

The Almanac

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

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Why doesn't city want West Menlo Park?

Residents have asked for annexation for years

By Arden Margulis

Ten years ago, residents in an unincorporated exclave of Menlo Park petitioned to become part of the city. They paid fees, submitted an application and canvassed their neighbors. Today they're no closer to annexation than when they started.

"It feels like Groundhog Day," said Greg Faris, a resident of unincorporated Menlo Park since 1995.

In early 2015, residents of the 14-acre west Menlo Park triangle began meeting regularly with city officials to pursue joining Menlo Park. According to a survey conducted by residents then, only one neighbor opposed annexation; the rest either supported it, were indifferent or unavailable.

Residents are eager to join Menlo Park due to ongoing safety concerns in the so-called "pocket of neglect," an area along Santa Cruz Avenue that residents feel is unsafe.

As a group of triangle residents walked along Santa Cruz

recently, they all could remember an accident or near miss. "I was walking on the crosswalk with a stroller and even though this car stopped for me, the car behind them rear ended them," said west Menlo Park resident Neil Barman.

Shortly after telling that story, the group witnessed a similar near-collision.

"The problem is this jurisdictional dysfunction. The county doesn't really take care of us and neither does the city," said Faris.

In fact, the boundaries are so confusing, even city officials have mistaken them. When the city lowered the speed limit on Santa Cruz Avenue to 25 mph, city workers mistakenly changed two of the county's signs, eventually needing to re-install the county's sign.

"You are not safe walking on Santa Cruz," said Regine Schmidt, who has lived in the triangle for 17 years. "When you walk that block, you have to be prepared to jump out of the way and pray for the best."

Another issue for the triangle is public safety. All



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Unincorporated Menlo Park residents Ron Snow, left, Sara Shaw Hucko, center, and Steve Hucko point out traffic issues during rush hour on Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park on March 31.

unincorporated areas are served by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office instead of the Menlo Park Police Department. "We've had a lot of bad experiences with the Sheriff's Office," Faris said. "I believe the closest

Sheriff's office is two towns away, in Redwood City. We'd be a lot better off with local law enforcement."

"The Sheriff's Office has deputies assigned to patrol the West Menlo Park area 24/7, 365 days a

year. West Menlo Park receives regular patrols, timely responses to calls for service and proactive engagement from our patrol units," Sheriff's Office Director

See **WEST MENLO**, page 18

Familiar developer in line to buy Menlo Park's USGS campus

Highest bid was more than \$130 million

By Arden Margulis

The former U.S. Geological Survey campus at 345 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park is in line to be sold for \$137,000,006 to Presidio Bay Ventures, the group behind Springline in Menlo Park. The announcement was made by the General Services Administration after the bid opening at 11 a.m., April 15, at the United Nations Plaza in San Francisco.

The sale was the result of a

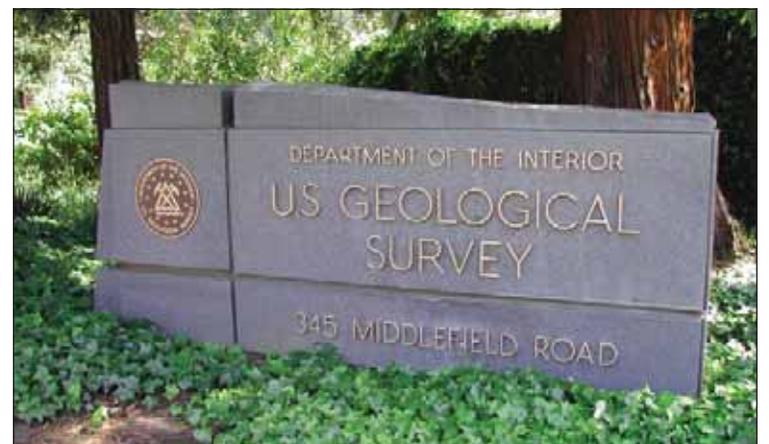
sealed bid auction in which interested bidders were required to submit a bid of at least \$85 million cash with no contingencies. Any bid that did not meet those requirements and was not submitted by April 11 at 4 p.m. was not considered.

In total, three qualifying bids were submitted. The GSA is required by law to accept the highest bid unless the bidder is prohibited from owning the land or the sale could violate antitrust laws. The second-highest bid

was from City Ventures LLC for \$120 million.

The sale has now been sent to the Department of Justice for an antitrust review. GSA officials expect the review to be completed later this week. The sale will not be official until the review is completed and Presidio Bay Ventures pays the full amount.

The sale to Presidio Bay Ventures likely comes as a relief to Menlo Park officials, who hope the site can help fulfill the city's state-mandated housing



Embarcadero Media file photo

Presidio Bay Ventures to buy USGS campus at 345 Middlefield Road.

allocation. Because the property was classified as high-value, the federal government was not required to consider public benefits when selling the campus.

Menlo Park's housing element targeted at least two acres of affordable housing at the 17-acre

See **USGS**, page 16

INSIDE

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Peninsula Volunteers, Inc.



MAGGIE'S STORY: A LIFELINE OF MEALS AND CONNECTION

Maggie, in her 70s, struggles with the daily challenges of grocery shopping and cooking, making it harder for her to keep living independently in her home of over 40 years. Reluctant to accept help at first, she now finds comfort and relief through **PVI's Meals on Wheels program**. The nutritious, locally sourced meals ease her daily worries, and the kind chats with the friendly volunteers who deliver them brighten her days. Maggie feels a deeper sense of security and connection. **"It's not just about the delicious meals; it's knowing that I have a community who cares and understands me"**, she says. PVI's support is giving Maggie nourishment while restoring her confidence to age in her own home with the dignity she deserves.

DAILY SENIOR IMPACT *

- 1 in 6 seniors is facing hunger.**
- 1 in 2 seniors living alone are without the finances for basic needs.**
- 1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer's or other dementias.**
- 1 in 3 seniors live alone and feel lonely.**
- Nearly 1 in 5 spousal caregivers passes away before their loved one.**

Because you care, PVI's life-changing programs and services prepare, deliver and provide:

- Over **180,000** freshly prepared, nutritious meals annually.
- Over **280,000** pounds of supplemental groceries of protein, dairy, fresh produce, and pantry staples to date to over **500** local families in need.
- Over **67,000** door-to-door transportation rides since RIDE PVI's launch.
- Over **3,650** classes/sessions and **13,000** social connections.
- Daily therapeutic care for those with Alzheimer's.
- Quiescence customized solutions for family caregivers.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Our senior community faces an uncertain tomorrow.

As spring blooms, many older adults in our community are facing deep challenges. We are all living in an **extraordinary time of change and uncertainty**. We all feel it. Imagine how daily life is for local older adults who are facing the harsh realities of hunger, isolation, and the rising costs of food, energy, and essential healthcare needs. These **costs are a devastating burden for those on fixed incomes**, making it incredibly difficult to meet the most basic needs while anxiety about tomorrow grows stronger every day.

In anxious times, PVI remains a steady lifeline!

For 78 years, **Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. (PVI) has been a trusted lifeline of care and support for your older loved ones and neighbors**-- thanks to the unwavering local generosity of individuals like you. No matter what is happening in the world around us, PVI remains a constant, helping seniors safely **age in place** in the homes they love with the support and care services they need to thrive. We are proud to serve our senior community and grateful to have you by our side.

Your generosity changes lives!

Every day, your support brings comfort, care, and connection to seniors in need. Seniors like **Kenneth**, burdened by loneliness, find companionship; **Maggie**, homebound, receives nutritious meals delivered right to her door; **Pedro** gains critical support for his wife with Alzheimer's; **Shirley** now has reliable rides to medical appointments. Your gifts help neighbors who depend on PVI for essential support like meals, groceries, transportation, dementia care, and caregiver assistance.

Help protect local seniors no matter what changes occur around us.

PVI remains committed that no senior goes without the support they deserve. Right now, over **210 older adults are waiting for meals** across the counties we serve, with **over 40 additional** requests each week. We have the capacity and heart to support them all and more—we just need your help to close the funding gap. With increasing demand, your support is more vital than ever. **Less than 2% of institutional giving is focused on seniors' food and aging needs**, and **loneliness is a declared public health crisis**. The challenges seniors face are complex. Current economic uncertainty only adds to the urgency.

Your local giving creates a lasting impact!

