

The Almanac

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

JANUARY 3, 2025 | VOL. 60 NO. 17



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2024 in Photos

A look back at the year through the lens of the camera

By Angela Swartz

A general election, a new fleet of all-electric trains and an embattled San Mateo County Sheriff's Office made headlines in 2024.

There were protests and rallies. Teachers picketed in Menlo Park and Atherton for pay raises. Supporters and detractors of Vice President-elect JD Vance and President Joe Biden gathered during visits from the two. We captured it all.

We captured some of the quieter moments in the beautiful natural habitat The Almanac sits in. This included a rare view of the northern lights from Windy Hill Preserve in Portola Valley and a unique gardening class at Ormondale Elementary School. We documented the ongoing recovery process from the massive 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fires.

There were also moments of celebration. The revamped Belle Haven Community Campus opened and became a hub for events, including the city's Halloween Trunk-or-Treating. In the pouring rain, our freelancer snapped photos of the annual Woodside May Day parade.

Take a look back at the year that was. ■

See **2024 IN PHOTOS**, page 12



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Garden Thyme teacher Brook Coffee examines seeds in one of the garden boxes that students maintain on the patio of Portola Valley's Ormondale Elementary on May 29, 2024.

Measure A explained: The charter amendment that could let supes remove Sheriff Corpus

What voters need to know about the proposed change to county law

By Eleanor Raab

San Mateo County residents will be heading to the polls next year for a special election to decide the fate of embattled Sheriff Christina Corpus.

The ballot measure that will be put to the vote on March 4 — Measure A — would amend the county charter to grant the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors the power, until Dec. 31, 2028, to remove the

sheriff from office for certain reasons with a four-fifths vote.

The board finalized plans for the measure following the release of a 408-page report from an independent investigation commissioned by the board that details corruption, abuse of power and more in Corpus' administration. The board does not currently have the authority to remove a sheriff or any other elected official from their post.

While supporters of the

measure see it as a necessary step toward accountability, critics argue that it undermines voter choice and sets a troubling precedent. Still, some believe that with Corpus refusing to resign, the measure offers the fastest route to address the growing concerns as calls for her removal intensify.

The formal arguments and rebuttals, in favor of and opposing the charter amendment, are now available for public

review on the San Mateo County Elections Division website.

The arguments in favor of the ballot measure were submitted and signed by former U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo, U.S. Rep. Kevin Mullin, Supervisor Noelia Corzo, Sheriff's Sgt. Sean Harper (a board member of the San Mateo County Sheriffs' Sergeants) and Sheriff's Deputy Matthew Silano (secretary of the Deputy Sheriffs Association).

Dan Stegink, a rescue diver

and resident of Pacifica who has previously been outspoken at board meetings against the measure, submitted and signed the arguments against the ballot measure.

The proposed charter amendment outlines the reasons for which the board could remove a sheriff. Those reasons include violation of any law related to the performance of a sheriff's

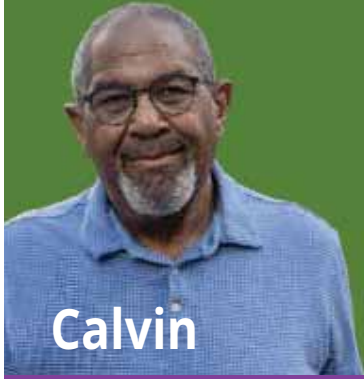
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INSIDE

Help local families in need 16

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Calvin

Seasons change. Hunger doesn't.

A Hidden Crisis: Our senior community faces rising costs, hunger, and isolation.

We wish you a joyous holiday season with family and friends. While we celebrate the season with loved ones, many local seniors face challenges that threaten their well-being.

Behind the region's prosperity, **seniors on fixed incomes** are silently struggling with **soaring costs of food** and other essential daily support needs, leading to increased **hunger and health risks**. San Mateo County and the Surgeon General recognize the **epidemic of loneliness** as a public health crisis. Many older adults live alone, craving connection. **Alzheimer's and dementia** rates are surging, placing overwhelming caregiving burdens on families, yet less than 2% of institutional funding supports aging-related causes. These urgent challenges ripple through our community, **affecting the families of all backgrounds**-- neighbors and friends, parents and grandparents and raising serious concerns for the fastest growing senior demographic over the next decade and beyond.

The holiday season intensifies the challenges for Ruth and others!

Over the holidays, these burdens grow heavier for countless seniors like **Ruth**, who is homebound with a broken hip and cannot shop or cook for herself, or **Calvin**, a widower who lives alone and struggles to afford food. **Joyce** is overwhelmed by her husband's Alzheimer's, while others face loneliness and technology barriers to stay connected with loved ones.

Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. provides crucial support to local families.

PVI understands the urgency of the senior crisis and provides life-changing support services for each of these families, bringing hope beyond the season. Your support is essential. Together, we make this possible.

Your local giving drives local impact!

Make your life-changing impact today: Your year-end gift of any amount that is right for you* directly supports vulnerable local seniors and means everything to the **thousands of local families relying on us**. Your gift puts food on plates, helps create new meal routes, eliminates meal waitlists and enables innovative programs to address isolation and dementia care needs. Give securely online at www.1pvi.org/donate or use the QR code. Your generosity makes a meaningful impact.

* Examples: \$500 provides PVI Meals on Wheels for two at-risk seniors for a month; \$700 supports a week of Adult Day Services; \$1,200 funds an annual premium membership at PVI's Adult Activity Center at Little House; \$2,000 funds 100 round-trip rides for seniors; \$2,500 funds an iPad and training for a year.

Peter Olson
Chief Executive Officer

Georgie Gleim
Board Chair/President

Change a senior's story. Donate Today!

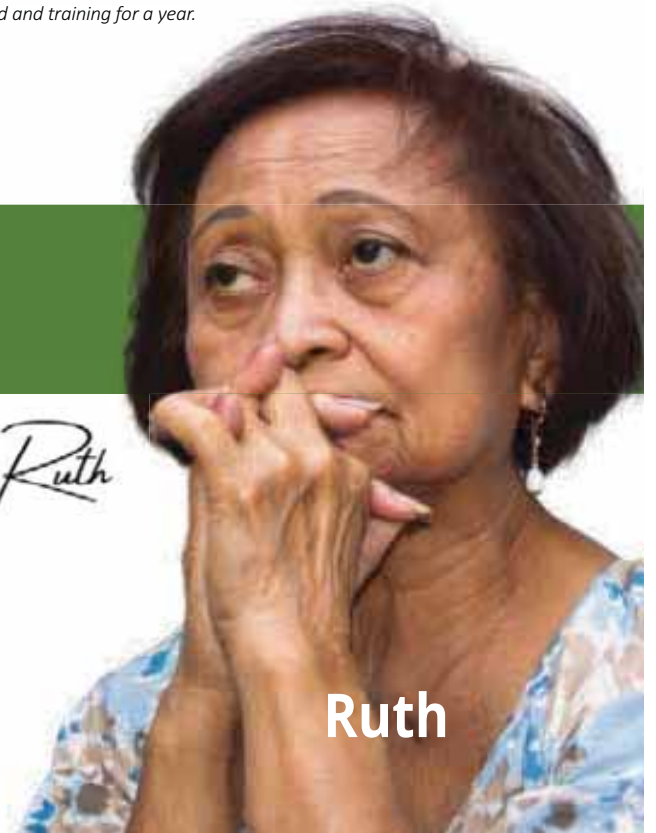
"I love the fresh meals and the people who deliver them!" - Ruth



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7 Blue Ridge Lane



Offered at \$72,000,000

- Stunning Tuscan-inspired estate completed in 2023 in Woodside's premier central corridor
- Extraordinary detail with imported materials, Venetian plaster walls, and marble or oak floors
- 5 bedrooms and 5.5 baths in the two-story main residence
- 1-bedroom, 2-bath guest house with full kitchen and sauna
- Vast level gated grounds of approximately 3.01 acres
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- Excellent schools

7BlueRidgeLane.com

Woodside

675 Manzanita Way



Offered at \$5,999,000

- Central Woodside
- 3 beautiful level acres
- Gated drive with privacy trees
- Single-level Ranch home
- 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms
- Large kitchen with island, expansive living room, inviting family room
- Grand primary suite
- Additional accessory structures
- Vineyards and fruit trees
- Property is zoned for 6 horses
- Excellent schools

675Manzanita.com

Atherton

35 Isabella Avenue



Offered at \$15,000,000

SOLD

- Located near excellent Menlo Circus Club & Menlo Park schools
- Upper-level primary suite with walk-in closet and a resort-quality bath
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- Light and bright with tremendous soaring ceilings and floor-to-ceiling glass
- Gourmet modern kitchen with marble slab counters and high-end appliances
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- Remodeled 1-bedroom guest house
- Lot size of approximately 43,254 sq. ft. (per County records)

35Isabella.com

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- Coverage of Youth and Education
- Environment Reporting
- Feature Photo
- General Excellence
- Housing and Land-Use Reporting
- Investigative Reporting
- News Photo
- Open - Investigative Reporting
- Photo Story/Essay
- Sports Feature Story
- Technology Reporting
- Video Journalism

HERE'S WHAT SOME OF THE JUDGES OF THE 2023 CALIFORNIA JOURNALISM AWARDS ARE SAYING ABOUT OUR WORK —

“

The somber faces of the mother and daughter tell the story of concern and support for Israel. The photo is subtle and powerful.
— Third Place, News Photo

The reporters captured a wealth of detail in their story and took the time to include people's voices too. This is truly helpful coverage that stood to benefit the community.
— Second Place, Breaking News

Nicely written series on how a homeless service doesn't appear to be delivering as promised and as promoted. Solid reporting bolstered by numerous interviews with all parties make for reports that readers can understand.
— First Place, Investigative Reporting

”

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The Almanac

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Kids dance along to songs at the Atherton Library's "noon year" celebration on Dec. 27, 2024.

Celebrate 'Noon Year's Eve' at the library

San Mateo County Libraries has held the events since 2015

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On New Year's Eve, kids might find it hard to stay up until midnight for the final countdown into the new year. As a solution for young ones to still get involved, San Mateo County Libraries hosted "Noon Year's Eve," an alternative way for kids to ring in the new year.

At noon rather than midnight, children and families

were able to experience all of the New Year's festivities including a countdown, party poppers, games, crafts, snacks and a storytime.

"These kid-centric events give them an opportunity to be present for all aspects of the celebration as opposed to New Year's Eve feeling like a very adult holiday," said Elise Staples, youth and families services manager at San Mateo County Libraries.

The plan was for each library

location to be visited by a popular literary character such as Pete the Cat, Paddington, Frog and Toad, and Clifford the Big Red Dog as they join in on the celebration. Families will have the opportunity to take photos with storybook celebrities, and give them hugs and high fives.

The event allowed kids to get the full experience of the transition into the new year, said

See 'NOON YEAR'S EVE', page 11

Menlo Park Fire will be the first in the U.S. to use new AR tool

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Menlo Park Fire Protection District will become the first in the nation to use a hands-free augmented reality tool that will make navigating through smoke, darkness and high heat easier. On Dec. 19, Qwake Technologies introduced its first fireproof model of its C-Thru Navigator for Menlo Park firefighters to try for the first time at the Baylands Structural Collapse and Burn Center in Menlo Park.

"It's a game changer," said Menlo Park Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen. "Now that we have this technology, it can allow us to find fire quicker, to find victims and prevent us from falling into openings."

In a room full of smoke, it's almost impossible to see but with C-Thru, firefighters will be able to see the heat source, outlines of windows, doors, hallways and people, according to Lorenzen.

The technology has been in the works for nearly a decade and when the San Francisco-based Qwake Technologies formed a partnership with Menlo Park Fire in 2016, the company was able to use its training center to test its product.

The C-Thru Navigator is a helmet-mounted AR technology that uses an edge detection algorithm and infrared cameras to help relieve the cognitive load on the firefighters while they are in

stressful environments, said VP of engineering Eric Lotfi.

CEO of Qwake Sam Cossman was inspired to create C-Thru while leading expeditions into active volcanoes where the heated gas would make it hard to see. Cossman said he would borrow thermal imaging cameras from fire departments but found it difficult to use their hand-held tools when he needed his hands to climb. It was then that he and his team created a hands-free thermal imaging camera that they soon realized would greatly benefit firefighters.

Prior to the use of technology, firefighters had to navigate through burning buildings by touching around for nearby objects and calling out for victims.

