula, Hak-Mil Products, which built custom-made furniture for restaurants.

Bob's true passion was food. He was a "foodie" long before the term was ever invented. He loved nothing more than exploring every nook and cranny of the San Francisco Bay Area for new restaurants; the more local and authentic, the better. His intense love of food, cooking and friends permeated the Dulik household, which became a hub of summer BBQs and big festive, memorable dinners for family and a wide circle of friends from in and around Sharon Heights. No one ever remembers leaving hungry. For decades, the Dulik and Goldberg families hosted their Big Game Tailgate Party. These huge, joyous parties, held in the Eucalyptus Groves outside Stanford Stadium, became the stuff of legend with live music, BBQs made out of 55-gallon oil drums and plenty of beer on tap.

Bob was always supportive of his wife, Barbara, who launched the nursery school for Phillips Brooks School in the late 1970s and was a beloved teacher and friend to many. The two designed and built the furniture for the PBS nursery school and spent an incredible amount of time and effort to make sure every young child who attended would thrive. In later life, Bob and Barbara moved to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, where they loved their adventurous life and made a huge circle of friends. Bob is survived by his three children, Gregg (64) and his wife, Michele of Palo Alto and their four children, Sam (33), Gracie (31), Charlie (28) and Owen (26); Tom (62) and his wife, Katie of Lafayette and their two children, Luke (19) and Emma (17); and Beth (60) and her husband, Will of London, UK, and their three children, Oliver (26), Theo (24) and Isabella (18).

PAID OBITUARY

Public Notices

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". 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)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO Case No.: 24CIV02653 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Katrina Cunningham filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: KATRINA M CUNNINGHAM to KATRINA MARIA VAN DIEPEN KATRINA M HARTWELL to KATRINA MARIA VAN DIEPEN THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: 07/03/2024, 9:00 a.m., Civil department of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: ALMANAC Date: 05/09/2024 Hessen Ladcani JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (ALM May 24, 31, Jun 7 and 14, 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. If 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)

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)

ROCKET CONSULTING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-297439 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) ROCKET CONSULTING, located at 123 Rockridge Rd, San Carlos, CA 94070. Registered owner(s): JOSHUA MICHAEL SAMON 123 Rockridge Rd San Carlos, CA 94070 This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on May 3, 2024. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 14, 2024. (ALM May 24, 31, Jun 7 and 14, 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)

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)

FULLBRAND LEGAL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-297438 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) FULLBRAND LEGAL, located at 2806 Hillside Drive, Burlingame, CA 94010. Registered owner(s): AMANDA MITCHELL RINKOFF 2806 Hillside Drive Burlingame, CA 94010 This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on April 1, 2024. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 14, 2024. (ALM May 24, 31, Jun 7 and 14, 2024)

MOLLIE STONE'S MARKET FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-297326 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) MOLLIE STONE'S MARKET, located at 22 Bayhill Shopping Center, San Bruno, CA, 94066. 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 May 01, 2024. (ALM May 24, 31, Jun 7 and 14, 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)

Continued on next page

The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.

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

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

Public Notices

Continued from previous page

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 Dolphin 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)

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)

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)

DONATO ENOTECA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-297426

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

1.) DONATO ENOTECA, located at 1041 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA 94063.

Registered owner(s):
SPIGA LLC
1041 Middlefield Road
Redwood City, CA 94063

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited

Partnership.

Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/01/2013.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 13, 2024.

(ALM May 24, 31, Jun 7 and 14, 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):
ALBECO, 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)

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)

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

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

HISTORY CORNER

The sepia-colored photograph shows the fourth annual Atherton-Woodside Garden Club exhibit at Old Tripp Store, now Woodside Store, in the summer of 1931. The store was formerly a general store, post office and dental office in the heyday of lumber industry in Woodside, according to the county website.

Today, the store is a museum and popular field trip site, restored to look as it did in the 1880s. It is filled with items that a teamster, wagon maker, lumberman or blacksmith might use, according to the county.

The group, founded in 1929, is aimed at encouraging and sharing knowledge about horticulture, conservation, floral design, photography and civic responsibility, according to the charitable nonprofit's website.

The club's annual plant sale took place at the Woodside Library on May 11 and featured members' homegrown natives, pollinators, vegetables, perennials, succulents, trees and shrubs, floral arrangements and special gardening items.



The Garden Club Exhibit, Old Tripp Store, July 1931. Courtesy San Mateo County Historical Association Collection (23D.20)

HORSE FAIR

continued from page 1

cross-country and show jumping. He said the one thing he loves about horses is the relationship and trust that's developed.

"The bond is great," added Emily Rubin, a 14-year-old polo player at South Bay Polo. "They're like a best friend, you never have to worry about betraying you." Rubin rides her 18-year-old horse Calurosa who she describes as "super sweet."