While many worthy causes seek your attention and support, your generosity today directly impacts the care and support our senior community relies on. Together, we can strengthen the reliable foundation of care for our senior community, ensuring that needs are met no matter what changes occur around us. We are deeply grateful for your continued commitment so that our most vulnerable seniors like **Kenneth, Maggie, Pedro, and Shirley** are not forgotten.

Make your life-changing impact today: Your gift this spring of an amount that feels right for you* will put food on plates, reduce isolation, create new meal routes, and help eliminate the growing meal waitlist for vulnerable seniors. It also strengthens PVI's innovative programs to meet complex care needs. Give securely online at www.1pvi.org/donate or use the QR code. We are deeply grateful for your invaluable support.

With heartfelt gratitude,

* \$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



SCAN TO DONATE TODAY!

YOU ARE THE STEADY SUPPORT BEHIND EVERY SENIOR'S STORY.

For over 75 years, Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. has enabled seniors to age in place, driven by a profound legacy of caring and our core values of respect, commitment, trust, dedication, and compassion. Our five core programs serve over 6,000 households and address the most pressing issues of aging adults by offering services to sustain daily physical, nutritional, emotional, and mental health in support of vibrant, active, and connected lives.

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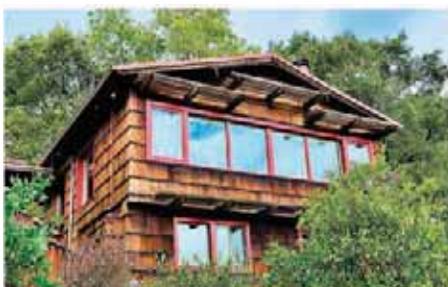
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

A tick collected from the Windy Hills Open Space Preserve in Portola Valley.

Portola Valley group looks for nonnative ticks

Lone Star species moving with climate

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Due to climate change, more ticks are migrating to the north, including species that are not native to California. The Bay Area Lyme Foundation, based in Portola Valley, is funding a

study at the University of California, Davis, that is looking into whether Lone Star ticks can invade the state.

So far, the species native to Texas has not been found in San Mateo County, but experts say that locals should still be wary of more common ticks

while hiking. The Lone Star tick is commonly found in southern and eastern regions of the United States but was recently found in Mendocino in 2018 — the first known report of the tick in California.

See **TICKS**, page 13

Kirk House Preschool stands strong for 70 years

Private school has had to evolve with times

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Since 1955, over 5,000 students have graduated from Kirk House Preschool in Menlo Park. As the school celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, Kirk House shows appreciation for the devoted community that has supported the school through times of struggle.

Kirk House Preschool is a ministry of Menlo Church, which has served the community for over 150 years. For generations,

the local preschool has embraced the “old fashioned” style of childcare, resembling a neighborhood home where families know that their child will be loved and cared for while also well educated, said Director of Kirk House Ruth Esteverena.

With a small student population and low student-to-teacher ratio in classrooms, Kirk House is able to connect with their students and form a relationship that carries beyond the child’s preschool years.

Geri Boegner has been teaching at Kirk House for 35 years and has had the honor of teaching the children of her former students from decades before. She said the preschool’s “sense of community” is what makes it unique.

“Kirk House has been a wonderful blessing in my life,” said Boegner. “I’ve had the opportunity to touch many lives and the children and their families have

See **KIRK HOUSE** page 12



Michelle Iracheta

Pedestrians using crosswalk buttons in Menlo Park, Palo Alto and Redwood City reported hearing what claimed to be the voices of Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk for a time late last week.

Silicon Valley crosswalk buttons hacked

Audio made to imitate Musk, Zuckerberg voices

By Zoe Morgan

Crosswalk buttons along the mid-Peninsula were hacked last week so that when pressed, voices professing to be Mark Zuckerberg or Elon Musk began speaking.

Videos taken at locations in Redwood City, Menlo Park and Palo Alto showed various messages that began to play when crosswalk buttons were hit. The voices appeared to imitate how Zuckerberg and Musk sound.

In one video, taken on Saturday morning at the corner of Arguello Street, Broadway and Marshall Street in Redwood City, a voice claiming to be Zuckerberg says that “it’s normal to feel uncomfortable or even violated as we forcefully insert AI into every facet of your conscious experience. And I just want to assure you, you don’t need to worry because there’s absolutely nothing you can do to stop it.”

In another video, taken in downtown Palo Alto early on Saturday morning, a voice claiming to be Musk says that he would “like to personally welcome you to Palo Alto.”

“You know, people keep saying cancer is bad, but have you tried being a cancer? It’s f — awesome,” the voice goes on to say.

Another video from downtown Palo Alto shows a voice impersonating Musk saying that he would give the listener a Cybertruck if they became his friend.

“You don’t know the level of depravity I would stoop to just for a crumb of approval,” the

voice says. “I mean, let’s be real, it’s not like I had any moral convictions to begin with.”

Over in Menlo Park, a video taken near Meta’s headquarters shows a crosswalk signal with a voice identifying himself as “Zuck” stating how proud he is of “everything we’ve been building together.”

“From undermining democracy, to cooking our grandparents’ brains with AI slop, to making the world less safe for trans people, nobody does it better than us — and I think that’s pretty neat,” the voice says.

City of Palo Alto spokesperson Meghan Horrigan-Taylor said on Saturday that city employees determined that 12 downtown intersections were impacted and have disabled the voice announcement feature on the crosswalks until repairs can be made. The tampering may have happened on Friday, Horrigan-Taylor said.

“Other traffic signals in the city were checked and the impact is isolated,” Horrigan-Taylor said. “Signal operations are otherwise unaffected, and motorists are reminded to always exercise caution around pedestrians.”

Redwood City Deputy City Manager Jennifer Yamaguma said on Monday that her city was aware of four locations where crosswalk signals were hacked.

“The unauthorized messages have since been disabled, and staff are evaluating ways to strengthen system protections,” Yamaguma said. “We also want

See **CROSSWALK** page 16

Developers pitch visions for downtown affordable housing

City Council to review proposals in May

By Arden Margulis

Menlo Park received seven responses to its request for qualifications on the proposed development of downtown parking lots. On April 4, the city released the responses to the public.

According to a message posted to the city's website, city staff is

reviewing the proposals and will bring recommendations to the City Council in May. The city is not obligated to move forward with any of the proposals.

The city's request required at least 345 affordable housing units for very low-income families and a minimum of 506 replacement public parking spaces.

Out of the seven responses,



Courtesy MidPen Housing

MidPen Housing's proposed affordable housing complex for Lot 2 in downtown Menlo Park, part of the city's effort to redevelop parking lots to meet state housing mandates.

two came from for-profit affordable housing developers, two from a nonprofit affordable housing developer, one from a for-profit market-rate and two were joint proposals.

Residents can provide feedback on the proposals through a form on the city's website.

The idea of using the downtown parking lots for housing has been controversial among residents and businesses. Residents have raised \$140,000 as of April 7 to fight the development in court if the city moves forward.

Here is a look at the proposals.

Alliant Communities

On March 31, Alliant Communities submitted its letter of interest to city staff for building affordable housing on the three downtown parking lots. Alliant is a for-profit affordable housing developer with projects in California and Nevada. Alliant has already done one project in Menlo Park, an 88-unit affordable housing development at 320 Sheridan Drive for the Ravenswood School District. Some neighbors objected

to the project due to concerns about traffic, but the project is moving forward anyway.

Its proposal for downtown included three developments totaling 345 below-market units, with 60 reserved for seniors. All three sites would have ground-level parking with 506 public parking spaces to replace the 556 spaces that would be lost. In addition, there would be 190 parking spaces for residents.

The development also includes multiple public green spaces. The proposal did not specify how tall the development would be.

Alliant did not provide an estimated cost for the project and suggested using tax credits from federal, state and local governments.

Eden Housing

Eden Housing is a California-based for-profit affordable housing developer that submitted its letter of interest on March 28.

In its letter, Eden says it is not able to finance the construction

See **PARKING LOT BIDS**, page 12

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Atherton Earth Day

Atherton's annual Earth Day Festival will take place Sunday, April 27, at Holbrook-Palmer Park. The free, family-friendly event will feature DIY projects, nature-inspired crafts and educational resources. Attendees can view birds of prey, a live reptile show and a bug museum.

This year's theme is "Protect Our Species." Attendees are encouraged to walk or bike to the event as limited parking is available. Optional registration is available at atherton.news/earth-day-2025.