Former Menlo Park Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman said after 40 years on the job the one part he doesn't miss is "crawling in a burning building, stumbling over stuff and getting tangled up." He described the looming anxiety that he often felt of whether he would make it out alive.

C-Thru will help firefighters find the victim in one-third of the time, Schapelhouman said. "That means that people have a better chance of living, so it really will be saving lives and it makes the firefighter spend less time on the most dangerous thing that

See AR TOOL, page 11

Site of former Sunset Magazine HQ nominated to National Register of Historic Places

Local historical association sponsors designation for controversial high-rise development proposal site

By Eleanor Raab

The Menlo Park Historical Association has sponsored an application to add the site of the former Sunset Magazine headquarters, where a developer has proposed a controversial large-scale development, to the National Register of Historic Places.

The nomination, which was prepared by Los Angeles-based historic preservation consultants Chattel, Inc., proposes

that the site should be added to the register based on two criteria: that the property embodies the distinctive characteristics of architect Cliff May and his ranch-style construction, and that the property is associated with significant historical events, namely its association with Sunset Magazine during its most influential period.

The State Historical Resources Commission will review the nomination on Feb. 7.

If the property is found to

be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources, it could make it harder for developer N17 to build what has been proposed for the site. The owner of the site does not have to consent for the property to be added to the register; the State Historical Resources Commission can deem a property historic over an owner's objections.

The historical significance

of buildings and properties is considered throughout the California Environmental Quality Act review process, which is required of developments that may result in an adverse change in the environment like the one proposed for the site. Impacts to a resource listed in the California Register of Historical Resources must be considered in the environmental review of a site.

Robert Chattel, president of Chattel, Inc., said in an

interview with this news organization that listing of a property to the National Register "simply confirms that the property is a historical resource and should be treated as such."

According to the Office of Historical Preservation, "CEQA requires identification and mitigation of potential significant effects, but it doesn't stop a project." Once an environmental impact report has been drawn

See SUNSET MAGAZINE, page 8

An election, a fire and chaos in San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

Speier also returns to a familiar spot in county governance

By Eleanor Raab

Though much happened in San Mateo County in 2024, including an election, environmental progress and large fires, one story dominated county headlines: the unfolding chaos in the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff's Office

Though the uproar in the Sheriff's Office primarily erupted in the fall of 2024, there were inklings of unrest earlier in the year. A former sheriff's deputy filed a lawsuit against Sheriff Christina Corpus, alleging that she retaliated against him, in March. In the lawsuit, he also named Corpus' Chief of Staff Victor Aenlle. In June, there was a leadership shakeup after Undersheriff Chris Hsiung suddenly announced his departure from the office.

The mayhem really began in earnest after the sheriff's unions took a vote of no confidence against Aenlle in September, with 96% of the members approving of the vote. The unions also filed a complaint with the California Public Employment Relations Board against Corpus, Aenlle and the rest of her administration. Supervisors announced that they had initiated an investigation into her office.

Soon after, Corpus fired her Assistant Sheriff Ryan Monaghan just three days after he spoke to independent investigator LaDoris Cordell, who had been hired by the supervisors to look into the Sheriff's Office.

In early November, Corpus arrested union president Carlos Tapia for alleged felony time card fraud, just hours before



Courtesy San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

A San Mateo County Sheriff's Office drone captures footage of the June 3, 2024 fire at an affordable housing development in North Fair Oaks.

the county released the report from Cordell's investigation to the public. Captain Brian Philips resigned rather than arrest Tapia, and filed a claim against the county alleging that he had been retaliated against after refusing to serve an internal affairs notice that he believed to be illegal. Following an investigation by the District Attorney's Office, DA Steve Wagstaffe said that there was no evidence for Tapia's arrest, and that he "should not have been arrested."

Following the release of Cordell's report, the board of supervisors formally called on Corpus to resign. Their calls were echoed by congressional and state officials, the San

Carlos city council, and this news organization.

The Board of Supervisors voted in early December to approve a special election to decide the fate of Sheriff Corpus. San Mateo County will vote on Measure A, which would give supervisors the power to remove Sheriff Corpus, on March 4, 2025.

In addition to the chaos, the Sheriff's Office made other advancements this year. The office moved into its new headquarters at 330 Bradford St. in June, expanded its therapy dog program and expanded its anonymous firework buy-back program. Supervisors also approved the inaugural members of the San Mateo County Sheriff's advisory commission in June.

Election

In San Mateo County, the supervisor seats for districts 1 and 4 were up for grabs in the Nov. 5 election. Former U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier beat out Millbrae City Council member Ann Schneider in the race to represent District 1, replacing Supervisor Dave Pine who termed out.

East Palo Alto council member Lisa Gauthier beat out East Palo Alto Mayor Antonio López in the race to replace Warren Slocum's District 4 seat. Gauthier had taken an early lead in the March five-way

primary for the seat. Gauthier raised about \$300,000 for the race, while López raised about \$190,000.

Environment

The year started off in San Mateo County with sweeping power outages and tree damage after a large storm with 50 mph winds hit the county in early February. Following the wet winter, several birds throughout the county tested positive for West Nile virus. This news organization took an inside look at the tiny mosquitofish that the San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District uses to combat the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.

In other pest news, the San Mateo County Department of Agriculture announced in November that the highly invasive shothole borer beetle had been found in the Redwood Shores community. This is the first time the tree-killing pest has been seen in San Mateo County.

An environmental group was prompted to launch a petition urging the county to institute a total ban on herbicide spraying after an alleged incident of "broadcast spraying" of herbicides at the Corporation Yard in La Honda.

In early December, a tsunami warning that was issued

See **SAN MATEO COUNTY**, page 10



Courtesy Arden Margulis / M-A Chronicle

A car was buried under a tree in Menlo Park on Feb. 4, 2024 after a large storm with 50 mph winds hit the county.

Established 1965

The **Almanac**

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The Almanac (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media Foundation, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County. The Almanac is delivered to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to AlmanacNews.com/join to start supporting The Almanac today.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558.

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A whole new spin on an old tradition

Noted architect employs fascination with wheels in artistic pursuit

By Maggie Mah

Holiday cards arrive each year from friends and relatives — even your financial adviser sends cozy wishes. We read, enjoy and perhaps display them for a time and then, off they go to be recycled.

As welcome as they might be, these cards and letters are one-way forms of communication, and most are forgotten early in the new year.

Adolph Rosekrans is a Woodside resident who sends out hundreds of holiday cards every year. In 2023, he decided to do something completely different and what he came up with transformed his holiday greetings into a unique, interactive experience.

First, a bit of background: Rosekrans has a thing for wheels. More specifically, he has a thing for the wheels in his collection of vintage horse-drawn farming equipment. His interest in wheels led him to amass over 100 horse-drawn implements, all of which was authentically restored by a small team of craftsmen in Rosekrans' shop.

One look explains the fascination. Unlike the wheels on modern day vehicles (which are encased in black rubber and look pretty much the same), the wheels on the hard-working agrarian vehicles of the past varied quite a lot. They were designed to operate on specific types of terrain (hard, soft, hilly) and to do specific things (cultivate, mow, seed, haul). This need for dedicated utility produced a range of sizes and functional designs which



Courtesy Maggie Mah

Woodside resident Adolph Rosekrans' holiday greetings have been inspired by the wheels in his collection of horse-drawn farm equipment.

also created distinctive patterns between the rim and the center axle.

Rosekrans, a noted architect whose work includes the award-winning Folger Barn Restoration in Wunderlich Park and the Taube Family Carriage House, now under construction next to the San Mateo County History Museum in Redwood City, finds inspiration in this combination of utility and aesthetics.

"I am fascinated by the geometry of the wheels, their materials and colors, the variety of their construction, the arrangement of their parts and their overall design," explained Rosekrans.

We may think of old pieces of farm equipment as drab and rusty, but back in the day, they were quite colorful. Plows, carts and other pieces were protected from the elements with paint in hues of red, yellow, blue and green. "We would find

the original colors under the nuts on the wheels," explained Rosekrans.

In 2013, Rosekrans began using photographic images of the festive-looking wheels to create unique and colorful holiday messages. With the assistance of graphic designer, Ron Rick, Rosekrans has used the images in a range of designs and formats. "Adolph came up with the ideas for cards that you would open up, unfold and in some cases hang on a tree," recalled Rick.

While every year's card has been memorable, 2023's card was a game changer. Everyone on Rosekrans' list received an 11-by-14-inch card with a black and white outline of 10 wheels arranged in the shape of a pyramid. They were invited to "Color Your Card" and return the finished work in exchange for a set of postcards with artful depictions of the wheels.

This writer received a "Color Your Card" and was immediately struck by the concept. The idea of coloring in an image was simple, fun, timeless and anyone, regardless of age or ability, could participate. But it was the interactive aspect that really stood out. Every card had the potential to be transformed by each participant in their own personal way. And instead of being a solitary accomplishment, it would be returned to the sender who would be able to enjoy it, too.

Amid the whirl of holiday activities, I began to think more about unique color schemes for the wheels and less about all the other stuff I was supposed to be doing. I looked up color theories and made copies of the card to test them out. (Since it had been what seemed like a century since I'd done any coloring, it was also challenging to stay within the lines.) Instead of a being another chore, the process of thinking about various colors and patterns became a meditative break. I wondered if others might be feeling that way, too. What would their cards look like? What would they reveal? Would there be an opportunity to see them? What was Adolph Rosekrans going to do with them?

A few days into the new year, my questions were answered.

A poster arrived in the mail showing an array of the colored wheels. Each one was different: some were done in primary colors, some looked classic while others were modern and interruptive. Some were vibrant while others were subdued.

Coloring implements and techniques also varied, ranging from crayons and colored pencils to markers and digital applications. (In addition to the poster, Rosekrans created a book containing all of the colored in wheel cards and used them in several textile designs.)

Most of the participants stuck to coloring in the wheels, but others flouted convention, augmenting the design with their own ideas or bypassing the wheels altogether and coloring in the background instead. Two of the cards were done by groups, with each person in the group taking a wheel, and several were sincerely scribbled by kids.

It was fascinating to see what everyone else had done.

Rosekrans shared some of the

comments that accompanied the returned cards. They ran the gamut from sincere and sentimental:

"This really touched my heart."

"I appreciate being included in the creative process and enjoyed looking and thinking about it."

"So many memories rekindled."

"It provided a fine meditation and creative reflection at years end."

To confessional...

"We asked our 6-year-old grandson to color our card."

To hilarious...

"Thank you for the opportunity to reach into my inner child."

"Very nice to put my own 'spin' on them."

"I'm up to my eyeballs in the holidays and you send this card!"

Rosekrans, now in his 90s, starts work on his holiday projects several months ahead of time. "It's fun and I really enjoy it," he declared. His

See **NEW SPIN**, page 8

FIRE MARSHAL'S SAFETY CORNER WINTER SAFETY



Cold Weather

- Prolonged exposure to cold temperatures can lead to serious health issues.
- Older adults and young children are particularly vulnerable.
- Dress in layers, including hats and gloves, to retain body heat.
- In extremely cold weather, stay dry and limit time spent outdoors.

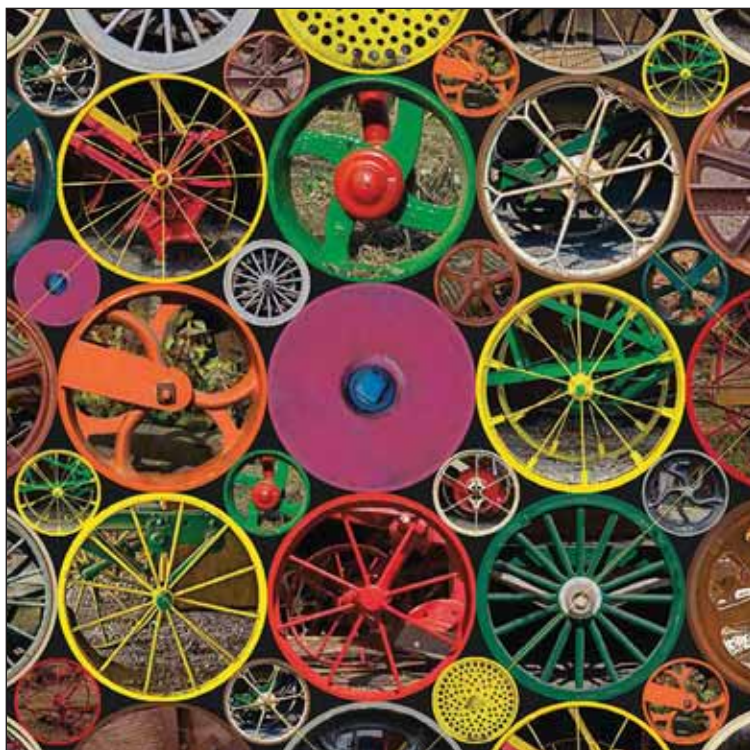
Emergency Preparedness

Winter storms can lead to power outages, making it essential for families to have an emergency kit ready.