Another sport featured at the event was equestrian vaulting. Local vaulting clubs such as the Woodside Vaulters and Pacific

Coast Vaulting Club were represented by parents and young vaulters doing tricks to showcase their talents.

Across from the vaulters was a cowboy named Cactus Joe, teaching children how to throw a lasso onto the horns of a fake bull. As a representative of the Volunteer Horse Patrol, Cactus Joe and other volunteers guided children as young as 4 on how to successfully throw the ropes.

Other local organizations including the San Mateo County Libraries, Sheriff's Office and the Horsemen's Association set up booths for raffles and arts and

crafts. Local artist Chris Romano drew custom horse cartoons for children at her booth.

The horse fair brought together the community to spotlight the horses and livestock that are significant to the town's culture.

Hufty was impressed by the turnout and was appreciative of the community volunteers who made the event come to life.

"Horses teach you all the lessons about collaboration and trust. All the things that we need in the world," said Hufty. ■

*Email Staff Writer
Jennifer Yoshikoshi at
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HEALTH CENTER

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said the project is currently in the design phase. The district hopes to open the health center by 2026. Over the next three months, project planners will be doing community outreach to hear directly from the people they will be serving as well as the district.

Moving forward, Peterson also said they will be fundraising approximately \$6 million to \$8 million and will receive a permit from the Division of the State Architect which provides construction oversight for K-12 schools.

"Our goal is working to that point to be ready to proceed with construction as soon as the site is available to move forward to open in 2026," said Peterson. The site is expected to be open in fall 2025 as the district is demolishing buildings and constructing new classrooms in phases.

Design and budget for new district office

During the meeting, the board approved the budget and design for the new district office to be constructed off of Bay Road adjacent to Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$17 million, which will be funded through bonds, reserves and grants. In 2022, the school board voted to lease the current district office at 2120 Euclid Ave. in East Palo Alto to bring in more funds to the district.

For a total of \$11 million, the district office will be 10,000 square feet with non-load bearing walls that will allow for the interior spaces to be adjusted if needed. The building will have 15 offices, 30 workstations, five conference rooms and four phone rooms.

In addition to the district office, Eger presented the design

plans to also include a transportation yard with electric vehicle charging and storage building for maintenance, technology and teaching. Two large modular special education classrooms are also part of the design to be used for special education preschool classes. Both will amount to a total of about \$6 million.

"We have tried to design the cheapest possible district office that meets all of our needs for today and for the future," said Eger.

The district's preliminary budget was set at \$111 million but current calculations show the district is about \$10 million over their predicted budget. Eger said that he isn't worried about this as there are various state bonds that can cover the costs. ■

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

ADUs*continued from page 14*

town's some local influence," said Bendix at the ADU workshop.

ADUs are now allowed above detached garages in Atherton as long as the units meet town height restrictions and requirements for fencing and screening.

Additionally, the ordinance created a bonus ADU program, which allows homeowners with lots over 2 acres to build a second accessory structure on their property, as long as that second structure is deed restricted to either a low-income household for 15 years, or a very-low income household for 10 years.

This program comes with the caveat that the bonus unit cannot be rented for a period of less than nine months. According to a March 20 staff report, Atherton hopes that this program will "incentivize the development and documentation of ADUs that are available to lower

income households."

"The town didn't have to allow ADUs located above detached garages," said Bendix at the ADU workshop. "Bonus ADUs, that's another thing that the town wasn't required to do by state law. But they're using that not just as a means to facilitate the required setbacks, but to try and get more affordability out of the ADU program that counts towards the RHNA numbers and hopefully enables Atherton to meet the housing objectives set by the state."

Are ADUs affordable housing?

These updates to Atherton's ADU program come in the wake of a June 2023 report from a San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, which called out affluent towns such as Atherton, Portola Valley, Woodside and Hillsborough for using ADUs in their housing plans to avoid building multifamily, low-income housing.

"Although their intentions have been good, the State has neglected to include any form of regulation to ensure low-income tenants ultimately use these ADUs as planned," the report states. "Because owners often rent their ADUs to family and friends, they can exacerbate patterns of segregation and exclusion. And perhaps most importantly — counting ADUs as affordable housing will likely result in cities issuing permits for fewer deed-restricted low-, very low-, and moderate-income apartments and homes."

Levine of the Housing Leadership Council also said that Atherton's internal town surveys are not accurately capturing the state of ADU rentals in the town.

"They're only surveying what the rents are at the time that the permit application is approved. They don't have ongoing monitoring," he said. "They have no idea what the actual market is for ADUs in their community. And the reporting is biased because

the city is telling people we need evidence to demonstrate that we can build enough ADUs to meet our RHNA."

Atherton argues in the most recent draft of their housing element that renting to family members or close relatives can actually help prevent displacement, and free up other low-income housing.