— Arden Margulis

Woodside's 103rd May Day Parade

Woodside's annual May Day Parade and Carnival will take place on Saturday, May 3. This year's theme is "Giddyup, Woodside!"

The community is invited to join this town tradition organized by the Woodside Parent Teacher Association. The festivities begin at 8 a.m. with a pancake breakfast hosted by the Rotary Club at Woodside Village Church and a 2.25 mile fun run at 8:30 a.m.

The parade starting at 10 a.m. will feature various community participants including Woodside's Mounted Patrol, Woodside High School marching band, WHOA! (Woodside-area Horse Owners Association), San Mateo County Mounted Search and Rescue and more.

The carnival will begin at 11:30 a.m. where the festivities will continue with carnival games, cotton candy, an inflatable obstacle course, dunk tank and face painting. Wristbands for full access are \$25 and can be purchased online or at the event.

Buck's Restaurant and the Woodside seventh grade class will serve smash cheeseburgers, hotdogs, veggie chili and beet and apple salad. Purchase a meal ticket online by April 30 to guarantee a lunch. All proceeds will help fund the seventh grade operetta performance next year.

For more information on the May Day Parade, carnival wristbands and meal tickets visit woodside-elementary-pta.square.site.

Portola Valley equestrian trails are open

The Portola Valley Trail and Path Committee announced the opening of equestrian trails on the Portola Valley Ranch, Blue Oaks and the Hayfields trails systems which consist of Larry Lane and Targ trails.

Junior League fundraising gala

The Junior League of Palo Alto-Mid-Peninsula is hosting a fundraising gala on Saturday, May 3 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Peninsula Italian American Social Club in San Mateo. The theme of the event is "Hollywood Glamour."

The proceeds benefit the Junior League's mission to advance women's leadership and the impact made through collaboration and volunteer action. The organization focuses on serving the community and supporting programs that address the impacts of systemic poverty and housing and food insecurity on the health of individuals and families.

Tickets for the gala can be purchased on thejuniorleague.org.

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Dorothy Fisher Anderson, 100, of Stanford, who continued playing competitive tennis well into her 90s, who loved opera and worldwide travel, died on March 28, 2025.

Joseph Stanley Baylis, 91, of Menlo Park, who between 1954 and 1956 was stationed in Heidelberg, Germany, at the U.S. Army headquarters as a stenographer and clerk typist, cherished those memories for the rest of his life and was a proud veteran died on April 1, 2025.

Robert Leslie "Bob" Krause, Jr., 76, of Menlo Park, who held several patents in optoelectronics, was published in technology journals, and contributed to a book—all while working for major Silicon Valley semiconductor firms died on April 2, 2025.

Sylvia Hochscheid, 96, of Palo Alto, who played piano for veterans and church services well into her 90s, including for the Vietnam Vets Chorus and both Catholic and Protestant services at the VA in Menlo Park and Palo Alto and once worked in a clinic Soweto, South Africa, helping patients with acquired hearing loss died in November 2024.

Matthew Arnold Allen, 94, of Palo Alto and the former mayor of Mountain View, who lived through World War II, earned his Ph.D in Physics at Stanfords and worked for over 40 years at SLAC, who served at the Radar Office in the British Army before immigrating to the U.S. died at the Vi in Palo Alto on April 11, 2025.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to almanacnews.com/obituaries. ■

Established 1965
The Almanac
 Serving Menlo Park,
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zip code 94025, 94027, 94028

and the Woodside portion of

94062, call 854-2626.



County Superintendent Magee will not seek re-election

Educator's term ends in 2027

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools Nancy Magee will not seek re-election when her term ends in January 2027, closing out nearly a decade at the helm of the county's education system.

Magee, known for her leadership in supporting local school districts during the COVID-19 pandemic and guiding the transition from remote learning to in-person teaching, was first elected in 2018 and re-elected in

2022. She has served in various leadership roles with the county's Office of Education.

For the remainder of her term, she will be focused on accomplishing the Office of Education's strategic goals, according to a release. Her priority will be to create a countywide roadmap for youth mental health services through implementing the United for Youth Vision 2030 Blueprint, a project aimed at providing strategic planning to support the community and youth service providers.

The vision, in partnership with the county's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, prioritizes helping San Mateo County providers enhance their services, workforce and responsiveness; partnering with other organizations; and developing trauma-informed, culturally competent services for children, youth, and families.

"I appreciate her dedication to the community, from overseeing the education response during the

See **MAGEE**, page 19

San Mateo County to host wildfire preparedness event

The event will feature anecdotes from wildfire survivors

By Simmerdeep Kaur

San Mateo County is hosting an event on April 26 to help residents learn how to protect their homes during a wildfire.

The workshop will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the San Mateo County Event Center, 1346 Saratoga Drive in San Mateo. The free event is open to anyone who lives, works or visits the county.

The county said in a press release that its goal is to provide residents with small, actionable

steps to reduce wildfire risk and better protect their homes.

"We can't always stop wildfires from starting," said Dr. Shruti Dhapodkar, director of the San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management, in the release. "But we can prepare for them by reducing the risk to our properties and families if we take steps now."

The event will feature presentations, preparedness tips, and resources from local agencies and fire professionals. Attendees can learn how to create a defensible

space, pack an emergency "go bag," sign up for emergency and severe weather alerts, and understand California's updated fire hazard severity zone maps, identifying areas with moderate to very high wildfire risk.

The event will also include firsthand accounts from residents who have experienced wildfires, including what they found most helpful in preparing and responding. ■

Email Staff Writer Simmerdeep Kaur at skaur@almanacnews.com.

Experts say federal funding cuts represent threat to families

Stanford project tracks hardships

By Angela Swartz

Stanford University researchers are hoping their findings on how the well-being of young children and their caregivers suffer when critical federal relief programs are defunded can influence state and local officials to make policy changes to help U.S. families. In fact, one expert calls the current chaos and cuts at the federal level by the Department of Government Efficiency the largest crisis in the country since the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

On Thursday, April 10, the Stanford Center on Early Childhood's RAPID Survey Project, celebrated its five-year anniversary by hosting a conference to look back on the work it's done and to consider how to best move forward



Angela Swartz

The Stanford Center on Early Childhood hosted a discussion of five years of its RAPID Survey Project and the state of hardship among those seeking assistance.

during a volatile time.

Phil Fisher, lead investigator for the project and a professor in the Graduate School of Education at Stanford, said that, for example, \$1 billion in cuts to federal food programming that help food banks distribute

healthy, local food is impacting families. Threats to free school lunch programs could also lead to increased hunger among youth, he said.

"What's the ceiling on

See **EARLY CHILDHOOD**, page 10

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Help with Moving

Dear Monica: We've lived in our house many years and now it's time to move. I need help. What would you suggest?
Margaret G.

Dear Margaret: It's daunting to look at your possessions, some of which you haven't seen in a long time, and know that you must deal them. One can become paralyzed. There are services that can help you with this. They can sort and pack your things, and arrange to give them away, sell them, throw them away, or move them to your new home. These services can help you organize the task, which is often half the job.

If moving is your goal but you are overwhelmed by it, hire someone to help you. It's worth it.

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Menlo Park pool operator can't find a lifeline

Low usage leads to financial losses

By Arden Margulis

Menlo Park City Council voted to raise pool fees for nonresidents on April 15 but declined staff recommendations to increase fees for residents and subcontractors. The council also refused to let the operator bypass parts of its contract, despite warnings from city staff and the pool operator of rough waters ahead.

Effective April 16, the council raised pool fees for nonresidents by \$7 to \$9 per service. The decision followed a hearing on several changes to ease the financial troubles facing the city's contracted pool operator, Menlo Swim and Sport, which is owned by Team Sheepeer.

Menlo Swim and Sport, which

operates the pools on behalf of the city, informed city staff that it is facing significant financial losses due to lower than expected attendance at the city's new Belle Haven pool. Without changes, it is projected to lose \$385,000 for the 2025 calendar year and city staff fears it would cause the pools to shut down.

Without fee increases by April 15, Team Sheepeer CEO Tim Sheepeer warned city officials that Menlo Swim and Sport could face imminent insolvency, which might result in "significant service interruptions." That could potentially force closures at both Burgess Pool and Belle Haven Pool, a staff report noted.