- Recommended items for an emergency kit include:
 - Non-perishable food and bottled water.
 - Flashlights, batteries, and a battery-operated radio.
 - A first aid kit and necessary medications.

Communication Plan

- Establish a family communication plan to stay connected during emergencies.
- Create an evacuation plan for the home and a meeting point outside the home in case of an emergency.



Courtesy Adolph Rosekrans

One of Adolph Rosekrans' cards.

SUNSET MAGAZINE

continued from page 5

up, a decision-making body can approve a project, even if it has significant, unavoidable impacts — though the law does require mitigation of impacts when feasible. Significant impacts include demolition, destruction and relocation of the historical resource.

Impacts to a historical site can be mitigated to a “less than significant impact” if a project follows the Secretary of the Interior’s standards for the treatment of historic properties, said Chattel.

However, Oisín Heneghan, the founder of N17 Development, said he is not worried about the future of the development because “state law (State Sen. Bill 330) prevents this type of nomination from having any effect on the planning process.”

“We are in the midst of a historic housing crisis. There is no shortage of vacant mid-century office buildings,” said Heneghan in an email to this news organization. “Unfortunately, across Menlo Park and the surrounding towns, there is a small group of people who oppose all new mixed-income housing developments.”

Renderings made public by



Michelle Le

The former Sunset Magazine headquarters in Menlo Park.

the developer show that the project, dubbed “Willow Park,” would consist of three towers ranging from 301 to 446 feet, and would contain 665 housing units, 133 of which would be affordable. There would also be more than 350,000 square feet of office space, a Montessori school, a 130-room hotel and nearly 40,000 square feet of retail space.

History of the property

The 6.7-acre site located at 80 Willow Road housed Sunset Magazine from the time the

building was constructed in 1951 until 2015, when the magazine moved to new headquarters at Jack London Square in Oakland. The site, known as the “laboratory for western living,” was designed by famed architect Cliff May, who is considered by many to be the father of the California ranch-style house.

The landscaping at the site, which has also been listed as an important feature in the National Register nomination form, was done by Thomas Dolliver Church, who

is considered by many to be a pioneering modern landscape architect. Church designed the landscape at the Sunset Magazine site in several climate “zones” to demonstrate the different areas of the American West, according to the nomination form.

The site is being nominated to the register not just for its architectural significance, but for its association with Sunset Magazine, which “greatly influenced public perception of the West.” According to the form, the building was at one point “one of the most popular tourist attractions in the San Francisco Bay Area.”

Sunset Magazine was first launched in 1898 by the Southern Pacific Railroad to “entice Americans living in eastern states into going west,” and to challenge the perception of the west as “lawless and barren” by promoting the region’s economic opportunities, recreational opportunities and desirable climate. The company was sold to Lane Publishing Company in 1928, which revamped the publication to become the “Magazine of Western Living.”

The magazine and its headquarters were acquired by Time Warner (later Time Inc.) in

1990, and after employment at the site decreased due to a changing media landscape, Time Inc. sold the property to Embarcadero Capital Partners in 2014, and it was sold again in 2019 to an LLC controlled by Vitaly Yusufov, who is the son of former Russian energy minister Igor Yusufov, according to the Wall Street Journal.

May designed several other buildings that are recognized on the National Register of Historic Places, including the iconic Robert Mondavi winery in Napa, and several ranch-style homes throughout the state.

Chattel, Inc. has experience with successfully nominating buildings designed by May for placement on the register. In July 2024, the Bell Canyon Equestrian Center in Ventura County, also designed by Cliff May, was successfully recognized on the National Register of Historic Places following a nomination prepared by Chattel, Inc.

“I think the reason why the Menlo Park Historical Association reached out to us is because we have experience with buildings designed by Cliff May,” said Chattel. ■

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

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NEW SPIN

continued from page 7

“Color Your Card” for 2024 features a new wheel-inspired design and the tantalizing promise of a “Certificate of Artistic Brilliance” for each returned card. Response to this year’s “CYC” challenge is even stronger.

The wheel was invented over 5,000 years ago. It enabled humans to travel long distances and connect as never before. It seems fitting that the wheels

in the Runnymede Collection have inspired a whole new way of connecting with others.

Note: The Runnymede Farm Equipment Collection was established 25 years ago and is now part of the San Mateo County History Museum. For more on the Runnymede Farm Equipment Collection go to: almanacnews.com/news/2013/03/17/american-made/ ■

Maggie Mah is a Contributing Writer.

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Martha Coddington, 79, a Menlo Park resident who taught fourth grade in Burlingame before retiring in Sharon Heights, and who was a passionate equestrian, tennis player and skier, on Dec. 12, 2024.

Frederic Duperrault, 98, who served in the Army Air Corps during World War II, worked as a teacher in Wisconsin, and later took on an activist role for social justice and civil liberties with organizations including Veterans for Peace and the World Federalists, on Dec. 12, 2024.

June Fleming, 93, a trailblazing leader and devoted public servant who was city manager of Palo Alto from 1992 to 2000 and was of unwavering faith and fellowship in the communities she lived and served, on Dec. 9, 2024.

Nancy Jang, 87, who led an adventurous youth from her childhood in South America to Harlem to Germany, eventually settling in Palo Alto where she would shine as a loving mother and grandmother, on Dec. 25, 2024.

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

Manager's Corner



Sergio Ramirez
General Manager

As we enter a new year, I'd like to recognize the hard working and dedicated staff at West Bay Sanitary District (District). I see in my daily interactions that they care about their impact on the community and making a difference by providing exceptional service to Atherton, East Palo Alto, Los Altos Hills, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Mateo County, a small portion of Santa Clara County, and the Town of Woodside. We pride ourselves on having one of the best response times to a service request in the Bay Area and 98% customer satisfaction. Our service crews respond to service requests within twenty minutes of receiving a call and our administrative staff has worked with homeowners and contractors on the more efficient automated (and easy to use) on-line permitting system.

Most recently, the District received recognition from the California Water Environment Association by awarding the District with the coveted "Collection System of the Year" award. The award recognizes outstanding preventative maintenance programs, minimal sewer spills, and an excellent "no loss time due to accidents" history. The District's current experience modification (X-Mod) factor used to rate workers' compensation cost

is one of the lowest in the State. I am very proud of our staff and the way in which they serve the community.

An exciting project we will be focusing on in 2025 is the new Bayfront Recycled Water Facility behind Bedwell Bayfront Park. The new facility will bring recycled water to the Menlo Park and Atherton area and eventually to the Menlo Park Government Center, Burgess Park, as well as East Palo Alto through the Willow Village project. The District broke ground in August 2024 by demolishing the Menlo Park Sanitary District treatment facility which was constructed in the 1940's and retired in the early 1980's. Demolishing the old facility gives way to constructing a one million gallons per day reclamation water facility and distribution system. The new facility will take raw wastewater and convert it to Title XXII clean and clear reusable water for irrigation, cooling towers, and commercial toilet flushing. We are excited to offer this great resource to the community.

We are busy working on many other infrastructure projects as part of our 10-year Master Plan. For more information on reclaimed water and other projects, please visit our website at www.westbaysanitary.org We look forward to another great year and hope the same for our community!



SAFETY FIRST!

The District employees have surpassed seven years without a lost time accident which represents one of the lowest rates of on-the-job injuries in the wastewater and public works industries. Employees have worked over 62,400 hours without a lost time accident. As a result of working year after year without a lost time accident, the District has realized savings in insurance contributions to the California Sanitation Risk Management Authority. The District's proactive safety program is an essential part of effective risk management and provides savings in insurance premiums, improved morale, increased productivity, employee' wellbeing, and may reduce equipment and vehicle repair costs.



Trench Safety Training

LENDING A HELPING HAND

The District is in three Interagency Service agreements for the Operations and Maintenance of sanitary sewer systems. Since 2014 staff have been successfully working with the Town of Woodside and Town of Los Altos Hills to inspect and clean the towns' sewer systems. Staff recommends repairs and are added to the towns' Capital Improvement Projects according to the deficiencies found by the Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Crews. The District's Pump Crew also maintains the publicly owned sewer lift stations for the towns. As of August 1, 2024, the District entered its third interagency agreement with the City of East Palo Alto to assist in maintaining their subsidiary sanitary district, the East Palo Alto Sanitary District (EPASD). District maintenance crews will Hydro Jet and CCTV inspect the sanitary sewer mainlines just as they do for the other two contracts. This agreement includes 24-hour lateral service call response; as well, as Underground Service Alert (USA) utility marking. All three agreements are intended to provide the same quality service West Bay Sanitary District customers have been receiving since the District was formed in 1902.



Inspecting Manhole Pipeline Access while Jetting

IMPROVING THE PROCESS

Our regional wastewater treatment plant, Silicon Valley Clean Water (SVCW) is developing a Nutrient Removal project mandated by the California State Water Board. In addition to the solids, organics, and pathogen removal already required by the Water Board, SVCW will soon need to reduce the amount of nitrogen discharged into the bay by 60%. If nutrients are not treated, the discharge of nitrogen into the bay can cause algal blooms, kill fish, increase microbes and be harmful to human health and aquatic plants and animals. The new mandate will require SVCW to make a significant investment in the treatment process that could cost nearly \$100 million or beyond. The nutrients removal project will need to be constructed by 2034. SVCW is currently in the planning phase for the project and is looking for ways to reduce the cost while still meeting the regulatory requirement.

DISTRICT PROJECTS

Bayfront Recycled Water Facility Project will include a recycled water facility, recycled water distribution pipeline, and influent wastewater pumping station. The District's consultant, Woodard & Curran, is managing the construction. The project began in August 2024 with a completion date in early 2027.



Bayfront Recycled Water Facility

Flow Equalization and Resource Recovery Facility Levee Improvements Project provides sea rise flood protection of the District's Flow Equalization and Resource Recovery Facility (FERRF). Improvements include both sheet pile and nature-based adaptation measures, with a (living shoreline to combat rising sea levels. The project raises the levee from its current elevation to fifteen feet, four feet above the FEMA eleven-foot flood elevation.

Bayfront Park Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project is located at the intersection of Marsh Road and Bayfront Expressway at Bedwell Bayfront Park. It is upsizing trunk sewer pipelines for the benefit of a future influent pump station, replacing portions of the 30-inch and 36-inch sewer main along Bayfront Expressway at the front of the park entrance with a 42-inch pipeline to allow for future capacity, and installing recycled water pipe for future use.

Avy Altschul Pump Station Project is located on Los Lomitas Elementary School District property in a new easement to provide 60,000 gallons per day of additional wastewater to the Sharon Heights Recycled Water Facility for treatment, used for irrigation.

Willow Road Pump Station & Stowe Lane Pump Station Projects are modernizing two of the District's oldest pump stations. This includes features such as new pumps and valves, modern telemetry alarm communication, fall protection access hatches, ventilation for updated odor control, and security perimeter fencing.

Pump Stations Telemetry System Project will replace the District's phone line telemetry system to monitor the eleven publicly owned pump stations. The District's telemetry system is vital to monitoring and operating the District's pump stations. The new system will remove outdated telephone lines and be cloud based, bringing the system to the 21st century.

Point Repair Phase 1 & 2

This project includes rehabilitation and replacement of sanitary sewer mains by open trench construction, pipe bursting, pipe patches, and cured-in-place pipe at 100 locations in the City of Menlo Park, Town of Atherton, and unincorporated areas in San Mateo County. The project replaces old pipeline with root intrusion, cracks, and voids. Some pipelines have been in the ground for over 90 years.



Contractor Replacing Old Brick Manhole with Concrete Manhole

SAN MATEO COUNTY

continued from page 6

following a 7.0 quake off the coast of Humboldt County tested San Mateo County's emergency alert system. Luckily, no actual tsunami struck.

In good environmental news, a new San Mateo County park will soon be opening at Tunitas Creek Beach, and the Board of Supervisors voted to name it after late supervisor and County Sheriff Don Horsley to honor his contribution to the protection of that stretch of public beach.