"Based on existing precedent, these units are often used for housing for a senior family member, employees of the homeowner, students, or in other similar circumstances where the renter would otherwise be unable to find similar accommodations locally," the housing plan states "Consequently, the ADU occupants do not displace others from low-income housing that is available locally."

Levine acknowledged that ADUs are ultimately an important aspect of any town's housing element, but that they should not be the primary mode of meeting

RHNA requirements.

"Portola Valley had a lot of ADUs in their housing element, but it was just a much smaller proportion compared to Atherton. ... It's like 20 or 25% of their total RHNA instead of 80%. ... The RHNA's are pretty similar, but Portola Valley is approaching it with a lot more multifamily zoning. And they also have a site that could be actually realistic."

Currently, Atherton is still working with residents and the state Department of Housing and Community Development to identify potential sites for multifamily housing and finalize revisions to the town's zoning ordinances.

You can follow along with Atherton's housing element update process on the town website at ci.atherton.ca.us/627/Housing-Element-Update. ■

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

BELLE HAVEN*continued from page 5*

The new 37,000 square foot campus located at 100 Terminal Ave. houses the Belle Haven Library, the Belle Haven pool, the Belle Haven Youth Center, the Menlo Park Senior Center and the Onetta Harris Community Center. The interior of the building features a fitness center, a public gymnasium featuring basketball hoops, a dance and movement studio, a makerspace, a community event hall, a kitchen and indoor/outdoor gathering spaces. The parking lot also features multiple solar-powered electric car charging stations.

"Having a space for the community, especially during the summer, is extremely important," said Taylor. "We had the groundbreaking in November of 2021, so if you think about it it's been less than three years to actually make this space available. So I am excited, I am very excited.

And very, very grateful for the amount of people that turned out to see what's here to offer to the community."

There will be multiple camps and summer activities available at the new campus, including gymnastics classes, youth tennis, youth piano classes, arts and crafts camps, Camp MENLO summer camp, performing arts and dance camps, sports camps and more. There will also be plenty of activities for adults, including dance classes, fitness classes, martial arts classes and more.

You can view a full list of spring/summer activities at the Belle Haven Community Campus on Menlo Park's website.

Protesters also attend

The grand opening of the event was also attended by approximately a dozen protesters who objected to the new name of the building. The original community center at 100 Terminal Ave.

was named for late Belle Haven resident and community activist Onetta Harris. The Menlo Park City Council unanimously voted to name the community center after her in 1983, following her death in 1982.

The council ultimately voted to name the new campus after the neighborhood, and instead name one of the programs housed within it, the Onetta Harris Community Center, after the late activist.

The Onetta Harris Community Center encompasses a number of spaces on the campus, including the "Movement" studio and "Flex Classroom," which host fitness and learning programs there, respectively, as well as the gym and other rooms.

"We feel that having done all that (for the community), she should be highlighted, promoted. We just want Onetta's name to be recognized, as a pioneer, as a cornerstone of the community," said Ken Harris, Onetta Harris' son. "We appreciate the project, we appreciate the City of Menlo Park, but we just don't want our history to be erased, Onetta's history to be erased."

There is a plaque dedicated to Onetta Harris inside the new campus, but Ken Harris says that his family was never consulted about the plaque, and that a plaque isn't enough to acknowledge her contributions to the community.

"I think they should improve the signage, I think that they should give Onetta a little more recognition inside the building — the way her name is displayed, I think that a statue or a bust or a picture would be good," said Harris. ■

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

SENIORS*continued from page 7*

Stanford University for bioengineering said "obviously it's still close to home but it's still going to be a fun experience living away for an extended period of time."

Students will be entering the next chapter of their life carrying elements of the school's "8 conditions of student success:"

- Belonging
- Heroes
- Sense of accomplishment
- Fun and excitement
- Spirit of adventure
- Curiosity and creativity
- Leadership and responsibility
- Confidence to take action

Students like Izzy Armsby will be carrying the "spirit of

adventure" as she'll be moving across the country to attend the University of Pennsylvania for mechanical engineering.

"I'm looking forward to meeting new people and making new friends and connections when I go to Philadelphia," said Armsby. "I don't know anyone going with me so it's a new chapter and a fresh start. It's nerve-racking but I'm really excited."

The windows of the administration office will stay decorated with the class of 2024's future destinations through graduation and mid-June, a tradition for the seniors at Woodside High School. ■

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

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Steven George Joki, 67, of Palo Alto, who attended Ortega Elementary, Wilbur Junior High, and Cubberley High School and who was active in Boy Scouts and track and field, setting regional records and earned a bachelor's degree in geology from Cal State Hayward and operated and was an avid outdoorsman; he excelled in various outdoor activities, including climbing Mt. Hood, Mt. Shasta, and numerous peaks throughout Yosemite and whose climbing adventures also took him to the Rockies, Sierras, Canadian ranges, Nepal, and the Andes and who was also a master carpenter and luthier. He died on Dec. 23, 2023.