City staff and Team Sheepeer proposed raising fees for residents, nonresidents and subcontractors



Embarcadero Media file photo by Robert Most

Tim Sheepeer heads Team Sheepeer, the operator of the Burgess and Belle Haven pools.

in addition to allowing Team Sheepeer to reduce pool hours during off-peak seasons and waiving the city's revenue share agreement for a few additional months. The remedies would not have put Menlo Swim and Sport in the black. Menlo Swim

and Sport would have still had a projected shortfall of \$154,000 in the 2025 calendar year.

City Council members Cecilia Taylor and Betsy Nash vetoed any increase to resident and subcontractor fees along with amending the contract. Because Council Member Jennifer Wise was absent, Taylor and Nash's votes represented half of the council, blocking any motion without support from at least one of them.

"For me, the staff report is asking us to create more barriers. If we really want folks to use the pool, we have to keep the pool open. We have had other providers say they can make (the current arrangement) viable," Taylor said. "I am not going to create more barriers."

Menlo Swim and Sport lost \$65,000 in the 2024 calendar year. It needs to increase attendance at the city's Belle Haven pool, which opened May 2024, if it wants to survive. City staff said less than expected attendance could have been caused by mechanical issues

right after the pool opened and lack of repeat users. It could also be caused by not enough interested visitors nearby.

Taylor placed the blame squarely on Sheepeer.

"The reason why the pool is underutilized is because the way it's programmed. I don't even see hours of the pool posted out in front on a banner. I see Menlo Swim advertised, but not the hours of the pool. If you want people to show up, make them feel welcome. That hasn't happened," Taylor said.

The council provided direction to city staff to come back with more information, including a detailed list of mechanical issues and other solutions.

In his presentation to the council, Sheepeer said that the financial losses happened despite Team Sheepeer working hard to meet the city's "high hopes." He also said that Team Sheepeer was "cautiously optimistic" about the

See **AQUATIC FEES**, page 10

Local woman bikes every road, trail in county

5-year journey ends in record achievement

By Simmerdeep Kaur

When pandemic lockdowns limited where people could go, Megan Gardner, a Redwood City cyclist, set her most ambitious goal yet: ride every publicly accessible road and trail in San Mateo County.

"And then I realized — this was going to take years," Gardner said.

It did. After five years and countless hours of navigating cul-de-sacs, fire roads and mountain trails, Gardner said she became the first known person to complete every mapped and bikeable segment in San Mateo County on April 5.

She was joined on her final county ride by fellow cyclists she had met through biking

groups and performance tracking platforms. Among them were Barry Mann, Peter Norvig and Gregory Smith, who praised Gardner's commitment and the effort it took to reach her goal.

"I have been fascinated by her dedication to completing San Mateo County, as there are some very challenging roads and trails to complete," said Mann.

Gardner's cycling journey began in 2016. She started with casual spins and eventually aimed for longer adventures — including a 500-mile solo ride to Disneyland in 2019. But it wasn't until the COVID-19 pandemic that she set out on her most demanding biking goal.

With shelter-in-place orders limiting travel to a five-mile radius, Gardner began riding



Courtesy Megan Gardner

Megan Gardner poses with fellow bikers at the bottom of Skyfarm Drive after completing her final road in San Mateo County on April 5.

loops in nearby Emerald Hills. Curious about how much of the county she had covered, she started using an app called Wandrer to track her progress, which showed she had covered about 22% of the county.

"So I thought, maybe I'll just do the whole thing," she said.

Rather than riding for scenery or fitness, Gardner's rides became strategic efforts to cover "unique miles" — roads and trails she had

never biked before.

She used every ride to fill in webs of loops, cul-de-sacs and backtracks — determined to cover every last mile.

Over time, the unexplored terrains became harder to reach for Gardner. By early 2022, she realized she would need a mountain bike to finish, as many of the remaining trails were rugged and off-road. When she first started riding, she had never intended to

become a mountain biker — but she was willing to adapt to reach the finish line.

"I feel like me and San Mateo County are best friends now," Gardner said. "We know so much about each other."

According to Craig Durkin, the platform's developer, Wandrer connects to popular activity tracking platforms like Strava, Ride with GPS and Garmin. It analyzes users' data and compares it against a global road network to determine which roads they traveled during a run, ride or walk.

Durkin said the app tracks roads users have never been on before. Each time someone travels a new road, it's added to their personal map. Riding the same road again doesn't count — the goal is to explore.

By September 2022, Gardner had completed 90% of her journey.

Later that year, she underwent surgery and faced a mandatory

See **CYCLING**, page 10

Advisory commission recommends permanent Sheriff's Office inspector general

Suggestion follows months of acrimony over elected office

By Angela Swartz

A San Mateo County civilian advisory commission formed to facilitate public transparency and accountability in the sheriff's office voted unanimously on April 2 to recommend that the board of supervisors create a permanent independent inspector general with subpoena power — the ability to compel

individuals to testify or produce documents and evidence, to oversee the Sheriff's Department.

The move comes amid the board's effort to oust Sheriff Christina Corpus after a damning, 400-page investigation into alleged misconduct of the county's top cop.

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office appointed seven members to the Independent

Civilian Advisory Commission on the Sheriff's Office in July 2024. The commission makes recommendations to the board and develops and implements an annual work plan approved by the county's executive office.

Grassroots organization Fixin' San Mateo County has long called for such a role in a full-time capacity instead of calling for one during an incident. Fixin'

formed in 2021 to nudge the community and officials to create a civilian oversight board to help the Sheriff's Office with policies.

"On behalf of Fixin', I am very pleased and thank all of the ICAC members for their vote of support for a permanent (inspector general) for San Mateo County," said Fixin' San Mateo County Board Chair Jim Lawrence in a prepared

statement, adding he's hopeful the board will implement the recommendation. "This action demonstrates they, too, believe we need to strengthen public safety by adding this guardrail to the governance structure for our Sheriff's Office."

Nancy Goodban of Fixin' told the commission the role could help the county avoid future lawsuits like the ones it faces regarding Corpus' conduct.

In response to the advisory commission's recommendation to the board, a spokesperson

See **SHERIFF**, page 10

SPECTACULAR VIEWS OVERLOOKING SAN FRANCISCO BAY AND ATHERTON



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EARLY CHILDHOOD*continued from page 7*

hardship?” said Fisher. “A lot of people are on the margins of poverty. ... We’re just starting to see an uptick in rates of hardship.” He also noted that tariffs could increase the price of consumer products, further putting families in peril.

Elimination of a federal program that helps 6.2 million low-income American households pay for utilities — water, electricity and gas — could also be a major hit to these families. When families cut costs, they stop paying their utilities first and hope that they don’t get shut off, he said.

Other federal programs potentially on the chopping block are Medicaid, Head Start early childhood programs and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which helps low-income families to

supplement their grocery budget so they can afford nutritious food.

RAPID researchers have collected data from 22,000 households around the country with children under the age of 5, along with data from childcare providers, to inform early childhood programs, policies and investments across the state since the project’s inception.

RAPID data from 2024 shows that when federal relief programs were in place, parents of young children reported lower rates of overall hardship — hunger, and difficulty paying for utilities, child care, health care, activities that support well-being (like counseling) and housing. When the policies ended, hardship rates began to increase.

For example, a 2021 federal child tax credit provided additional funds to families with young children during the

pandemic. When this ended, survey results show that hardship increased (one in four U.S. families could not afford to pay for their basic needs when the policy was in place versus one in three as of 2025).

“We know policy can make a difference,” Fisher told this news organization. He said there are opportunities for local governments to pass local levies and states to approve block grants to help compensate for federal funding cuts.

When Fisher started the RAPID Survey Project in April 2020 while employed by the University of Oregon as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, he noted that relief funds were designed strictly to keep businesses afloat while lockdowns shut child care facilities. This meant the government might have helped pay for a child care center’s rent and increased cleaning supply

needs, but didn’t cover workers’ home rental costs, food costs or utilities.

Fisher noted that after a conversation with former Oregon Gov. Kate Brown in which he showed survey data showing the gap in needs for child care workers, Brown was receptive and expanded the relief funds to cover any basic needs for workers.

“It was not just a business problem,” said Fisher. “It was human livelihoods. ... We couldn’t sit idly. We needed to take action — what we could do was bring the voices of children into public light and help people feel less isolated.”

The Trump administration’s increase in deportations could also have ramifications on the child care providers, noted Mario Cardona, a partner at education consulting firm EducationCounsel, during the conference. Cardona

served as a senior adviser for Early Childhood Development & Education for the White House Domestic Policy Council, where he played a role in shaping and executing former President Joe Biden’s early childhood agenda. As of 2021, an estimated 142,000 undocumented immigrants serve as childcare workers, personal care aides, and home health aides.