Fire

There were several notable fires that took place in San Mateo County this year. The most dangerous was an eight-alarm fire that resulted in the "total loss" of an affordable housing project in North Fair Oaks. A very windy day made the fire hard to fight, but officials praised the quick actions of firefighters, which resulted in no injuries to bystanders or emergency responders, and prevented the large blaze from spreading to nearby buildings.

A large fire at the Sims Metal recycling plant in Redwood City

caused air quality problems throughout the area. The fire began while employees were loading a shredder with burning pieces of metal, and resulted in a large plume of smoke that could be seen for miles.

Technology

This year, the Board of Supervisors addressed artificial intelligence head on, and in January, passed a resolution pledging that the county will not replace employees with AI. Supervisors also passed a resolution urging Congress to require health warnings on social media, aimed at addressing mental health concerns linked to social media.

In August, autonomous vehicle service from Waymo began rolling into Daly City, Broadmoor and Colma, marking the first time that the robot cars were allowed to carry people in the county. Nuro, another autonomous vehicle company, expanded its autonomous delivery services in Menlo Park and Atherton in the same month.

Technology is now even more accessible at San Mateo County libraries, as the library system launched a collection of video games that are available for county residents to borrow.

In 2023, AT&T applied to end its carrier of last resort obligations, which would mean that the company would no longer be required to offer landline services in remote areas, including the remote areas of San Mateo County. In early 2024, county supervisors came out swinging against the communications company's proposal, and urged the California Public Utilities Commissions to deny AT&T's proposal. In June, the CPUC denied AT&T's request, ensuring that remote county residents could keep their landline service.

The Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative expanded access to its community space, allowing more community organizations to use its facilities for events and meetings.

Courts

In July, the county debuted its Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment courts for people suffering from psychotic disorders. The goal of the new CARE court is to connect people with schizophrenia and other serious mental health disorders with mental health care, housing and other services rather than sending them through the usual court system.

The county also selected a new executive officer for the court system; Chad Peace, who comes from Harris County, Texas, was selected to replace Neal Taniguchi as the San Mateo County Superior Court's executive officer. The county's probate court also moved from Redwood City to San Mateo in July.

Housing and real estate

As always, housing, real estate and the cost of living were hot topics in San Mateo County. In February, San Mateo became the only county in the United States where a homebuyer needs to earn more than \$500,000 yearly to afford a median-priced home.

Though housing is in high demand, the office vacancy rates in the county in 2024 remained 3x higher than they were pre-COVID, a report from commercial real estate firm Kidder Matthews found.

The county launched an Accessory Dwelling Unit resource center, a portal that provides information, resources and tools to make it easier to build ADUs throughout the county, in hopes that it will help alleviate some housing pressure.

Following a 25% monthly rent hike, a food bank and church in North Fair Oaks is facing an uncertain future. Other food



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Volunteer Maria del Socorro packs a variety of different food into boxes at the Verbo Food Pantry in North Fair Oaks on Oct. 16, 2024.

distribution services in San Mateo County struggled throughout the year due to the exceedingly high demand from residents, which matched the levels of need the organizations saw during the pandemic. ■

Martha Stevens Coddington

July 21, 1945 – December 12, 2024

Martha Stevens Coddington (Marty) died peacefully in her sleep at home with her children by her side, at the age of 79 on December 12, 2024. She was born on July 21, 1945, in San Mateo, California. She was predeceased by her parents Russell and Maisie Stevens and her husband of 45 years, Clinton H. Coddington (Bud).



Marty grew up in Baywood and attended San Mateo High School for a few semesters, but then graduated from Aragon High School's first graduating class. She attended Smith College where she lived in Baldwin House and made wonderful, life-long friends. After graduation, Marty returned to California and earned a master's degree in education at UC Berkeley. She taught fourth grade in Burlingame for several years.

Marty and Bud were married in June of 1970. They raised two children, Clint and Cathy, and lived on the Peninsula, eventually retiring in Sharon Heights.

Marty was a passionate equestrian, tennis player, and skier. She loved sharing these activities with her children and five grandchildren (Grace, Claire, Elena, Clinton, and Belén). Marty was a member of the Francisca Club, the Shack Riders, and the Racqueteurs. She loved to travel throughout the US and around the world, yet Lake Tahoe was her favorite place on earth.

Marty is survived by her brother, William Stevens, Clint and Cathy, and her five grandchildren. She will be loved and cherished always.

Memorial services will be private.

Donations can be made in Marty's name to:

The Peninsula Humane Society: <https://phs-spca.org/>

PAID OBITUARY

Employment

The Almanac offers employment advertising.

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Visit AlmanacNews.com/employment_ads/.

For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Greenwaste Christmas tree pickup

Greenwaste will be picking up Christmas trees from Dec. 26-Jan. 25 on regular collection days for Woodside residents.

Discarded trees cannot be larger than 5 feet tall and must be cut if needed. All decorations and stands must be removed and flocked trees will not be accepted and should be placed in the gray mixed compostables cart.

For more information visit greenwaste.com/woodside.

Safety tips for older adults

The town of Woodside is hosting a workshop on how older adults can keep themselves safe and prevent injuries from falling at home. The event is at 3 p.m. on Jan. 16 at Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road in Woodside, and on Zoom.

The workshop will touch on how to travel safely around the house, how hardware devices and home repairs can reduce the likelihood of falling and what services are available.

Event details and Zoom link can be found on the calendar on woodsideca.gov.

For more information contact Council member Dick Brown at d.brown@woodsideca.gov or call Administrative Services Director Cindy Safe at 650- 851-6790.

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Create cat toys at the Menlo Park Library

Artist and educator Raine Robichaud is leading a workshop for youth and adults on constructing handmade cat toys on Jan. 6 at the Menlo Park Library, located at 800 Alma St. The workshop will take place from 3-4:30 p.m., and all supplies will be included. The program is free for all participants.

Robichaud leads art workshops throughout the Bay Area with an emphasis on creative exploration and social connection.

Menlo Park hosts teen college and career day on Jan. 25

Local teens are invited to join college, military and vocational school representatives as well as professionals who are experts in their fields to learn more about the options available after high school at Menlo Park's inaugural teen college and career day. The career day will take place on Saturday, Jan. 25, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Belle Haven Community Campus, located at 100 Terminal Ave.

The event is free to attend, with no registration required. Attendees do not need to be residents of Menlo Park. A light lunch will be provided to attendees while supplies last. Participants who register in advance of the event the event will be entered into a prize drawing.

Learn more and register for the event at tinyurl.com/mpteencareerday.

— Eleanor Raab

AR TOOL
continued from page 5

we'll do," he added. The technology also connects to an external display where a commander is able to see through the eyes of the firefighter and allows them to send visual cues for communication. This clears up radio lines that can be used for critical communications such as a mayday, when a firefighter is lost, trapped or injured. Despite the technology adding an additional four pounds to a four pound helmet, Lorenzen

said the benefits of C-Thru are worth the extra weight.

Deployment of C-Thru

C-Thru is going to service in 2025, said Schapelhouman, who has been working with Qwake since the start of its partnership with Menlo Park Fire. According to Cossman, Qwake recently secured a \$4.7 million contract with the Department of Homeland Security to ramp up production of 400 units that are going to 80 departments referred by the United States Fire Administration, DHS and a

number of congressional offices. The company has conducted 22 field trials and built 14 versions of C-Thru to get to its current model, he added. Mike Ralston, co-founder of Qwake and a former Menlo Park firefighter, said the prototypes have been tested hundreds of times by fire departments around the world. The product has been adjusted over the past decade through feedback received from firefighters and fire departments. C-Thru Navigators will cost about \$5,000 to \$10,000 each, said Ralston. "There's an investment there but it's a life saving investment," he added.

Menlo Park Fire has been at the forefront of incorporating technology with its robotics and drone program and was the first to embrace C-Thru and help the company perfect the product, Cossman explained. "Our small team of firefighters, innovators and engineers could not have done this without the support of groups like [the Menlo Park Fire Protection District], so we're very grateful for that," said Cossman. Learn more about the technology at qwake.tech. ■

*Email Staff Writer
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jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.*

'NOON YEAR'S EVE'
continued from page 5

Staples. Although younger children may not fully understand the shift into a new year, they can still feel the excitement of the holiday and be involved in some capacity. San Mateo County Libraries has been hosting Noon Year's Eve since December 2015 and it's been a very popular event, said Staples. Smaller library locations such as Woodside and Portola Valley have seen up to 100 people attend and larger locations have hosted a couple hundred, she added.

What to look forward to in 2025

The county library is looking for more children ages 0 to 5 to sign up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which launched in August. Families can sign up to receive a free book in the mail every month. There are no requirements and no income restrictions, said Staples. In 2025, the library looks forward to hosting cultural celebrations, author visits, activities, opportunities to advance literary skills and summer adventures. "There's always something new around the corner," said Staples. To stay updated on San Mateo County Libraries events sign up for its newsletter or visit smcl.org. ■



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Firefighters watch a screen connected to the C-Thru App, which displays live footage of what firefighters are seeing inside a timed test trial at the Baylands Structural Collapse and Burn Center in Menlo Park on Dec. 20, 2024.



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Shana Bird wears a taco costume as she reads the book "Dragons Love Tacos" during Atherton Library's "noon year" celebration on Dec. 27, 2024.

LEHUA GREENMAN

"No one can go back in time to change what has happened. So work on your present to make yourself a wonderful future."

Happy New Year!

650.245.1845 COMPASS

Fungi: Key to helping ecosystems weather climate change?

Stanford biologist Kabir Peay investigates mycorrhizal fungi, which form symbiotic relationships with plant roots, enhancing nutrient and water absorption. His research focuses on how these underground networks support plant health and resilience, particularly in the face of climate change. Peay's team employs a multidisciplinary approach, combining field studies, lab experiments, and genetic analysis to understand fungal diversity and their role in ecosystems. By exploring how fungi adapt to environmental conditions, they aim to develop strategies for sustainable agriculture and ecosystem management. Peay's work underscores the importance of these fungal networks in maintaining forest health and their potential applications in combating climate change. **SCAN TO READ THE SPOTLIGHT** →



PRESENTED BY **Stanford University**

Looking back



Anna Hoch-Kenney



Magali Gauthier



Clockwise from top left From left to right, volunteer Monique Jones, horse handler Darrel LeBlanc, and adaptive riding instructor Matt Gridley walk alongside a client and horse during an equine facilitated therapy session at NCEFT in Woodside on Aug. 29. The northern lights were visible from Windy Hill Preserve in Portola Valley on May 10. A California State Parks worker supervises the fire during a prescribed burn in Butano State Park in Pescadero on Oct. 30. Teachers, faculty, students, and parents carried signs and marched in front of La Entrada Middle School on the morning of Oct. 23, as part of the Las Lomas Education Association's strike for higher wages and a better contract. Sutton Vo of San Jose waves a flag at a gathering of Trump supporters along Palo Alto's El Camino Real on Sept. 13. Two new electric trains at the San Francisco Caltrain station wait for guests of a VIP tour and first ride on Aug. 10. Members of the May Day Parade kindergarten court ride in a Woodside Fire District engine on May 4. (Continued on page 14)

Look at 2024



Eugene Beh



Magali Gauthier



Anna Hoch-Kenney



Anna Hoch-Kenney



Anna Hoch-Kenney



Adam Pardee



Magali Gauthier



Anna Hoch-Kenney



Anna Hoch-Kenney

(Continued from page 13) **Top:** Woodside High seniors throw their caps in the air during the graduation commencement in on June 7. **Middle left:** Lucia, 3, examines a spider “skeleton” during the Trunk-or-Treat event at Belle Haven Community Campus in Menlo Park on Oct. 29. **Middle right:** San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus takes questions from the press during a last-minute conference at the Sheriff’s Office in Redwood City on Nov. 12. **Bottom:** From left to right, diners Jeff Davidson, Simone Davidson, and Katie Neilson eat breakfast at Buck’s Restaurant in Woodside and watch as co-owner Tyler MacNiven disassembles the restaurant’s outdoor dining parklet on the morning of Nov. 24.

MEASURE A

continued from page 1

duties, flagrant or repeated neglect of a sheriff's duties, misappropriation of public funds or property, willful falsification of an official statement or document or obstruction of any investigation into the Sheriff's Office, as defined in federal, state and local laws.

Before any vote for removal would be taken, Corpus, or any other sheriff removed under this charter amendment, would have to be given an opportunity to explain and defend themselves. Corpus has previously denied invitations from the board to provide sworn testimony about the findings detailed in the report.