Channing Burke Chrisman, 89, of Palo Alto, who graduated from Phillips Academy in 1946 and Stanford University in 1950 and who served as a first lieutenant in the Korean War and was wounded in battle; and who upon returning, he and his wife, Dorothy Trapp Countryman, built a home in Palo Alto's Green Acres II neighborhood, where they raised six children and enjoyed seven grandchildren; He was a successful businessman, sailor, and farmer He passed away at the Veterans Administration's Livermore Community Living Center, with his son by his side. He died on May 10, 2024.

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



Eleanor Raab

Beechwood School teacher Konstance Kirkendoll speaks alongside her daughter at the May 18 grand opening of the Belle Haven Community Campus.

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

The fun and the 'FURIOSA'

From (mostly) superhero-free blockbusters to lots of family-friendly fare, here's what's ahead this summer in film

By Peter Canavese

The big name in horror for today's Hollywood isn't Freddy or Jason or even M3GAN. It's "contraction." That's the word striking terror in the hearts of Hollywood creatives now that streaming has upended the screen-trade economy, the boom-years bubble has burst, and production deals are harder to come by. Not that you'll necessarily notice at the multiplex this summer, as the industry has so far continued to spend big on colorful baubles to get you and yours into theater seats.

The summer movie season creeps in early these days, and we've already seen would-be summer-style blockbusters in "The Fall Guy," "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes," and "IF." But the season traditionally kicks off with Memorial Day Weekend, which brings George Miller's hotly anticipated "Mad Max: Fury Road" prequel "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga" and probable kiddie catnip in "Garfield the Movie," with Chris Pratt voicing a younger, more energetic version of the Monday-hating, lasagna-loving tabby Persian cat.

Around the corner on June 7, Will Smith hopes you'll forget "the slap" and get on board another "suns out, guns out" cops-versus-drug-dealers action sequel with wisecracking partner Martin Lawrence: "Bad Boys: Ride or Die." That day, Ishana Shyamalan throws her hat in the creature-feature ring with "The Watchers," while Richard Linklater ("Boyhood") drops on Netflix a new true-ish crime dramedy in the "Bernie"-esque "Hit Man," starring Linklater's co-screenwriter Glen Powell ("Anyone But You"). Powell's big summer revs up again July 19 with the release of action reboot "Twisters," surprisingly helmed by the celebrated indie filmmaker Lee Isaac Chung ("Minari").

Summer always promises plenty of franchise fodder. This season, we get a pair of CGI-animated sequels in Pixar's "Inside Out 2" (June 14), which takes us inside the emotionally chaotic brain of a now-teenage Riley, and "Despicable Me 4" (July 3), with Steve Carell's Gru facing an antagonist voiced by Will Ferrell. Netflix brings back Eddie Murphy's Axel Foley in "Beverly



Above: Anya Taylor-Joy goes post-apocalyptic as the title character in "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga." Courtesy Warner Bros. Pictures. Top: Joseph Quinn and Lupita Nyong'o must evade an invasion of aliens with ultrasonic hearing in the prequel "A Quiet Place: Day One." Courtesy Gareth Gatrell/Paramount Pictures.

Hills Cop: Axel F" (July 3), and technically, another big legacy comedy sequel arrives this summer, albeit in the dog days: "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" (Sept. 6) reunites director Tim Burton with Michael Keaton, Winona Ryder, and Catherine O'Hara.

Genre fans will be counting the days until the alien-invasion

prequel "A Quiet Place: Day One" (June 28) with Lupita Nyong'o ("12 Years a Slave," "Us") and Joseph Quinn ("Stranger Things"); Ti West's horror sequel "MaXXXine" (July 5), capping a trilogy starring Mia Goth ("X," "Pearl"); and "Alien: Romulus" (Aug. 16) with Fede Álvarez ("Don't

Breathe") claiming directorial duties from producer Ridley Scott.

In recent years, it's been all about the superheroes, but this summer marks the industry's acknowledgement of "superhero fatigue." Marvel has one surefire

See 'FURIOSA', page 21

A place to play

Sound Union in Redwood City is a private club and a public concert venue

By Karla Kane

John Avilla has been playing music since childhood and still cherishes it for the emotional, mental and social boosts it provides. But, as a bassist who thrives on collaborating with others, finding the right space to do so hasn't always been easy.

"We always have to go to some guy's garage, bring in all our gear, set it all up, play for a bit before the neighbors start complaining at 9, shut it all down, pack it all up and leave," Avilla's friend and business partner Tom Zazueta recalled Avilla saying. "He looked around and was like, 'How do we create a space that's a great place for musicians to go play and meet other musicians?'"