Fisher noted during a presentation at the conference that “child care in this country is in a freefall” and “has been for a number of years.”

“People we are entrusting to take care of our children are skipping meals, worried about being evicted, skipping medical care,” he noted. “It’s questionable if we as a society think that’s a good arrangement.”

For more on the Rapid Survey, go to rapidsurveyproject.com. ■

Angela Swartz is a Contributing Writer.

AQUATIC FEES*continued from page 8*

feasibility of the city’s vision.

In November 2023, Team Sheeper and the city signed a contract that Sheeper is requesting the council amend.

Belle Haven pool experienced fluctuations in attendance, particularly during the off-season when usage was “very low.” City staff suggest giving more time to attract regular swimmers who would use the pool year-round.

Taylor and Nash expressed frustration with Menlo Swim and Sport’s management.

Nash initially supported reducing pool hours, but changed her mind upon discovering Menlo Swim and Sport’s

lack of responsiveness to senior community requests at Belle Haven pool. Seniors have repeatedly asked that the Aquafit class be moved as it conflicts with the senior center’s lunchtime. When Nash asked Team Sheeper CEO Tim Sheeper if that was a possibility, he responded that the proposal had not been considered.

“I am concerned that the Aquafit has not been brought to the staff. There is outreach by members of the senior community and the fact that it has not even been discussed with staff is disappointing, to say the least,” Nash said.

“When we are stable, it would be very easy to provide a senior Aquafit program at any time of the day,” Sheeper responded.

“We are not stable, and that’s why we’re here tonight.”

“What is bothering me is that it is city policy that we are going to help create things, not take them away. This is a public pool that was paid for by the taxpayers and a very generous donor, not (Menlo Swim and Sport). So the hours need to reflect what the public needs. Period. It’s not up for discussion,” Taylor said.

“I am hoping that we can come to some resolution,” Nash said. “Part of a partnership is working together and trying to balance the needs of all parties. I guess I feel that the city has been doing a lot of giving and is now being asked to do a lot more. I’m not feeling that same from Menlo Swim. It feels very much

one way right now.”

“It’s difficult to hear you say that it feels one way. Our entire organization is working extremely hard every day to keep this community safe, to keep these pools open, so the community can have full use of them,” Sheeper responded. “For us to come (to the council meeting) tonight is not a very comfortable thing. We’re very proud, very competitive and a strong organization.”

A point of contention between the city and Sheeper has been a perceived lack of transparency. The contract between Sheeper and the city does not require him to disclose specifics of Team Sheeper’s expenses, including executive salaries, which some have argued contributed to the

program’s financial troubles.

Council members expressed concern over the future stability and effectiveness of the partnership between the city and Menlo Swim and Sport. If Sheeper withdrew from the agreement, there would be an immediate decrease in service and there could be pool closures, according to a staff report.

However, council members challenged the assertion that pools would immediately close if Menlo Swim and Sport withdrew. The contract indicates that Sheeper would be required to provide 180-day notice before pulling out of the agreement.

The topic has been slated for discussion at future council meetings. ■

CYCLING*continued from page 8*

recovery period, followed by a challenging year of IVF treatments in 2023. Gardner had to pause riding for weeks before and after each cycle. The health issues took a significant toll on her body, often disrupting her riding routine.

But even as she recovered, her thoughts kept returning to her goal: to bike the entire county.

“And I just told myself, I needed to finish,” she added. “That was not an option.”

Her recovery wasn’t linear, and it took time to feel strong enough to return to the level of riding required to chase down every incomplete segment in the county. But slowly and steadily, she got back on track. She went on rides that yielded only a few new miles, often returning to remote locations to snag small, missing pieces.

She said she also made more than 2,000 corrections to OpenStreetMap — a free, crowdsourced world map that anyone can edit — by flagging inaccessible areas, removing

private roads and adding overlooked trails.

“It (riding every trail in the county) is difficult because there are map updates all the time, so it is a moving target: you thought you had gotten all the little paths, and then another one is added to the map,” said Norvig.

The final stretch came on April 5. Gardner set out with her sister and a small group of fellow cyclists to complete her last 40-mile route, which included Sky Farm Drive in San Mateo. The ride began and ended at her home in Redwood City.

Afterward, the group gathered in her backyard to celebrate. Gardner checked her phone one last time to make sure every mile had been counted.

“It came through,” she said. “I held up my phone and said, ‘I’ve done it.’ And everyone started cheering.”

Gardner said her five-year project involved more than 2,000 unique miles. Though there’s no official recordkeeping body for such an effort, Wandrer lists Gardner as the only person with 100% completion in San Mateo County, she said.

“Actually getting 99%, let alone 100%, on a large geographic region requires amazing persistence...,” said Smith. “That is a big personal accomplishment no matter how silly anyone else thinks it is.”

Gardner, however, has no plans to stop. She has already started working on Santa Clara County, where she said she has reached 25%.

Her ultimate goal? All nine Bay Area counties. ■

Email Staff Writer Simmerdeep Kaur at skaur@almanacnews.com.

SHERIFF*continued from page 8*

for the sheriff’s office said it “remains unclear what role an inspector general would play in the operations of the sheriff’s office.”

“Ultimately, this is a board

of supervisors decision, and while we would refer them,” said Gretchen Spiker, director of communications for the Sheriff’s Office, “the Sheriff’s Office looks forward to weighing in on this matter at the appropriate time.”

Trina Patton, a Belmont

resident and activist and member of Fixin’, told commissioners that an inspector general will allow the public to have a more significant role in the oversight of the Sheriff’s Office. She noted that when officers complained about the office action was taken, but not much was done when

citizens brought up concerns about treatment within prisons and other issues.

Other speakers asked the commission to consider recommending the county hire an ombudsman to review the actions of the Sheriff’s Office. They referenced how

Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County provides on-site monitoring and complaint investigation and resolution services to residents of long-term care facilities in the county. The county is paying \$150,000 for such services from February 2025 to February 2026. ■

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KIRK HOUSE

continued from page 5

blesSED me immeasurably.”

The decades-old preschool uses play-based learning to help children gain social, emotional and verbal skills. Administrators say this helps kids gain confidence in speaking up for themselves, collaborating with other students and teaches them patience. While the school still maintains its play-based curriculum, Boenger said it has become more academically focused over the years.

By developing these skills in preschool, Kirk House students are “ready to hit the ground running” in their kindergarten years and are able to be more academic focused, said Esteverena.

Among the many skills preschools learn, Boenger believes that kindness is the most important.

Adjusting to low enrollment

As of the 2025-26 school year,

transitional kindergarten is now fully implemented in California public schools. Private preschools across the country have been struggling with lower enrollment rates as a result — and Kirk House is no exception.

“It’s been a rough time in early childhood education,” said Esteverena.

The state’s TK program allows for all 4-year-olds to enroll into public school giving families the opportunity to enroll their child for free early childhood education.

Kirk House, which previously enrolled students from the ages of 3 to 5 years old has shifted its teaching model to include 2-year-olds. By offering care and education to younger students, the 70-year-old preschool has been able to stay afloat. Despite the dip in numbers from the COVID-19 pandemic and universal TK, “enrollment is very strong for the 2025-26 school year,” said Esteverena.

She adds that the school is able

to thrive because there are still families that seek faith-based schools and appreciate smaller classroom settings. Kirk House also has a strong community that is dedicated to supporting the school.

As a teacher, Boegner said it’s been a learning experience to adjust to a classroom with 2-year-olds who are still learning to speak and practice patience. Regardless of any challenges, Boegner loves that “kids are real, honest and full of love.”

“They’re just ready to be human and experience whatever they want to experience at the moment, without stopping to think about what others might think about,” she said.

70th anniversary celebration

In honor of Kirk House Preschool’s 70th anniversary, the school will be hosting a festival on Saturday, April 26, from 3:30-6 p.m. at 1148 Johnson St. in Menlo Park. The free event is



Courtesy Ruth Esteverena

The front gate of Kirk House Preschool in Menlo Park has greeted thousands of families.

part of Menlo Church’s “Hope for Everyone” campaign and invites the entire community to join.

According to Esteverena, the school will have giant inflatable slides, a petting zoo, miniature train rides, face painting, a Mister Softee ice cream truck and a visit from a Menlo Park Fire Department truck.