Measure A must be approved by a simple majority of San Mateo County voters to pass.

This proposed charter amendment is not unprecedented in the state of California; several other counties, including Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Francisco counties, have charter provisions that grant their supervisors the authority to remove a sheriff for certain causes.

Voters can begin mailing in their ballots on Feb. 3. Early in-person vote centers will open the same day in Redwood City and San Mateo. Ballot dropoff locations will open between Feb. 4 and March 4. The deadline to register to vote in this election is Feb. 18.

Arguments in favor of the measure

In the arguments submitted to the county, supporters argue that Measure A "provides urgent checks and balances on the Sheriff's Office." Supporters also argue that since the charter amendment would sunset in 2028, this action represents a "time-limited solution to protect (the) community," rather than a permanent transfer of power to the Board of Supervisors.

Supporters of Measure A argue that keeping Corpus in office poses a significant risk to the county. Based on the findings of retaliation, abuse of power and racial and homophobic slurs that were sustained by the independent investigation, supporters of the measure argue that the county is open to "millions of dollars in liability and lawsuits." They also note that mass resignations and lack of confidence in the sheriff by sworn personnel pose a threat to residents' safety.

"How can we trust the sheriff to keep our county safe when the sheriff's own team doesn't?" wrote those who crafted the arguments in favor.

In a statement on Nov. 27, the



Anna Hoch-Kenney

San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus takes questions from the press during a last-minute conference at the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office in Redwood City on Nov. 12, 2024.

two Sheriff's unions, representing nearly the entire sworn staff in the Sheriff's Office, urged Corpus to step down from her position, saying that they would no longer work with her.

The county is already facing a claim from a former captain who alleges that he experienced retaliation from the sheriff and her executive team after refusing to serve an internal affairs notice that he believed to be illegal and that he was asked to arrest union president Carlos Tapia without "any factual basis," in an "improper and illegal" manner.

"Our community deserves better leadership, accountability and integrity," wrote supporters of the ballot measure. "There must be consequences if a sheriff violates public trust."

Arguments against the measure

In the arguments against the ballot measure, Stegink writes that it is "a political power grab by a few local supervisors," and that the measure amounts to voter suppression, as it "strips voters of their power to elect an independent sheriff."

"Don't give up your right to vote on who will best protect your family and community," he wrote.

Stegink lauds Corpus' record as sheriff, especially because there were no homicides in the sheriff's jurisdiction in 2024. Data from CrimeGraphics.com supports that, as of Dec. 24, there were no homicides in the county in 2024.

Stegink also wrote that the measure was "buttressed by multiple, intentional violations of state law," would not survive scrutiny in court and would cost taxpayers millions of dollars. A legal challenge to a similar charter amendment in San Bernardino County ended with the Fourth District Court of Appeals finding that the ordinance was constitutional.

In an interview with this news

county residents vote on each supervisor.

"When you've got five people who have been elected by every single member of the county, it's a completely different analysis," he said. "I expect it to be knocked down in court. I don't think it will ever make the ballot."

Rebuttals

An official rebuttal to the con arguments was also submitted to the county, signed by former East Palo Alto City Council member and incoming Supervisor Lisa Gauthier, Assembly member Diane Papan, South San Francisco Mayor Eddie Flores, former State Sen. Jerry Hill and Kalimah Salahuddin, who is the chair of the San Mateo County Independent Advisory Commission on the Sheriff's Office.

The rebuttal doubles down on the findings that surfaced in the independent investigation, such

as a "culture of intimidation," "conflicts of interest," and "blatant discrimination," and notes that Corpus had Tapia arrested the morning that the investigative report was released on charges of felony time card fraud.

An investigation by District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe's office found that there was no basis for the arrest of Tapia and that "he should not have been arrested."

"These actions are deliberate attacks on the principles of justice and accountability," supporters wrote in the rebuttal. "The board needs the power to remove a sheriff if it concludes these problems warrant her removal."

Stegink did not submit a rebuttal, but in an interview with this news organization, he emphasized that the ballot measure is "a power grab." ■

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 and Planning Commission** will hold a public study session to introduce and discuss a report on potential inclusionary housing programs for future consideration and implementation by the Town.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said study session is set for a joint meeting of the City Council and Planning Commission on **January 8, 2025, at 4:00 PM** in-person and via teleconference accessible through the information provided below, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the topics listed below should or should not be discussed. This meeting will be held via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The public may participate in the meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

Topic: Atherton City Council and Planning Commission Joint Study Session

Time: January 8, 2025, 04:00 PM Pacific Time

In person Option: 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA

Zoom Meeting Option and Details:

<https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/j/97102770195>

Meeting ID: 971 0277 0195

Dial: 1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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

Email: planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us

Descriptions:

The public study session on January 8, 2025, will introduce a report on potential inclusionary housing programs in the Town. These programs coincide with the 2023-2031 Atherton Housing Element, as adopted by the City Council on October 16, 2024. Feedback provided during this study session will assist staff in drafting an ordinance to implement the Town's desired strategies. Earliest consideration of an ordinance is anticipated to begin with Planning Commission at their regular meeting on January 22, 2025, with subsequent consideration for approval by the City Council at meetings scheduled thereafter. Updates to this process will be shared on the Town's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance website: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/677/Inclusionary-Housing-Ordinance>

The agenda and staff report for the **January 8, 2025**, study session can be found online by Friday, January 3, 2025, here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

The study session has been determined to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15252 Feasibility and Planning Studies.

If you have any questions on the item please contact Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner, at bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us or (408) 688-2432.

Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Consulting Town Planner, at bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us or (408) 688-2432. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL
/s/ Brittany Bendix
Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner



Give back locally

WITH A GIFT TO THE HOLIDAY FUND

Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$310,000 from more than 170 donors for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed on this page.

DONATE ONLINE:

AlmanacNews.com/holiday_fund

The organizations below provide major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.



Rotary Club of Menlo Park

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Please consider donating online, which enables your gift to be processed immediately. The secure website is:
AlmanacNews.com/holiday_fund

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I wish to designate my contribution as follows: (select one)

In my name as shown above

In the name of business above

OR: In honor of: In memory of: As a gift for:

(Name of person)

The **Almanac**



**The Almanac
Holiday
Fund
2024**

All donors and their gift amounts will be published in The Almanac unless the boxes below are checked.

I wish to contribute anonymously.

Please withhold the amount of my contribution.

Please make checks payable to:
Embarcadero Media Foundation

Send coupon and check to:

**The Almanac Holiday Fund
c/o Embarcadero Media Foundation
2345 Yale Street, 1st floor
Palo Alto, CA 94306**

The Almanac Holiday Fund is sponsored by the Embarcadero Media Foundation and Silicon Valley Community Foundation. Both are 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organizations, allowing your donation to be tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula

Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, college and career access, and mental health programs to more than 5,000 low-income youth at 29 locations from East Palo Alto to Daly City.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

Health Connected

Serves over 5,000 students and their families each year through comprehensive sexual health education programs. Students learn to have ongoing communication with parents and to make informed decisions that will apply to their lives, now and in the future.

LifeMoves

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 26 sites in Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

Literacy Partners

Supports literacy programs and projects through fundraising and community awareness. Helps community members enhance their reading, writing and related skills and education to improve their economic, professional and personal wellbeing.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded by voluntary contributions and community grants, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers take-home bags of food, as well as emergency food and clothing assistance.

St. Francis Center

Helps low-income, working families become self-supporting members of the community by providing long-term solutions through educational programs for children and parents, as well as after-school programming at Siena Youth Centers. St. Francis Center also provides housing, food and clothing services to address short-term needs.

StarVista

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people and families, with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

Upward Scholars

Upward Scholars empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher-paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

DONATE ONLINE: AlmanacNews.com/holiday_fund



The Almanac Holiday Fund

**THANK YOU FOR DONATING
TO THE HOLIDAY FUND**

Almanac Holiday Fund Donor List

As of December 30th, 139 donors have contributed
\$337,378 to the Holiday Fund.

34 Anonymous	\$203,356	Lucy Reid-Krensky	100
Leigh Flesher and Mark Bailey	1,000	Don & Catherine Coluzzi	*
Barbara and Charles Preuss	*	Roger Witte and Patricia Bredehoft	100
Margaret & Jamis MacNiven	100	Bill & Melba Rogoway	*
Bruce & Ann Willard	1,000	James Esposito	*
Judy & Ken Kormanak	*	Sybille Katz	200
Klaus & Ellen Porzig	250	Paul Perret	*
Marc & Mary Ann Saunders	*	Jim Lewis	*
Neil & Ellen Macneale	100	Jane Paulson	4,000
Bill & Dana Starling	100	Melanie Austin	*
Dianne Ellsworth	250	Barbara & Carl Jacobson	150
Bill & Nancy Ellsworth	*	Margaret Melaney	1,000
Dave & Diane Toole	100	Betsy & Frank Stockdale	200
Kenneth Turkowski	100	Dennis Ruby	300
Mary and Bob Dodge	200	Mayling Dixon	*
Tom Kilduff & Debby Bolding	1,000	Kathy Mueller	100
Kathy & Bob Feldman	500	Gisela Brugger	1,000
John & Lisa Whelan	100	Joyce Pharriss	*
Carl Jukkola & Desmond Lee	500	Dennis Monohan	100
Greg & Penny Gallo	200	John and Shirley Reiter	150
Sidney Chen & Sandra Lee Chen	1,000	Carol & Leif Langensand	500
Bob & Marna Page	*	Dave & Dolores Glendon	150
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Terrri Bullock	5,000		
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Kathy Kwan	*		
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Cynthia Dusel-Bacon and Charlie Bacon	300		
Woods Family	*		
Susan Kritzik & Bruce McAuley	*		
Linda Maki	100		
Karen Perlroth	300		
Judy and Doug Adams	300		
Mary Pless	100		
Michael & Leslie Crisp	*		
Susan Kirtley	300		
Donald & Judith Mac Millan	500		
John Galen	*		
Elizabeth Tromovitch	100		
Ann & Tom Livermore	1,000		
Dorothy Saxe	100		
Kayleen Miller	100		
Lori & Dennis McBride	500		
Victoria Rundorff	500		
Stephen Martin	400		
Richard Duda	120		
James Lemesurier	100		
Joe & Julie Zier	*		
Laura Hofstadter & Leonard Shar	750		
Robert & Connie Loarie	*		
Walter Robinson	150		
Sandy Cold	500		
Joan Rubin	*		
Bill Wohler	485		
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Linda Keenan	1,000		

In Memory Of

Bill Davey	500
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Jeff Schneiderman	*
Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard	1,000
Alex Rudd	100
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John L. Richardson	200
Paul L. Bosman	*
Alex Park	2,000
Nancy Stevens	*
Our son Craig Carlson	*

In Honor Of

Mar and PoPo Russ	*
David & Emily Liggett	*

Businesses & Organizations

Hewlett Foundation	20,000
Packard Foundation	15,000
Narrative Histories - Maggie MarkdaSilva	500
Griffin & Sons Construction	150
Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation	10,000
Wealth Architects	*

* Donor did not want to publish
the amount of the gift.

DONATE ONLINE:
[AlmanacNews.com/
holiday_fund](http://AlmanacNews.com/holiday_fund)



Empowering communities: St. Francis Center transforms lives with support, services

By Kate Young and Pam Kelly

Since its inception in 1986, St. Francis Center has played a vital role in building connections within the Redwood City community, serving as a crucial resource for low-income families. By offering essential services and fostering partnerships with local organizations, the center empowers families to live with dignity and work toward self-sufficiency. This collaborative approach has strengthened the support network available to families and united the community in the shared effort to create opportunities for a brighter future.

Located in the heart of the North Fair Oaks neighborhood, historically marked by crime and gang activity, the center has been instrumental in transforming the area into a strong and vibrant community.

What began as a modest food and clothing donation outlet, operating out of La Casita cottage, has evolved into a thriving, multifaceted organization. Guided by the mission of “compassion, not judgment,” St. Francis Center has adapted to meet the changing needs of families brought on by the growth of the Silicon Valley tech industry.

St. Francis Center relies on the dedication of its staff, nearly 200 volunteers contributing 18,000 hours of service each year, and partnerships with local organizations to offer services at no cost to underserved families in Redwood City.

“We believe that every family deserves the opportunity to thrive, not just survive,” said Kate Young, executive director of St. Francis Center. “We are a village that works together and stands shoulder to shoulder to look out for one another and nurture our children. Together, in community, we build a better future for us all.”