With that idea in mind, Avilla and Zazueta founded Sound Union, a private club where members, be they music makers or simply music lovers, can socialize, jam, rehearse and more. They liken the concept to a health club or gym, but for making and enjoying music.

Located in downtown Redwood City, Sound Union offers three large studio spaces; three smaller studio rooms (including one with podcasting equipment); an acoustic lounge; an upstairs venue space that seats around 125; plus communal seating and co-working areas, and a kitchen.

The space also makes available instruments including electric and acoustic guitars, Fender amplifiers, multiple digital pianos, ukuleles, basses, keyboards and drum sets, plus PA systems. The venue sourced much of the equipment from Gelb, the long-time music shop nearby.

"Our members come in, we have all the equipment, we provide everything," Avilla said (members can also bring their own instruments). Sound Union has a mobile app, which members use to schedule sessions and reserve space, find out about upcoming events and network with each other.

"We run some sessions (for example, a three-week jazz

workshop, and a clinic on overcoming stage fright). Other times our members, using our platform, will reach out to the community and say, 'Hey I've got studio number three on Tuesday night. Who wants to play?' And then we'll get anywhere from a half a dozen to a dozen people who come in and play together," Avilla said.

One of the goals is to facilitate collaborations without the pressure or expectations that might come with, for example, a band audition or even an open-mic night.

"We don't care if it's the first time someone has picked up an instrument or it's the 5,000th time. If you are here and want to play, you're a musician. It's helped us create an environment where people feel comfortable doing that," Avilla said. At a holiday showcase, for example, "we had a singer who had never sung in public before being backed by a jazz guitar player who's played for 50 years," he said. And at a Valentine's concert, 11 different Sound Union combos performed. "Everybody is just there to play and have that catharsis, that fun that music does for you."

The upstairs space hosts private performances and gatherings for members, but it's also open to the public as a music venue, with a goal of offering several public performances per month.

"We have touring, independent musicians that we're bringing in so that our members and the public can experience some really cool acts in a very intimate setting," Avilla said.

Upcoming performances include The Bills on May 29 and bluegrass icon Laurie Lewis in August. Public concerts are ticketed, and members attend most for free.

"It's also how we grow our membership," Avilla said. "Every time we have a concert people become members."

Sandra Vickers decided to take a tour of Sound Union after two separate musician friends recommended she check it out.



Karla Kane

Tom Zazueta (left) and John Avilla founded Sound Union in order to offer musicians a place to play and network.

"It was really a leap of faith because the downstairs studios weren't even built yet," she said of the tour she took in January. "Just the way they explained the concept, I was sold on it. I joined, like, that afternoon."

She's come back to playing the guitar and singing after not doing so for "a really long time," she said. "Since finding Sound Union it's just become so easy to meet other people and play."

Vickers works for a biotechnology company by day and has enjoyed taking part in jam nights and was a participant in the Valentine's showcase.

"It's like belonging to a country club but instead of playing golf you're playing music," she said.

Membership options vary, including \$350 a month for an annual membership, with different perks and levels of service depending on membership level.

Avilla is a longtime Redwood City resident, so opening close to home has been gratifying for him, but eventually the plan is to open additional Sound Union branches at locations across North America (San Jose, where Zazueta is based, could be next).

"We're not going to be the only place people play," Avilla said. "We just want to be the favorite place."

While Sound Union has been taking memberships for a few months, the project has been in the works for some time. Avilla and Zazueta — who share a background in the advertising world and first met about 18 years ago — started working on it during the COVID-19 pandemic and incorporated in 2021 (unlike Avilla, Zazueta is not a musician himself but said he is the sound, lighting and "technology guy"). Before opening the Redwood City location, they hosted jam sessions at a friend's space in San Carlos to

test their concept.

"Part of our due diligence was for the last few years ... building a community of people who like to play," Avilla said. "We spent a good two plus years doing lab research and understanding really what we could offer to our community so that it was a community-first-based business."

Lisa Gleaton is a lead singer in the band Smokin' Slice of Mojo, which performs dance hits of the 1960s and '70s at events around the Bay Area. Mike Claire, the keyboardist in the band, suggested to Gleaton that she check out the "test kitchen" sessions Sound Union was hosting in San Carlos.

"I've always sung. I have no stage fright. I have never seen a microphone I didn't like," she said, laughing. However, while she's an experienced vocalist, she hadn't yet tried a jam session, at which musicians mix it up and improvise with each other.

"That was an absolutely eye-opening, life-changing evening," she said. "I've never felt so encouraged to try things with singing before."

The experience was so meaningful that she joined Sound Union at the highest level, as a lifetime member.

"I probably come three times a week," she said, sometimes for organized events, like acoustic night on Wednesdays or weekend concerts, sometimes for planned practice sessions, and other times spontaneously.

"It has made my retirement," she said.