Kirk House also encourages prospective families to join as it will be giving tours of the preschool

For more information on the event visit kirkhousepreschool.org/70th-anniversary. ■

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

PARKING LOT BIDS

continued from page 6

of a parking garage but set aside a portion of a parking lot that could be used for a five-story, 515-space garage.

Eden would require the city of

Menlo Park to take on and pay for any legal challenges arising from the development.

Eden’s proposal includes 344 below-market units, with 120 reserved for seniors.

Eden proposes a five-story residential development on part

of Parking Plaza One with the rest used for a parking garage. For Parking Plaza Two, Eden proposed six stories of housing for seniors totaling 120 one-bedroom units. On Parking Plaza Three, Eden proposed five stories of housing with a total of 176 units for families.

Eden’s proposed accelerated timeline would complete construction by December 2032.

Eden said it would propose a financing plan if invited to submit a proposal.

MidPen Housing

MidPen Housing Corporation is a well-known nonprofit affordable housing developer on the Peninsula. It has worked on another development in Menlo Park, Gateway Rising.

MidPen submitted two potential scenarios for development. Both include at least 506 public parking spaces to replace the existing 556 spaces that would be lost, which the city required.

Scenario one would have at least 345 affordable units and three parking spaces for every four units. Buildings would range from six to eight stories. Scenario two would have 258 apartments and five to six stories.

MidPen gave the city multiple options including adding commercial and community gathering spaces and market-rate condos.

After tax credits and loans based on rental income, MidPen would still need roughly \$390,000 per unit, which it suggests funding using county, state and local sources.

PATH Ventures

PATH Ventures, a Los Angeles-

based nonprofit affordable housing developer, also submitted a proposal.

PATH proposed between 400 and 450 units at all three plazas, the most of any proposal, and said it would also be interested in developing some of the plazas and working with other groups for the rest.

For parking, it suggested sharing public and residential parking spaces by allowing members of the public to use spaces during the day while residents are at work.

PATH’s proposal included fewer details than most submissions.

Presidio Bay Ventures

Presidio Bay Ventures was the only predominantly market-rate housing developer to submit a proposal. If that name sounds familiar, it may be because Presidio built the Springline development in downtown Menlo Park.

Presidio proposed building 345 units across all three plazas and 506 public parking spaces, in addition to 76 flex parking spaces, for use by residents and members of the public. Presidio proposed five stories of residential development and two stories of parking at each plaza, with some of the parking being built below ground. Presidio would build a 250-space parking structure on Plaza Three as part of phase one.

In Presidio’s proposal, it implied that the city could not fund the development exclusively with traditional sources and would need to look at working with private investors.

Related and Alta

Related Companies of Califor-

nia and Alta Housing submitted a joint proposal to the city. Related is a for-profit developer, and Alta is a nonprofit affordable housing developer.

On Parking Plaza One, they proposed a 506-space parking garage, in addition to a six-story affordable housing development with 60 units and 0.5 parking spaces per unit. For Parking Plaza Two, they proposed a six-story affordable housing development with 62 units, 0.4 parking spaces per unit and a commercial or community space. For Parking Plaza Three, they proposed a six-story building with between 194 and 235 affordable units and 0.45 parking spaces per unit.

Pacific and West Development

The Pacific Companies and West Development Partners, both for-profit developers, also submitted a joint proposal. They suggested using modular construction, which allows part of the development to be built off-site and then transported.

Pacific highlighted its experience obtaining private funding of affordable housing, using “B bonds,” which it claims streamlines development.

They did not provide any specifics on the development, which the city requested.

Residents can view the proposals on the city’s website. ■

Clarification: This article was updated to clarify that Presidio Bay Ventures develops market-rate housing as well as other projects.

Email Staff Writer Arden Margulis at amargulis@almanacnews.com.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 25-01**

At its regular meeting on April 29, 2025, the Board of Directors of the Woodside Fire Protection District (“District”) will consider adopting the following ordinance:

Ordinance 25-01 “AN ORDINANCE OF THE WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, DESIGNATING FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES AND DETERMINING THE ORDINANCE IS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT”

The Ordinance is also identified as Ordinance 25-01.

SUMMARY OF THE ORDINANCE: Ordinance 25-01 designates the Fire Hazard Severity Zones within the jurisdiction of the Woodside Fire Protection District as recommended by the State Fire Marshal’s Office, identifying areas of varying fire hazard levels.

The district has launched an informational webpage to help residents understand the maps and their implications. As required by state law, the maps are available for public review and comment, with notices published in The Almanac and on the district’s website.

Officials encourage community feedback before the district finalizes its adoption of the maps. For more information, residents can visit the district’s website:

<https://www.woodsidefire.org/our-district/vegetation-management-defensible-space/fire-hazard-severity-zones-fhsz>

CEQA DETERMINATION: The Board of Directors will consider adopting findings that Ordinance 25-01 is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the reasons stated in the proposed ordinance.

A FULL AND COMPLETE COPY OF THE TEXT OF THE ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT

<https://www.woodsidefire.org/our-district/fire-prevention-division/prevention-ordinances-and-resolutions>

AND A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE FULL AND COMPLETE TEXT OF THE ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE AT THE WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OFFICE, 808 PORTOLA ROAD, PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028.

Run Date: April 18, 2025

TICKS

continued from page 5

This species is known for causing Alpha-gal syndrome which can develop into a red meat allergy in humans.

“There’s a lot of movement of people, pets and even livestock coming into our state. California is an agricultural state. We have a lot of military personnel come in. There’s all these different ways that Lone Star ticks as well as other ticks might be moving from other regions,” said Francesca Rubino, post-doctoral researcher at UC Davis.

Ticks thrive in warm and moist environments, such as woodlands along San Francisco and Marin counties. In Portola Valley, researchers ventured into the tall grasses of the Windy Hill Open Space Reserve to search for ticks.

By sweeping large white flags along the grass, researchers caught over a dozen of what they suspect are western blacklegged ticks or American dog ticks, the most common species found in San Mateo County.

Researchers said dogs and children are most at risk of getting bit from grazing the grass on the side of hiking trails.

The movement of the flag mimics the motions of a human or animal brushing up on the vegetation, which is when ticks will grab on for a meal. After sweeping the flag, researchers carefully looked for any ticks on the white fabric and placed them into a test tube, which will be taken back to UC Davis for research.

Tick season typically slows down in the dry seasons of summer and fall, but as the rainy season falls into later months of spring, tick season in California is all year round, said Bonnie Crater, cofounder of the Bay Area Lyme Foundation.

Warmer and wetter climates are allowing ticks to migrate and spread across the United States, leading to “more and more people getting tick borne diseases,” Crater added. Since the 1990s, the number of people who have been diagnosed with Lyme Disease has quadrupled, she said.

Dangers of ticks

The bloodsucking arachnids are known for transmitting various diseases such as Lyme disease, tularemia and Rickettsial diseases. The western blacklegged tick is a primary vector of Lyme disease to humans in

California, according to the San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that nearly half a million people contract Lyme disease every year. Although the disease is more commonly spread in the northeastern states, the potential of contracting Lyme Disease in the western states is still high, Crater said.

“Awareness is important,” she added.

Crater explained that when an infected tick bites onto a host, not only is it feeding on the blood, it is also using a pumping action to push its own saliva into the host, transmitting the disease. Tick bites are usually painless, so many don’t know when they’ve been bit.

The Bay Area Lyme Foundation was founded in 2012 by Crater and Laure Woods, Portola Valley locals. They both had friends and family members who were struggling with debilitating cases of Lyme disease.

Crater said the foundation was created to make the disease easy to diagnose, treat and cure. Currently, the only treatment for Lyme disease is antibiotics, but those who deal with the chronic Lyme Disease can struggle with

severe symptoms of brain fog, arthritis, heart palpitations and facial paralysis for a prolonged duration.

“If we can understand the ecology of ticks, we can help more people,” Crater said.

The foundation has funded dozens of studies on ticks and Lyme Disease across the nation and has partnered with various organizations to further research treatment and impacts of tick borne diseases.

How to stay safe from ticks

Ticks are miniscule, making them very difficult to spot. After spending time outdoors, experts recommend doing a thorough tick check.

The San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District suggests looking in dark, moist areas of the body such as behind the knees, groin, under arms, scalp, behind ears and under waistbands.