The center’s programs include Holy Family School, a private academy for grades K-8. Here, students and parents are offered a challenging curriculum and life-changing educational opportunities. Students excel in this rich environment, and many have been accepted to prestigious high schools, including Sacred Heart, St. Francis, Serra, and Notre Dame.

An essential part of Holy



Courtesy St. Francis Center

ESL tutoring at the St. Francis Center in Redwood City.



multigenerational families. As the affordable housing crisis worsens, the center remains committed to meeting these critical community needs.

St. Francis Center combats food insecurity through its Food Pantry, distributing nearly 26,000 pounds of nutritious food to 3,333 individuals representing 618 households monthly. Other services include the clothing closet, community gardens and shower and laundry facilities.

Additionally, on-site bilingual case managers assist community members weekly with applications for rental assistance, Medi-Cal, WIC, CalFresh, affordable housing and utility programs.

Each holiday season, the Siena Youth Center hosts the Holiday Toy Drive, which distributes 5,000 new toys, books, and sporting goods to low-income families.

St. Francis Center remains unwavering in its commitment to uplift and empower the Redwood City community. Through collaboration, compassion, and a focus on dignity, the Center continues to inspire hope and foster resilience among families facing adversity.

St. Francis Center is one of the beneficiaries of The Almanac’s Holiday Fund. Donations are divided equally among this year’s 10 nonprofit organizations and 100% of the funds raised go directly to the recipients. Donations to the Holiday Fund can be made at almanac-news.com/holiday_fund. ■

St. Francis Center is actively addressing the urgent issue of affordable housing. It operates 18 apartment buildings that provide homes for nearly 1,000 individuals from 268

Kate Young is executive director of St. Francis Center and Pam Kelly is with PRxDigital.

Public Notices

GRANDVIEW/ESPINOSA ROAD FUND
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-299094

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

1.) GRANDVIEW/ESPINOSA ROAD FUND , located at 166 Grandview Dr, Woodside, CA, 94062.

Registered owner(s):

JOE LANGE

166 Grandview Dr

Woodside, CA, 94062

PAMELA STRATTON

166 Grandview Dr

Woodside, CA, 94062

LAURA SCHAEFER

166 GRANDVIEW DR

Woodside, CA, 94062

CHRISTIN NEW

166 Grandview Dr

Woodside, CA, 94062

This business is conducted by: an Unincorporated Assoc. Other Than a Partnership.

Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on April 10, 2010.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 21, 2024.

(ALM Dec 6, 13, 20, 2024 and Jan 3, 2025)

SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-299257

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

1.) SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES , located at 14 Beta Court, San Ramon, CA 94583.

Registered owner(s):

STE ELECTRIC

14 Beta Court

San Ramon, CA 94583

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 4/10/2012.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 11, 2024.

(ALM Jan 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2025)

WESSAM AUTO SALE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-299263

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

1.) WESSAM AUTO SALE , located at 1311 Adrian Ave, San Mateo, CA 94403.

Registered owner(s):

FADHIL NAFI FADHIL

1311 Adrian Ave

San Mateo, CA 94403

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 December 11, 2024.

(ALM Jan 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2025)

BEAUTY MASTERY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-299109

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

1.) BEAUTY MASTERY , located at 2135 Roosevelt Ave , Redwood City, CA 94061.

Registered owner(s):

DAISY PMU INC

2135 Roosevelt Ave

Redwood City, CA 94061

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 01/28/2021.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 22, 2024.

(ALM Dec 13, 20, 2024, Jan 3 and 10, 2025)

KB STAGING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-299268

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

1.) KB STAGING , located at 14 Vista Road, San Mateo, CA 94403. Mailing Address: 311 Avila Road, San Mateo, CA 94402.

Registered owner(s):

CER DESIGNS, LLC

311 Avila Road

San Mateo, CA 94402

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 December 12, 2024.

(ALM Dec 20, 2024, Jan 3, 10 and 17, 2025)

SHE HIKES TOO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-299135

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

1.) SHE HIKES TOO , located at #1160 700 El Camino Real, Suite 120, Menlo Park, CA 94062.

Registered owner(s):

MNK CONSULTING LLC

#1160 700 El Camino Real, Suite 120

Menlo Park, CA 94062

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 November 27, 2024.

(ALM Dec 13, 20, 2024, Jan 3 and 10, 2025)

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

Case No.: 24CIV07611

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Nicholas Raymond Damer filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

NICHOLAS RAYMOND DAMER to NICHOLAS RAYMOND LIBERTY

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: 02/05/2025, 9:00am, Southern Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

ALMANAC

Date: December 6, 2024

Stephanie G. Garratt

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(ALM Dec 20, 2024, Jan 3, 10 and 17, 2025)

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

Case No.: 24-CIV-07254

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Claire Elizabeth Kolling filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

CLAIRE ELIZABETH KOLLING to CLAIRE ELIZABETH KROFT

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: 1/27/2025, 9:00 AM, Civil Department of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

ALMANAC

Date: 11/25/2024

Jeffrey R. Finigan

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(ALM Dec 13, 20, 2024, Jan 3 and 10, 2025)

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

Case No.: 24-CIV-07880

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Bradley Joseph-Van Tran filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

BRADLEY JOSEPH-VAN TRAN to BRADLEY VAN JOSEPH

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: February 18, 2025, 9:00 AM, Superior Court 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: DECEMBER 20, 2024

Elizabeth Lee

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(ALM Jan 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2025)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

GRACIELA TERESA DE PIERRIS

Case No.: 24-PRO-01518

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of GRACIELA TERESA DE PIERRIS.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Marta Susana De Pierris in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.

The Petition for Probate requests that: Marta Susana De Pierris 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 January 23 2025 at 9:00 AM in Probate Division 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.

Attorney for Petitioner:

Raquel Lazar-Paley, Esquire

Paley & Prehn, PLC

819 Eddy Street

San Francisco, CA 94109

415-338-8226

(ALM Dec 20, 2024, Jan 3 and 10, 2025)

SUMMONS

(CITATION JUDICIAL)

Case Number: (Numero del Caso): 24-CIV-07684

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN, CLAIMING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT* ADVERSE TO PLAINTIFFS' TITLE, OR ANY CLOUD UPON PLAINTIFFS' TITLE THERETO AND THE TESTATE AND INTESTATE SUCCESSORS OF JUNE R. DONEGAN, DECEASED, THE TESTATE AND INTESTATE SUCCESSORS OF RUSSELL J. SHUMAN, DECEASED, AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, OR UNDER SUCH DECEDENTS; AND DOES 1-10, INCLUSIVE.

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

BRET F. MADHVANI, an individual, SERLA A. HIRSCHLER, an individual, and DAVID M. HIRSCHLER and SERLA A. HIRSCHLER, Trustees of the DAVID AND SERLA HIRSCHLER LIVING TRUST.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta.

Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que

pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

400 COUNTY CENTER

REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

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):

MICHAEL R. WANSER, ESQ., GVM LAW, LLP

1000 MAIN STREET, SUITE 300

NAPA, CA 94559

(707) 252-9000

DATE (Fecha): 12/5/2024

Neal I. Taniguchi,

Clerk, by (Secretario)

Unaloto Finau

Deputy (Adjunto)
***THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT** is that certain real property located in San Mateo County, California, commonly known as 317 Bay Road, Menlo Park, California, 94025 designated as San Mateo County Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 062-035-150, and more particularly described as:

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(ALM Jan 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2025)

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Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



2024 IN FILM

THE BEST, THE WORST AND THE MOST MEMORABLE MOVIES OF THE YEAR

By Peter Canavese

There's a credible philosophical standpoint that there is no objective truth. It's an idea that always feels most acute to me when I sit down at the keyboard to proclaim "the best in film," which is, of course, an exercise in futility and narcissism. Taste is as subjective as it gets, dear reader. Top 10 Lists are messy and personal and arbitrary. Watching around 300 films a year makes me no more qualified to tell you what you'll like than anyone else. More than anything, a Top 10 list is simply telling on oneself.

But before you wrap fish in these pages, the case for making my case. As an enthusiast of the art form and its power to move us, enlighten us, provoke us or provide us with comfort, I don't just want to watch films but to share them with others, shine a light in the more shadowy spots of the cinematic year, and give a boost to films that, at least for me, offered something special.

No matter how clear the mission statement, I always find the process of weighing dramatic apples against comedic oranges, documentaries against narrative features, puts me back at the bottom of a Sisyphean hill, wondering if there's a better way to get this boulder to the top. So rather than trying to convince you why you should trust this list, I'll tell where it's coming from so you can make your decision—on whether to let the list guide you somewhere or to let it sleep with the fishes—a little easier.

The guiding principles here include recognizing films that took big swings creatively and thematically. While looking to represent some diversity of styles and content and social perspectives, I tend to favor films that made conversation with audiences about the biggest social challenges we face as individuals, as Americans, as global citizens. Old-fashioned

excellence of craft never goes out of style, but I like a distinctive vision and, better yet, an envelope pusher.

The film industry didn't change much this year. It's still struggling, especially when it comes to theatrical distribution and butts in theater seats. Revenue continues to drop: even the streaming balloons are beginning to lose their helium, and the party has gone from champagne dreaming to fizzling out. Film and TV production is in a shrinking phase, and belts are tightening. Since voting with our discretionary entertainment dollars has never been more important to the people responsible for transporting us with the moving image, maybe let's give the folks behind the films listed below some love.

THE TOP 10 FILMS OF 2024

10. **"The Substance"** (Digital, MUBI) If Rod Serling did Cronenbergian body-horror (and he kind of did, but that's another story), you'd get this wicked, frightfully clever satire of our misbegotten, self-destructive obsession with trying to cheat the aging process at any cost. In writer-director Coralie Fargeat's potently visceral film, Demi Moore and Margaret Qualley share the protagonist role by way of the titular fountain-of-youth potion. Naturally, there's a Faustian price to be paid, and the way matters backfire serves as an allegory for the unhealthy practices (from Botox to Ozempic to plastic surgery) to which women subject themselves to sustain a career in the pitiless entertainment industry.

9. **"I Saw the TV Glow"** (Digital, Max, Blu-ray) When Jane Schoenbrun's sophomore narrative feature works, which is most of the time, its characters'



From the top: Ian Foreman stars in filmmaker Jane Schoenbrun's feature "I Saw The TV Glow." Courtesy Spencer Pazer/A24. Actors from left, Renate Reinsve and Sebastian Stan star in "A Different Man," Aaron Schimberg's black comedy that explores how people with facial disfigurements are often viewed and treated. Courtesy Matt Infante/A24. Ethan Herisse stars as Elwood in director RaMell Ross's "Nickel Boys," our critic's pick for the best film of 2024. Courtesy Orion Pictures.

See **FILMS**, page 20

FILMS

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devastating lows bring the film to creative heights. The stealth subject is gender dysphoria, the trans experience, as filtered through a haunting coming-of-age allegory of repression and slippery nostalgia disrupting self-actualization. The choice to live one's truth — or not — is a matter of life and death, and while the film has been categorized as psychological horror, it's very much of the spooky, haunting, surrealist Lynchian variety. A flawed masterpiece, perhaps, but a deeply felt one.

8. **"How to Make Millions Before Grandma Dies"** (Digital, Blu-ray) Prioritizing substance over style, this Thai comedy-drama made it into American multiplexes before settling into its digital afterlife. A little movie that could, it's only garnered 22 critical reviews to date on Rotten Tomatoes, but enough for a 100% Tomatometer rating. In Pat Boonitipat's charming sleeper, a teenage boy decides to dedicate time and care to his dying grandmother in hopes of making his way into her will. Despite a dramatic trajectory that's easy to guess, there's nothing saccharine and everything relatable about how a family copes with the impending death of an elder.

7. **"The End"** (In Bay Area theaters soon) Long popular, apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic stories have begun noticeably to proliferate as artists project our shared fears over the probable extinction of the human race. Which brings us to "The End," Joshua Oppenheimer's elegy about the stragglers meeting out what's left of human existence in a salt-mine bunker. Did I mention that it's a Jacques Demy-style musical starring Tilda Swinton and Michael Shannon? "The End" might as well be the poster child for the notion "Not for Everyone," but to put it simply, we need art like this right about now to help us fathom the unfathomable.