Gleaton, a former teacher and administrator with the Sequoia Union High School District, retired from her day job during the pandemic, and said she loves having the time to utilize Sound Union in different ways. She can bring her guitar and saxophone

and practice as loudly as she likes (something she's not able to do in her San Mateo condo complex). And if she has a gig coming up, she can rehearse her vocals through a PA system.

"You can have people practicing Metallica in one room, reggae in another room and violin in a third one and they do not cross at all," Gleaton noted of the soundproofing.

Sound Union exposes her to all sorts of musical styles, she said, and has also led to opportunities she didn't expect, such as being asked to record backing vocals on a band's album, and guest with another on stage. She's even been putting her administration experience into good use by volunteering to help with the logistics for the public events.

And she's brought friends into the Sound Union fold as well — two Sequoia Union colleagues have joined so far, and when they play together, the three call themselves The Teachers' Lounge. At the time of this interview, the group was preparing to perform at a Sound Union showcase organized by several members, including one who'd casually sat in with them on drums a few times as they practiced.

"That's the best part about it, how friendly and supportive everybody is about everyone else's music," she said. ■

Email Assistant Lifestyle Editor Karla Kane at kkane@almanacnews.com.



Karla Kane

Sound Union is not only a private club but also a public music venue.

Sound Union is located at 2625 Broadway St., Redwood City. The Bills perform May 29, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Find info about memberships and upcoming shows at soundunion.com.



Courtesy Illumination and Universal Pictures

The minions are up to more trouble in “Despicable Me 4.”

‘FURIOSA’

continued from page 19

hit in “Deadpool & Wolverine” (July 26), a buzzy multiverse game-changer that brings Hugh Jackman’s Wolverine out of retirement to join Ryan Reynolds’ mouthy, gun-toting mercenary Deadpool. There is one more comic-book movie this summer — a reboot of ultraviolent goth(ic) thriller “The Crow,” with Bill Skarsgård stepping into Brandon Lee’s boots — but that’s it: capes will be in short supply.

That’s good news for cineastes who’d prefer more original content in theaters. Now, admittedly, one such fresh offering is a video-game adaptation that looks suspiciously like a “Guardians of the Galaxy” rip-off: the Cate Blanchett-led “Borderlands” (Aug. 9). However, the (considerably cheaper) original dramas, comedies, and horror films “counter-programmed” to steal adults away from blockbusters each week paint a picture of a surprisingly eclectic summer ahead. Consider Sundance favorite “Didi” (July 26), the coming-of-age tale of a 13-year-old Taiwanese American misfit (Izaak Wang) and his bemused mother (Joan Chen), and the mother-daughter drama “Janet Planet,” which in late June marks the directorial debut of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Annie Baker.

Of course, not every original summer movie is humble in scope or domestic in subject matter. Kevin Costner, late of “Yellowstone,” brings out the first two installments of his epic passion-project Western “Horizon: An American Saga”: “Chapter 1” on June 28 and “Chapter 2” on Aug. 16, with the director-star promising two more installments to come. Several other established directors have projects lined up for you: Yorgos Lanthimos reteams with Emma Stone for their

follow-up to “Poor Things,” the “trilogy fable” “Kinds of Kindness” (June 21); Jeff Nichols has “The Bikeriders” (June 21) with Austin Butler and Tom Hardy; and serial-killer thriller “Trap” (Aug. 9) comes from the mind of M. Night Shyamalan.

Book clubbers may want to mark their calendars for the Blake Lively romantic drama “It Ends with Us” (Aug. 9), based on the Colleen Hoover novel, and smalltown friendship drama “The Supremes at Earl’s All-You-Can-Eat” (Aug. 23 on Hulu), from the Edward Kelsey Moore novel. Or maybe it’s your favorite stars that entice you to the multiplex. Perhaps you’d like to see what Zoe Kravitz is up to with her directorial debut, the ensemble thriller “Blink Twice” (Aug. 23), headlined by Channing Tatum. Tatum also plays opposite Scarlett Johansson in Space-Race rom com “Fly Me to the Moon” (July 12). Mark Wahlberg and Halle Berry team for action-adventure “The Union” (Netflix, Aug. 16) while Matt Damon lends his star power to crime drama “The Instigators” (AppleTV+, Aug. 9).

And it wouldn’t be a movie season without at least one Nicolas Cage movie — in this case, the horror thriller “Longlegs” (July 12) with Maika Monroe pursuing Cage’s serial killer into uncharted territory. Or maybe your speed of movie star is 93-year-old June Squibb (a Best Supporting Actress Oscar nominee for “Nebraska”), who finally gets her first leading movie role in revenge comedy “Thelma” (June 21). Even with looming Hollywood downsizing, a summer movie season with everything from Minions to a nonagenarian action star truly offers something for everyone. ■

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Worth a Look



Courtesy Wasserman Music

Aoife O’Donovan and Hawktail play The Guild Theatre on May 24.