Crater said her routine involves putting her worn clothes into the dryer, to kill any ticks and then taking a shower. She also recommends using a tick repellent before going outdoors. Crater personally wears lighter colored clothing to make it easier to spot the ticks on herself.

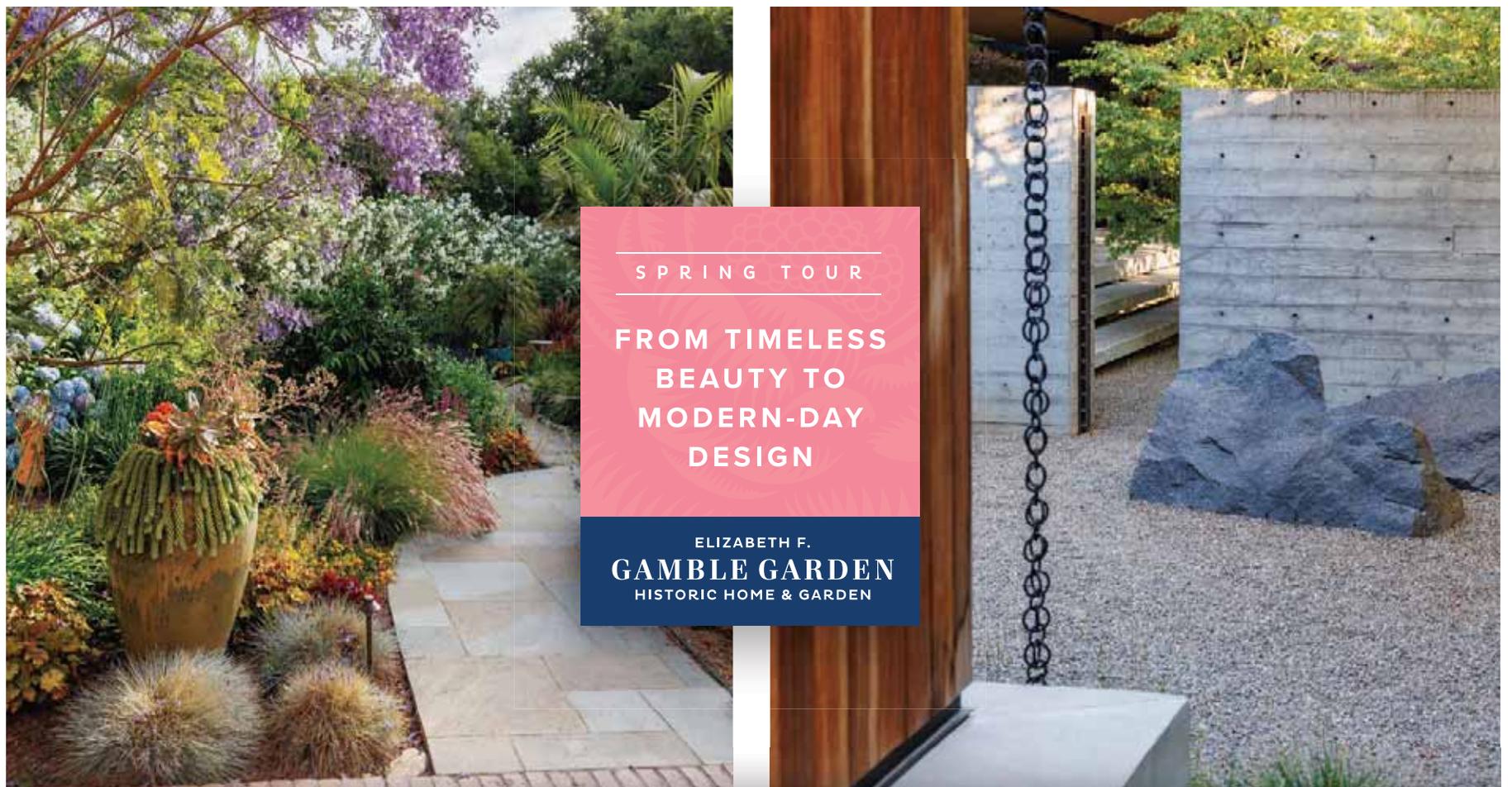
If a tick is found on a host,

it should be removed by using tweezers, tissue or a tick removal tool to grab it as close to the surface of the skin as possible and pull away steadily, according to the county vector control district. Individuals should also wash the area with soap and water or a disinfectant solution after removal.

If there is a concern about whether the tick carries any diseases, it can be collected dead or alive, to be tested, according to the Bay Area Lyme Foundation. After getting the tick tested, you can take the results to a health professional, so you know what to get tested and treated for. The organization has a list of organizations that community members can send their tick to as well as other resources on its website, bayarealye.org.

The San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District also has a program that provides San Mateo County residents with free tick-bite prevention kits with information and resources about reducing the risk of a tick-bite. For more information visit <https://www.smcmvcd.org/tick-bite-prevention-kit>. ■

*Email Staff Writer
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jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.*



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295 BAY ROAD MENLO PARK



CONTEMPORARY STYLE AND A PREMIER LOCATION

This luxuriously remodeled home blends striking modern style with exceptional curb appeal. A bright, open floorplan fosters effortless flow between the living room with a wet bar, the dining area, and the sleek quartz-appointed kitchen. Four spacious bedrooms include an inviting primary suite, while the fenced front yard and expansive back deck provide excellent spaces for outdoor enjoyment. Additional amenities include air conditioning and a 2-car garage with an EV charger. Just steps from Flood Park, this home is minutes from downtown Menlo Park, offers easy access to major tech campuses like Meta and Google, and is conveniently close to commute routes. Plus, it benefits from top-ranked Menlo Park schools including Laurel Elementary, Hillview Middle, and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

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Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team

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NOTICE INVITING BIDS

TOWN OF ATHERTON | STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Notice Inviting Bids: Town will receive sealed bids at the office of the City Clerk, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, California, 94027 until 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2025 for the following public work:

2025 SPRING PATCHING AND STREET OVERLAY PROJECT

Project Number: 56090

Scope of Work: The project scope consists of pavement repairs, rehabilitation, and overlays, including:

- 1.1** Grinding and replacing approximately 15,500 square feet of asphalt to a six-inch depth on various streets. This work includes all necessary traffic control, grinding, sweeping, tack coating, replacing asphalt to appropriate depth in an appropriate number of lifts, and finishing rolling per Town of Atherton Standard specifications and special provisions. Some hand work around utility manhole covers will be required.
- 1.2** Grinding and replacing of approximately 70,000 square feet of asphalt for 2 inches of asphalt concrete pavement on Various Streets. Once the roadway is grinded down, the contractor and the Town's project engineer shall identify any pavement failures for repairs. Grind and replace (digouts) asphalt to a 6-inch depth from the milled surface: then contractor shall perform crack sealing (per specification). Some hand work around utility manhole covers will be necessary. Repave the entire street with a self-propelled paver & finish per Town Standard Specifications.
- 1.3** Reconstruct manhole to grade at Southgate Drive/Park Drive, including root removal and pavement repairs.
- 1.4** Replacement and installation of traffic striping, pavement markings, and markers.

1. Plans & Specifications: Plans & Specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton's website at: <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/bids.aspx> at no cost. Additional information is contained in Town of Atherton Standard Specifications, which are available at: <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/285>. Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town's website. **No Plan holders list will be made be available.**

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

3. Bid Submission: SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, California 94027, **until 1:30 p.m.** Pacific Standard Time **May 15, 2025** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. All proposals must be submitted not later than the date and time prescribed. The Bidder is wholly responsible to ensure its Bid is submitted on the date and at the time and place designated for the opening of bids. Any Bid received after the time and date specified shall not be considered. Any Bid may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled time for opening bids.

4. Engineer's Estimate for the project is: **\$500,000.**

5. Bid Requirements: Bids must be for the entire work and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for **2025 SPRING PATCHING AND STREET OVERLAY PROJECT, Project No: 56090**, along with date and time of bid opening.

Bidders shall refer to the Bid Requirements section of the project Plans and Specifications for additional information and requirements.

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

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

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

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

10. Substitution of Securities: The successful bidder may substitute securities for retention monies withheld pursuant to law and under the terms of this contract to ensure performance of the contract, in accordance with California Public Contract Code, Section 22300.

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

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

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

CROSSWALK

continued from page 5

to remind the public that tampering with City infrastructure, including crosswalk signals, is unlawful and poses a safety risk."