6. **"A Different Man"** (Digital) Aaron Schimberg's cosmic-joke black comedy refines his previous "Chained for Life," which also starred Adam Pearson and explored how people with facial disfigurements are often viewed and treated and, as a result, how they often view and treat themselves (Schimberg has a cleft palate; Pearson has neurofibromatosis). This time, Sebastian Stan plays an actor with a genetic condition similar to Pearson's: when medicine offers to turn his face "normal," life doesn't necessarily improve,

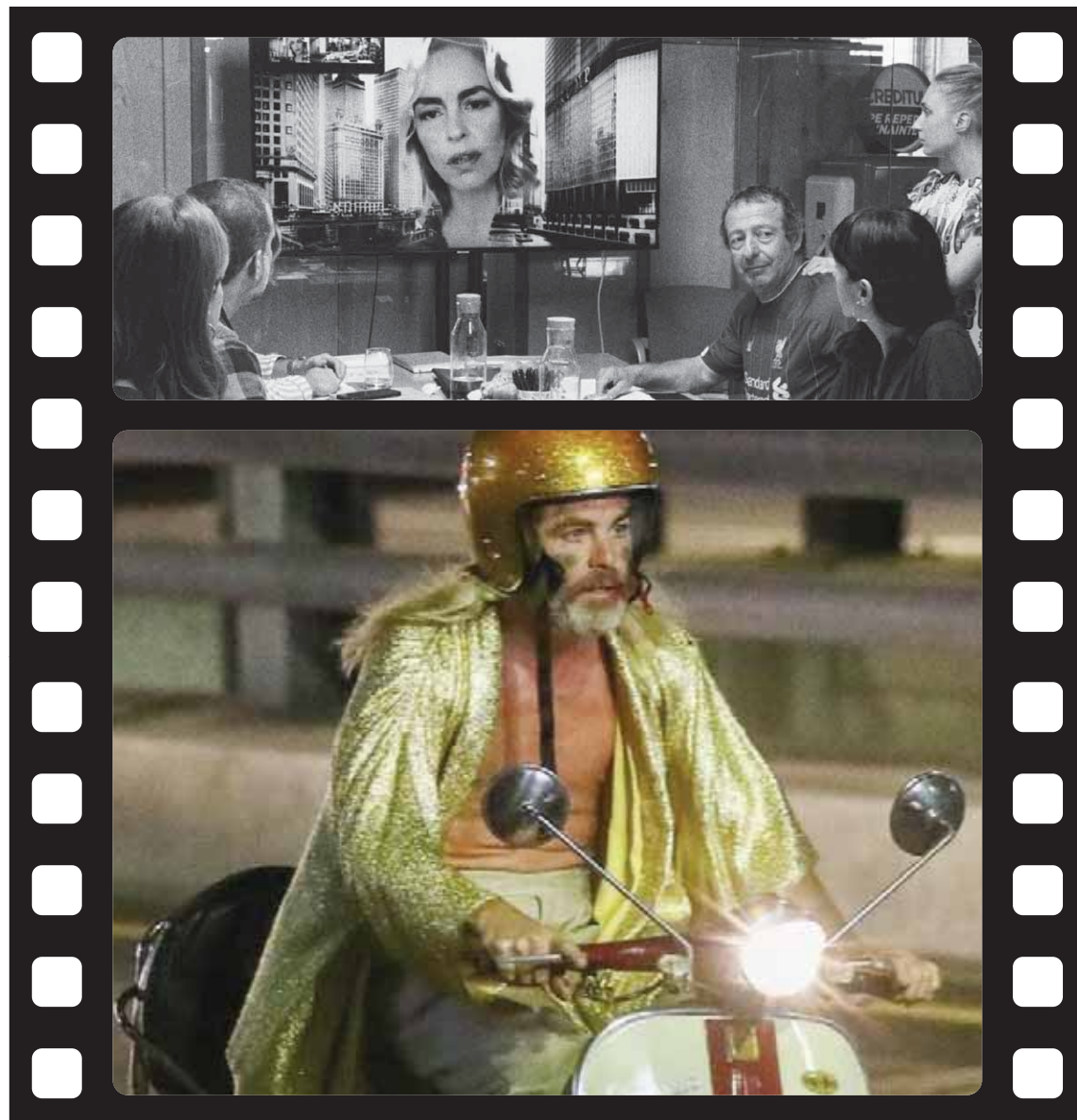
resulting in something like the deadpan comedy version of "The Substance."

5. **"Hard Truths"** (in Bay Area theaters Jan. 10) Just by being true to himself, Mike Leigh has made a film that feels almost defiantly old-fashioned. Reminiscent of his early kitchen-sink comedy-dramas, the London-set "Hard Truths" is a character study of a woman who might be described as "impossible." Her disagreeable nature springs from anhedonia, which tortures her as much as it does her nevertheless devoted loved ones. With a brilliant ensemble led by Marianne Jean-Baptiste, this slow burner gets more and more absorbing as it goes along, its biting humor the kindling for an existential trial by fire.

4. **"All We Imagine as Light"** (now playing in Bay Area theaters) Payal Kapadia's unshowy drama about three female nurses in Mumbai gradually evolves from a slow-cinema verité account of urban life's mundane paces and romantic frustrations into something yet more complex: a reminder and consideration of rural alternatives to the rat race. Soulful and poetic, with beautiful photography and gently rendered performances. Not for nothing, it's also the winner of the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival and topped "Sight & Sound" magazine's annual critics poll.

3. **"Do Not Expect Too Much from the End of the World"** (Digital, MUBI) Romanian filmmaker Radu Jude made something of a splash three years ago with "Bad Luck Banging or Loony Porn." His latest ups the ante with nearly three hours of cultural stimulation: extensive excerpts from a 1981 Romanian film which Jude sequelizes in his new footage, a young female firebrand (Ilinca Manolache) making profane TikToks with an Andrew Tate filter, and enough literate references for two dozen films. It's all in service of decrying the increasingly unlivable worldwide income gap as empires fall and billionaires tighten their grips of exploitation.

2. **"No Other Land"** (in theaters & on VOD, 4K Blu-ray, Blu-ray, DVD & Digital) That the situation in the Middle East is complicated is self-evident. But that doesn't mean a genocide isn't currently taking place in Gaza. Made by a Palestinian-Israeli filmmaking collective, this documentary film rose above the pack with the urgency of its subject matter: the Israeli army's clearing of West Bank families (with "no other land" to



From the top: Filmmaker Radu Jude builds on excerpts from a 1981 Romanian film to create a film that explores the increasingly unlivable worldwide income gap in "Do Not Expect Too Much from the End of the World." Courtesy 4 Proof Film. "Poolman," Chris Pine's directorial debut in which he also stars, is one of our critic's picks for the worst films of 2024. Courtesy Vertical Entertainment.

their name) from their humble homes, which are reduced to rubble. Activism in the face of displacement with impunity climaxes — after five years of filming — in 2023, with the brutal retaliation on innocents following Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israeli territory.

And the best film of 2024 goes to:

1. **"Nickel Boys"** (in theaters today) In adapting Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "The Nickel Boys," RaMell Ross gives each of his teenage black protagonists a first-person P.O.V. and edits between them. The form is more than a gimmick; it's a thoughtful choice of adaptation that expands the audience's capacity for empathy. Ross spins a righteously angry yet lyrical, decades-spanning narrative about the abuses at a reform school (based on a real Florida institution), the ways its injustice sits nestled within an already unjust society, and the ripple effects on the survivors and black America at large.

Runners-up: **"Anora"** (theaters, digital); **"Sugarcane"** (Hulu, Disney+, digital); **"Dune:**

Part 2" (Max, digital, 4K & Blu-ray); **"Challengers"** (Prime Video, MGM+, digital, Blu-ray), **"Eureka"** (digital); **"The Beast"** (digital, Blu-ray); **"Rumours"** (digital); **"Lee"** (Hulu, digital); **"Civil War"** (Max, digital, 4K & Blu-ray); **"The Brutalist"** (in Bay Area theaters); **"Queer"** (in Bay Area theaters), **"Memoir of a Snail"** (digital); **"Sing Sing"** (not currently available), **"The Outrun"** (digital), and **"Wicked: Part I"** (theaters).

THE BOTTOM FIVE FILMS OF 2024

"Poolman" I take no pleasure in reporting that fine actor Chris Pine made a not-so-fine directorial debut with this "The Big Lebowski" meets "Chinatown" L.A. story. Better luck next time...if there is a next time.

"How to Date Billy Walsh" This sad excuse for a teen movie awkwardly transplants American "Cobra Kai" star Tanner Buchanan to an English high school to awkwardly form the point of an awkward love triangle. These kids got no rizz.

"The Beekeeper" It's already

become a cliché to criticize films as if they were written by A.I., but it's the best descriptor for this generic, revenge-themed actioner starring range-free Jason Statham in "the Jason Statham role."

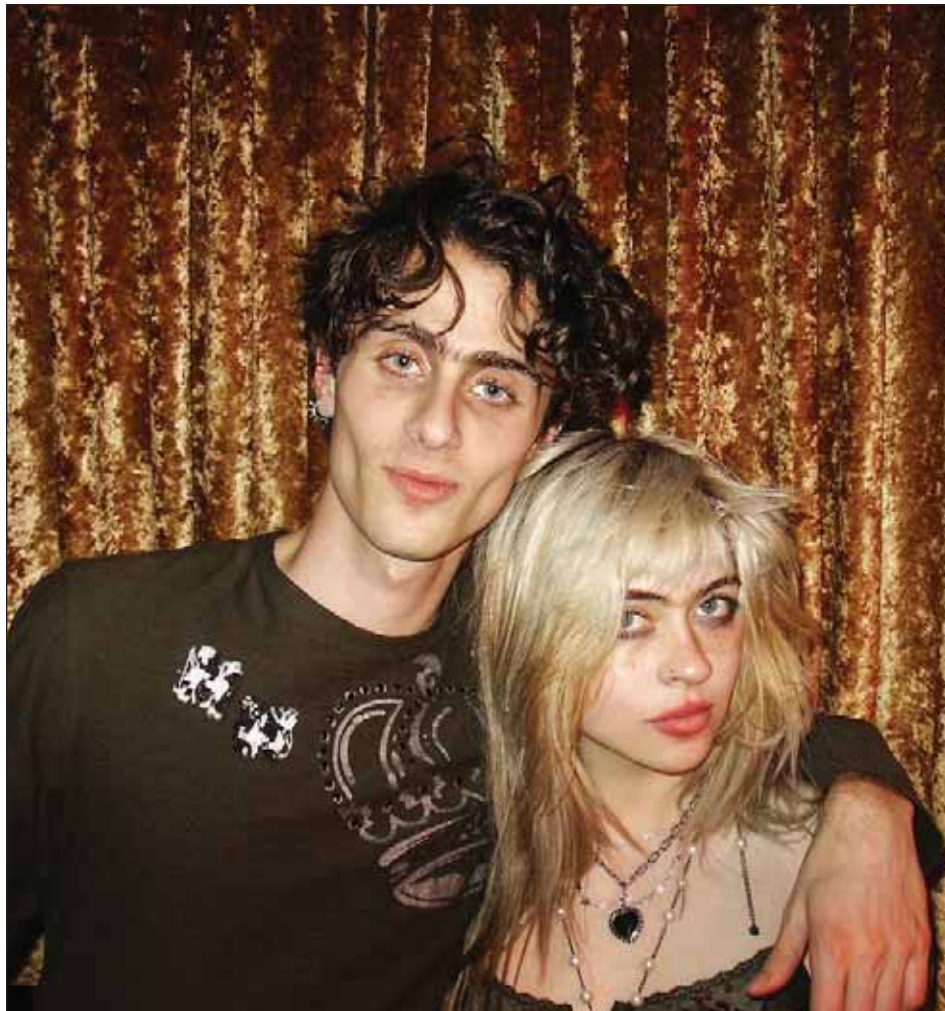
"Night Swim" A 4-minute short film about a haunted swimming pool in the 'burbs gets expanded into a 99-minute feature film. Only one problem: the filmmakers forgot to come up with any ideas for the additional 95 minutes.

"Harold and the Purple Crayon" Zachary Levi acts like he's on coke and Zooey Deschanel acts like she's on Valium in this meandering live-action version of the classic children's storybook that culminates in a tacked-on, generic message. ■

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Visit almanacnews.com/arts-culture to see more picks, including the best heroes, worst villains and top animated films.



Courtesy Liam Mccay

New York- and Atlanta-based Lowertown headlines the festival with stream-of-consciousness psychedelic folk and avant-slowcore.