Aoife O’Donovan and Hawktail

Singer-songwriter Aoife O’Donovan (also known for her work with Crooked Still and I’m With Her in addition to her solo career) this year released “All My Friends,” an album inspired by the work and words of suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt, whom O’Donovan became aware of when she was commissioned to write something commemorating the 19th Amendment’s (voting rights for women) centenary. Though it’s inspired by history, the issues still resonate — especially, perhaps, in a presidential election year. “While O’Donovan has never considered herself a political songwriter, her new album testifies to her belief in the power of the vote,” her website states. When O’Donovan comes to the Guild, she’ll be joined by acoustic quartet Hawktail.

May 24, 8 p.m., Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; \$43-\$93; tixr.com/groups.

Avril Lavigne

“Sk8ter Boi.” “Complicated.” “Girlfriend.” Are those neo-classics ringing a bell, Millennials? Canadian pop-punk star Avril Lavigne will be bringing those and more to Shoreline Amphitheatre as part of her The Greatest Hits Tour, alongside special guests All Time Low, Royal and The Serpent. Lavigne first rose to prominence in the early 2000s as a teen and has sold millions of albums worldwide.

May 28, 7 p.m., Shoreline Amphitheatre, 1 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View; check online for prices; mountainviewamphitheater.com.

Thien Pham

The Los Altos Library is celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month by hosting an event with author and illustrator Thien Pham. His most recent book, the acclaimed graphic memoir “Family Style,” chronicles his life journey, including leaving Vietnam at a young age, spending time in Thailand in a refugee camp, and ultimately immigrating to the Bay Area. The book was named one of the 10 best graphic novels of 2023 by The Washington Post. Pham will discuss his work, then participate in a Q&A session.

May 26, 4 p.m., Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos; scll.bibliocommons.com.

Duke’s Small Groups

Legendary composer Duke Ellington is best known for big band music, but the Stanford Jazz Workshop is offering a chance to get to know a more intimate side of his music. With the concert Duke’s Small Groups, guitarist and Ellington expert Nick Rossi and his Jazzopatens group delve into the jazz works Ellington wrote for smaller ensembles of about seven to 10 musicians. These rarely performed pieces mostly date from the 1930s and ‘40s and show how Ellington’s compositions highlighted the skills of his soloists, according to the Stanford Jazz Workshop website. Rossi will also discuss the historical and social forces that shaped the music.

May 24, 7:30 p.m., at Campbell Recital Hall, Stanford, \$12-\$20, stanfordjazz.org.

House of Asha

Bay Area indie musician House of Asha, who describes her sound as a mix of dream pop, folk and alt-rock influences on her website, is celebrating the one-year anniversary of the release of her debut full-length album, “Behind Closed Doors.” She’ll be performing the entire record (and perhaps some selections from her latest project), backed by a four-piece band, as part of Red Rock’s 2nd Story series. SorinVibee opens the show.

May 25, 7 p.m., Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View; \$15 suggested donation; eventbrite.com.

Food & Drink



MEET THE BAKER NEXT DOOR

Neighbors bring handmade bread and pastries to downtown Redwood City

Story and photos by Karla Kane

Since last September, The Baker Next Door has been selling fresh, handmade bread and pastries at Friday pop-ups in downtown Redwood City. And by late summer it should have a permanent bakery and cafe at 851 Main St., where construction is currently in full swing (the pop-up events are held in front of the building.)

On a recent morning, as a steady stream of customers turned up to snag their weekly batch of baked goods, founders Jenna Johnson and Brian Clarke greeted many by name, chatting as they bagged up their baguettes and sweet treats.

The lineup includes a variety of bread loaves (mostly made with natural leavening), including Danish rye and seeded country; tantalizing focaccia with toppings like Kalamata olives and caramelized onions; and pastries such as morning buns, monkey bread, croissants and peanut butter sandwich cookies.

“The cherry pecan bread is probably my favorite. I

probably have a slice of that almost every morning when it’s available to me,” Johnson said. “My children devour everything. They are our best critics.”

And the friendly atmosphere makes sense for an endeavor that’s all about local roots and neighborly connection.

Clarke and Johnson are indeed literal neighbors (hence the business name), and their partnership came about after Johnson’s family moved to Redwood City and became fast friends with Clarke’s. When Clarke’s daughter began baby-sitting for Johnson’s kids, she mentioned her dad’s desire to someday open his own bakery.

Clarke has been baking out of his garage — which he built into a baking space in 2017 — as a cottage food business, and he used to sell at the Portola Valley farmers market under the name Red Lantern Bakery. Johnson, meanwhile, has had years of experience working in the restaurant industry in Brooklyn and in the Bay Area, including helping out with the set-up of The Hut, a barbecue

restaurant and bar in Santa Clara.

“That was good to see, building something from the ground up,” she said of the experience, although, as a mom of young kids, she realized the late hours of the bar scene were not for her. Her thoughts soon turned closer

to home.

In Johnson and Clarke’s Oakwood neighborhood of Redwood City, near the Atherton border, “a lot of people have fruit trees, and we both have chickens, and in the summer we’re growing vegetables and Brian’s baking bread so we joked about an

‘My children devour everything. They are our best critics.’

JENNA JOHNSON,
THE BAKER NEXT DOOR
CO-FOUNDER



Top: The Baker Next Door offers a variety of fresh-baked pastries. Above: Jenna Johnson, left, and Brian Clarke are neighbors and co-founders of Redwood City’s The Baker Next Door.



The Baker Next Door's focaccia, with toppings including caramelized onion, tomato and rosemary.

Oakwood co-op essentially," Johnson recalled. "That was kind of an aha moment for me: 'Why don't we just make it something permanent?'"

"Fast forward, she calls me on the phone and is like, 'Hey I'm going to go look at this place, you want to do it?' And I'm like, 'Hell yeah I do!'" Clarke said. "I left my law career in January of '23 and I've been doing this since." Getting the storefront up and running has taken longer than originally anticipated, but Clarke said they're "making progress."

"It's been a great adventure, and Jen and I have been doing great work together," he said.

Once the brick-and-mortar space opens (most likely in August), Johnson will be developing the cafe menu based on Clarke's baking, which will all be done on-site. The plan is to offer breakfast, lunch and coffee service.

"We're going to hire a barista who will run the coffee program. I do not need another artisanal thing to do so I'm not going to get involved with that stuff," Clarke laughed. "The barista will handle all the coffee program, make sure we're sourcing some great coffee from local roasters. Everything ideally is going to be local and mostly, like, 98% organic; wholesome products, all handmade."

In addition to taking inspiration from European-style bakeries, Clarke said they're also inspired by the charming cafes of Berkeley (both Clarke and Johnson are Cal alumni.)

"I got turned on to the really good bread back in the mid '80s when I tasted stuff from Acme

Bread. That turned some light bulbs on. From then on, I just developed a passion for it. I just got more of a burning itch to do it," Clarke said.

They started the pop-up shop in September after finding that local farmers markets already had bread and pastry vendors.

"We checked in with the city and we got a permit to do our own little farmers market here on Fridays," Johnson said. "Right away it was nice to see people who live so close, the foot traffic that comes up and down Main Street, and right off the bat it was excitement from people in the neighborhood."

They plan to continue that neighborly vibe when the full cafe opens, aiming to create a community gathering place.

"A lot of the places you go to that have good food and really good product, they're not making it on-site, they're making it other places — which is all fine, but that's not the environment that I think we want to establish."

Their hope is for The Baker Next Door to be "a place where people can come and have great food, great conversation and connect up," Clarke said. "That's what brings me joy. I like making people happy." ■

Email Assistant Lifestyle Editor Karla Kane at kkane@almanacnews.com.

The Baker Next Door,
851 Main St., Redwood City.
Instagram: @thebakernextdoor_rwc. Pop-ups are held most Fridays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Menlo Park Monthly Market Report

April 1, 2024 - April 30, 2024

Rossetti Realty Inc.

TOP 10 SALES*			
1. \$8,580,000	2. \$7,805,000	3. \$7,775,000	4. \$6,470,000
1045 Trinity Drive	1445 Rosoleid Way	1740 Oak Avenue	1745 Bay Laurel Drive
5. \$5,200,000	6. \$4,800,000	7. \$4,788,000	8. \$4,750,000
2010 Ivy Avenue	1755 Stanford Avenue	847 Woodland Avenue	2060 Mills Avenue
9. \$3,998,000	10. \$3,700,000		
1605 Valparaiso Avenue	300 Ringwood Avenue		

ACTIVE LISTING Apr: 59 Mar: 34 ↑ 74%	AVERAGE SALES PRICE Apr: \$3,639,231 Mar: \$2,861,875 ↑ 27%	AVERAGE SALES PRICE/SQ FT Apr: \$1,533 Mar: \$1,413 ↑ 8%
PENDING LISTING Apr: 30 Mar: 33 ↓ -9%	AVERAGE SOLD DAYS ON MARKET Apr: 14 Mar: 38 ↓ -63%	MONTHS OF INVENTORY Apr: 2.30 Mar: 1.00 ↑ 130%
SOLD LISTING Apr: 26 Mar: 34 ↓ -24%	SALE/LIST PRICE Apr: 103.90% Mar: 103.60% ↑ 0%	30 YEAR MORTGAGE RATE Apr: 7.31% Mar: 7.01% ↑ 4%

*Source: MLS Listings for Single Family Properties | Townhomes | Condos

★ April 2024 compared to Month 2024

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

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