Courtesy bykyleyum

High Sunn plays a unique mix of dreampop and screamo. The festival will mark one of the act's final performances, as musician Justin Cheremiah, the artist behind High Sunn, announced on social media in November that he's moving on from the project.

New festival at The Guild highlights electronic, slowcore and shoegaze acts

The event, (Sounds Like) You Had to Be There, brings together nine local, national and international artists

By Heather Zimmerman

Kick off the first weekend of 2025 with an evening of live music that marks another first: (Sounds Like) You Had to Be There, a festival billed as “the first-ever hybrid electronic, slowcore, and shoegaze festival to grace the Bay Area.”

The festival takes place Jan. 4 at The Guild Theatre and is organized by local independent promoter Zack Hage, who grew up in Menlo Park.

The nine-act bill is diverse, bringing together local, national and regional artists. Headliners Lowertown, out of New York and Atlanta, play psychedelic folk and slowcore. Also in the festival lineup is dreamy, nostalgia-tinged electronica with death's dynamic shroud; electronic and post-rock with acloudsky; electroclash duo Somewhere Special; electro-industrial artist Ada Rook; and noise-pop and shoegaze musician Kraus. The show includes some artists from around the Bay Area, as well, with Oakland electroclash act Technopagan and Northern California artists Chuquimamani Condori and Joshua Chuquimia Crampton

performing together as Los Thuthanaka, highlighting Native American sound collage, ambient and folk. The festival also will mark the final U.S. performance of Bay Area-based High Sunn, playing a unique blend of dream-pop and screamo.

Most artists will play 20- or 30-minute sets, with headliners Lowertown closing out the festival with an hourlong set.

“I'm really excited about the genres that are being showcased. A lot of these artists have very varied catalogs. It's gonna be cool to have artists that do electronic and artists that do rock at this show, but it's also going to be really cool to have artists that bridge those two together,” Hage said.

Though the acts represent a range of genres, the late-'90s genre electroclash, which draws on influences that include synth-pop, new wave, techno and electropop, is a kind of undercurrent in the bill, he said.

Hage came to his work as a promoter in an unusual way: For a lot of people, stressful times in life can trigger a need for some quiet downtime, but not for Hage, who instead organizes

shows. When medical and personal issues and an academically grueling quarter led to a particularly challenging time in college, Hage gave himself the incentive of a big celebration if he did well and graduated on time. He worked a lot of jobs over the summer and “saved up like crazy” to bring a DJ called Gum MP3 to perform at a party celebrating his graduation.

“It just started a new kind of path for me in terms of realizing how much I like to showcase artists that are just about to kind of peak out into, like a bigger hemisphere within their scenes,” Hage said, noting that two weeks after the DJ performed at his celebration, he played with Todd Edwards, a backing vocalist for Daft Punk.

Similarly, Hage said he tackled some personal challenges this summer by putting together a show at Bottom of the Hill in San Francisco with the bands CFCE, Midrift and Argo Nuff, which sold out. The show was called “You Had to Be There” — the Jan. 4 festival is what Hage describes as that show's “spiritual successor” and so its name riffs on that previous show.

“If this goes really well, I want to throw more events where it's a lot of genre diversity, a lot of artists that are flying in, that are starting to have a lot of buzz, but I want to do a different name each time,” he said.

(Sounds Like) You Had to Be There offers a mix of genres that takes inspiration from a practice that was more common in the '90s and '00s, Hage said, where you might see electronic artists and rock artists on the same bill. He notes that, as he's learned from friends who work for large commercial promoters, that those companies now tend to avoid taking risks in booking lineups that mix genres.

Hage has been working on the festival for about six months, and many of the acts are ones he has personally chosen, but also has had help filling out the bill from friends Jasmine Martin Partovi, Ryden Seccor and Brandon Gleneicki who describes as “immersed” in various music scenes.

As someone who grew up in Menlo Park, he said he likes the idea of hosting the festival at a local venue, also noting that The Guild Theatre is a good fit

for the festival, with its intimate size and proximity to Stanford University. Hage suggested that the festival may draw some newer audiences to The Guild.

During tough times, Hage said found that he doesn't dwell on tough memories so much as he recalls how he got through hard times and succeeded.

“For me a lot of the really, really good memories I've made in my life — even when I'm not actually organizing the concert myself — are concerts. So something like this, where it's just this innovative genre whiplash, I think, is just honestly going to start the new year on a really good note for a lot of people,” he said. ■

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

(Sounds Like) You Had to Be There takes place Jan. 4, 6 p.m.-midnight at The Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. \$63.74-\$70.69. guildtheatre.com. For more information about Zack Hage's future shows, check out @applezacks_



Clockwise from left: A selection of nonalcoholic wines from Kally. Courtesy Kally. LeVant Dessert in Menlo Park offers both dark chocolate and semisweet Dubai chocolate bars (\$15). Courtesy LeVant Dessert. Pistachio, raspberry, mango and regular croissants at WhatCoffee & Bakery in Santa Clara. Stephen Wilson/courtesy WhatCoffee & Bakery. Bottom right, Dubai chocolate cookies at Goodthing Coffee in Burlingame. Courtesy Goodthing Coffee.

THE FOOD FIXATIONS OF 2024

3 food trends that defined the past year and the Peninsula eateries that participate

BY ADRIENNE MITCHEL

Created by well-respected chefs and home cooks alike, food trends have the potential to make a big impact on the culinary scene. In 2008, food blogger Bakerella invented the cake pop, now a commonplace item at Starbucks. In 2013, pastry chef Dominique Ansel invented the croissant, which is now available at most doughnut shops. But other food trends seem to fall off relatively quickly: The 2022 butter board didn't really take off, and even the hype over this year's flat croissant didn't last too long.

Looking back on 2024, three major food trends shaped the Peninsula's culinary scene: Dubai chocolate, nonalcoholic beverages and Asian French fusion.

DUBAI CHOCOLATE

The trio of pistachio, chocolate and crispy kataifi (finely shredded phyllo dough) has swept the nation in what has become colloquially known as the "Dubai chocolate trend." Created by Fix Dessert Chocolatier in Dubai, the Dubai chocolate bar popularized after Dubai-based food influencer Maria Vehera reviewed the chocolate bar on TikTok in December 2023. The video has over 6 million likes.

This year, the hype over the Dubai chocolate bar resulted in a flurry of baked goods that are Dubai chocolate-flavored, including croissants, cookies, brownies and even focaccia.

In June, LeVant Dessert jumped on the trend and introduced Menlo Park to its Dubai chocolate bars, crafted with housemade pistachio butter and Belgian chocolate. Owner Maya Fezzani saw the recipe on social media and realized she already had all the ingredients to make it, so she added it to her menu, which has featured Middle Eastern sweets like knafeh, booza, baklava and more since

her grand opening in February. Find Dubai chocolate available in a milk chocolate bar, semisweet bar, a set of 12 bonbons and even in dessert spinoffs like Dubai chocolate cheesecake and Dubai chocolate cake cups.

Dubai chocolate has even infiltrated French pastry along the Peninsula. In September, Jade Wang introduced her own take on the trend at her pop-up bakery Tiny Croissanterie — a croissant made with activated charcoal, filled with butter-toasted kataifi and homemade pistachio spread (which includes pistachio praline and white chocolate), coated in a crispy chocolate shell and topped with more kataifi and pistachios.

While Tiny Croissanterie is pausing operations for the month of December for a kitchen relocation, the Dubai chocolate croissant will be back in January with an improved recipe, Wang said. Peninsula pickup locations include Burlingame's Bigz Boba (which Wang also owns) and Sunnyvale.

Tiny Croissanterie wasn't the only Peninsula producer of Dubai chocolate



croissants this year. Since its inception in November, MO's deli & cafe in Belmont has been selling croissants stuffed with kataifi and pistachio butter and topped with chocolate drizzle and chopped pistachios.

At Goodthing Coffee in Burlingame, owner and pastry chef Shuo Yang has been whipping up Dubai chocolate cookies — made from dark chocolate cookies filled with kataifi and pistachio butter and topped with ganache and crumbled pistachios — since the coffee shop's opening in October.

Go south to Los Altos and find pistachio knafeh brownies made by siblings Naiel and Punhal Chaudry at pop-up Lá Jawab Treats. Their take on the trend is a brownie topped with kataifi and pistachio cream, drizzled with chocolate and sprinkled with chopped pistachios.

In November, GK Pastry introduced its pistachio Dubai chocolate focaccia, made with GK's signature sourdough focaccia stuffed with milk chocolate and pistachio filling, topped with pistachios and drizzled with milk and dark chocolate. Founded in a commercial kitchen in Menlo Park in 2023, the family-run business now has brick-and-mortar shops in Palo Alto and Mountain View, with a third opening soon in Los Altos.

NONALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

It seems as if staying sober is the new getting drunk. Nonalcoholic drink consumption is estimated to increase by a third by 2026, according to the International Wine and Spirit Research's Drinks Market Analysis, and a 2023 survey by Casinos.us found that 67% of Americans are actively reducing their alcohol consumption.

In February, nonalcoholic bar Golden Sol opened in Pacifica, offering nonalcoholic elixirs and kava beverages. The bar, owned by Becca Guzzetta and her daughters Krizia Ferreria-Arteche, Sasha Arteche and Raquel Payne, aims to "provide a place to come meet like-minded people and build connections that will last a lifetime," said Ferreria-Arteche.

Looking to buy nonalcoholic wines from the comfort of home? Kally, a nonalcoholic winery in Portola Valley, has been creating zero-proof wines since 2022. The company was founded by husband and wife Katie and Scott Mitic and specializes in nonalcoholic wines made from the juice of unripened grapes — a departure from other companies which often take the alcohol out through



Courtesy Swing Shift

Swing Shift's Summer Sour non-alcoholic cocktail is made with peach, lemon, black pepper simple syrup, aquafaba and five-spice powder.

reverse osmosis or ferment the beverage.

And sit-down restaurants are also beginning to offer more nonalcoholic options. Take Swing Shift as an example: The San Mateo restaurant held its grand opening in June, offering cuisine from all over the world and a menu of mocktails and nonalcoholic beers. Nonalcoholic drinks include the

mala margarita with Lyre's agave blanco, sichuan peppercorn, nonalcoholic triple sec and lime juice, as well as the Bardstown bramble with Lyre's American malt, blackberry, pomegranate, bitters and lemon.

ASIAN FRENCH FUSION

Restaurants, bakeries and



Courtesy Anton SV Pâtisserie

A slice of Anton's Hokkaido milk crepe cake (\$12), which is owner Anthony Tam's favorite flavor.



Courtesy Gardenia

From left, about thyme cocktail (prosecco, thyme, grapefruit, sweet vermouth and sparkling water) and avocado toast with Brokaw avocado, miso tapenade, cashew cream, truffle honey, micro citrus, hemp seeds and country boule at Gardenia in Los Gatos.

cafes specializing in Asian French cuisine have popped up all over the Bay Area this year.

In Los Gatos, Gardenia is offering brunch items like lobster deviled eggs with wasabi flying fish roe and coconut mochi-stuffed pandan pain perdu, as well as dinner items like pan-roasted Baja striped bass with coconut lemongrass lobster Normandy sauce and miso fennel pollen-glazed sea scallops with local sweet corn ratatouille. The restaurant and cafe opened in a historic home over the summer.

French Asian cafe and bakery WhatCoffee held its grand opening in Santa Clara in October. WhatCoffee & Bakery roasts 1,000 pounds of coffee daily, makes all of its baked goods in house and offers brunch and lunch. Drinks skew more Asian-inspired, like grape-shaken cold brew and iced coconut matcha; pastries and food are more French, like croissants and eggs Benedict toast.

Also in October, pop-up ONKI Bakery began selling its Asian French pastries at the Redwood City Kiwanis Farmers Market. Created by Gahee Lee, ONKI Bakery now sells its pastries at The Village Hub in

Woodside and offers pickup orders from its commercial kitchen in Menlo Park. Find Asian baked goods like milk bread and sio pan (crispy salt roll), as well as French goods like baguettes and ham and cheese croissants. Fusion items include black sesame chocolate croissants and matcha latte cookies.

And in San Mateo, Anton SV Pâtisserie is offering French crepe cakes in Asian flavors like Hokkaido milk, black sesame, matcha and hojicha. Created by Anthony Tam in 2016, the bakery opened its first brick and mortar in October and plans to open its second soon in the Stanford Shopping Center. ■

Email Food Editor Adrienne Mitchel at amitchel@almanacnews.com.

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