Menlo Park spokesperson Kendra Calvert told this news organization that the affected crosswalks in Menlo Park are operated by the California Department of Transportation and that city-controlled crosswalks were not hacked.

Caltrans spokesperson Jeneane Crawford confirmed that crosswalks operated by the state transportation agency were impacted in Menlo Park and Palo Alto. Caltrans disabled the affected audio on Saturday morning, Crawford said.

"The pedestrian push buttons have been deactivated and crosswalks are currently operating on a timer," Crawford said on Tuesday. "Caltrans is working with the supplier to determine a course of action so that the crosswalks are fully operational as quickly as possible."

A Meta spokesperson referred questions to the cities with the impacted crosswalks. Tesla did not immediately reply to a request for comment. ■

USGS

continued from page 1

site, which would total approximately 89 units.

Any additional units on the USGS site could reduce the amount of affordable housing required on Menlo Park's downtown parking lots. Presidio Bay Ventures previously proposed constructing five-story buildings on those lots, totaling 345 affordable units. The city is still reviewing proposals for the parking lots.

Presidio Bay was not immediately available for comment.

In 2022, GSA put the campus up for auction with the minimum bid set at \$120 million, but the bidding closed without a buyer. The campus was put back up for sale on Feb. 28, 2025, as part of the Department of Government Efficiency's effort to "streamline government real estate holdings."

In November 2022, the city's housing element stated it had received inquiries from eight private developers about the USGS campus, most of whom expressed interest in partnering with an affordable housing developer. It did not specify whether Presidio Bay was one of those developers. ■

Editor's Note: This is a developing story and may be updated with more information.

*Email Staff Writer
Arden Margulis at
amargulis@almanacnews.com.*



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WEST MENLO

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of Communications Gretchen Spiker said in a statement when asked about residents' concerns.

When asked if that sounded correct, Faris chuckled and responded, "Absolutely not." He added that, although he did not have many interactions with deputies, he had heard of instances when the Sheriff's Office either did not respond or took over 90 minutes to respond.

Accidents are common in the triangle, but reporting them is not. The county used the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System to collect and study accident data, but residents think it records only a fraction of accidents. Upon review of the records from 2014-2018, this news organization identified at least one pedestrian death the system failed to record.

Unincorporated residents

cannot vote in Menlo Park elections, serve on city commissions, or enjoy resident rates at city facilities.

"We are effectively disenfranchised," said triangle resident Lynne McClure.

Joining Menlo Park would also mean the city's Heritage Tree Ordinance and building regulations would apply.

The city's concerns

The city has two main concerns with annexation: the amount of staff time to process the annexation and the cost of bringing infrastructure up to code.

So far, residents have had to pay for most of the staff time spent on the annexation request, but continuing the process would require significantly more work, according to city staff. Various City Council members over the years have said they would not feel comfortable delaying other priorities for annexation.

There is not a clear reason on why annexation would require so much staff time. Even Menlo Park Mayor Drew Combs has his doubts.

"I don't know if it's an argument that has held much weight with me," Combs said. "Let's be clear, we're not talking about an enormous amount of time and money. I think we pay more to light the Christmas tree than what it would cost to process this application," he added, clarifying that he supports lighting the Christmas tree.

Combs is the only current council member to publicly support prioritizing annexation.

Every time annexation has come before council, members have declined to pursue it and cited a major project. In 2015, they cited the housing element. In 2017, they cited a pending lawsuit over the Voting Rights Act. In 2024, they cited the housing element again.

"The city is never going to have unlimited resources," Combs said. "We're not being honest brokers with the residents. We're stringing them along by saying, 'it's just not a priority.' If we're saying no, we're saying no."

"It feels like dealing with insurance companies or customer service. They tell you, 'We're sorry for the inconvenience,' but really, they couldn't care less," said Schmidt.

The city's other concern is the cost to make road improvements.

Cities get 16% of a 1% general property tax in incorporated areas. Residents estimate that the city would have received over \$1 million in property tax if it processed annexation when they applied. This news organization was unable to independently verify that figure, however a rough estimate suggests that the true number is more than that.

City staff reports suggest infrastructure upgrades could cost anywhere from \$1.2 million to more than \$3.5 million — expenses the city worries it might not recover.

Since that estimate was made, the county has made improvements to infrastructure on Alameda de las Pulgas and Santa Cruz Avenue including extending sidewalks and raising curbs. In total, the county is estimated to spend between \$5.7 million and \$6.2 million. Residents have issues with the county's plans but construction is already underway. Some of those improvements would reduce the amount Menlo Park would need to spend.

"As a county and as a city, we shouldn't be looking at our residents as revenue providers. We should be looking at what is the best result for service delivery and quality of life," said county supervisor and former City Council

member Ray Mueller. Mueller has been an ardent supporter of annexation since the beginning.

If the city continues to look at annexation, residents would need to be prepared to foot a hefty bill unless the City Council grants a fee waiver. Residents have paid over \$10,000 in fees to cover the cost of city and county staff reviewing their application.

"I'm supportive of a fee waiver. It's just sort of good municipal planning to be supportive of projects like this," Combs said.

Uphill battle

Over the years, the residents of the triangle have continued to request the city act on annexation.

"Ten years ago, a neighbor and I met with the city planner and we were told it should be no problem and in his opinion, a reasonable and doable action," said triangle resident Sara Shaw Hucko, who signed the initial annexation application.

In 2014 and 2015, after discussing it with city officials, residents submitted an application to the Local Agency Formation Commission, which deals with boundary changes in San Mateo County. But before LAFCo could approve it, the city would need to make a property tax agreement with the county and prezone the area. The application said the city was in the process of pre zoning the triangle.

Combs has been told that this may be the longest LAFCo application process in county history, and suspects it may be one of the longest in the state.

Throughout 2015 and 2016, city officials and residents met with county staff multiple times to work on annexation. The results of those discussions were never included in staff reports.

Residents' first major win was in 2016 when the city added implementing an annexation process to its priorities. In October 2017, the City Council held a study session on annexation of the triangle, saying it would consider annexation when developing the work plan.

In 2018, the City Council decided to add annexation to the work plan. The discussions during that decision are not available on the city's archive. The City Council also created a subcommittee to negotiate annexation with the county. The subcommittee never reported back to the full council, citing staff vacancies.

In 2019, the city restarted discussions with the county. City staff was making progress and residents thought that annexation would finally happen. The last mention of annexation in city agendas from that time was: "Staff will report out to City Council early in 2020 regarding next steps." COVID seemed to

derail the momentum.

In 2024, the council brought it up again and decided not to prioritize it.

'Double standard'

Other annexations have been processed much quicker. When Stanford wanted to annex a portion of land for a development, it was completed in a few months. The week after the council approved Stanford's annexation, in October 2017, the City Council decided that staff did not have resources to work on annexation and encouraged residents to bring it up at the goal-setting meeting, where they declined to prioritize it.

"It is a double standard that we can have a discussion about annexing Stanford land without it being in the council goal-setting, without it being in the work plan but when residents want to join the city over quality of life issues, we have all sorts of discussions on whether it fits in the work plan, whether there's money to pay for it," then City Council member Mueller said in 2017. He was the sole vote against the Stanford annexation.

At the time, Mueller's fellow council members pointed out that the Stanford annexation was easier because there were no residents. He maintained that the city still treated triangle residents differently.

Moving forward

Mueller and Combs said they will continue to support annexation as long as the residents want it. LAFCo staff are ready to process the application when the city agrees to prezone the area.

In 2017, Mueller brought up looking at more unincorporated areas to see if residents support annexation. Combs, who wrote his undergraduate thesis on municipal annexation, said he supports a broader review of annexing unincorporated areas, as long as residents support it.

For the triangle, it looks like residents will need to wait for a new City Council, or convince two other members to support it. Since they can not vote in council elections, it may be hard to get the support, Mueller said. Getting Menlo Park residents on board may help move the needle, he added.

"I have a lot of respect for the triangle residents; they have been persistent and stayed active a lot longer than I would have ever imagined," Combs said. ■

Editor's Note: If you live in unincorporated Menlo Park, including Menlo Oaks, email reporter Arden Margulis at armargulis@almanacnews.com with your thoughts on annexation.

Email Staff Writer Arden Margulis at armargulis@almanacnews.com.

Patricia Anderson

January 30, 1925 – March 25, 2025

With profound sadness we announce the passing of Patricia Rae Garrett Anderson, who departed this life on March 25, 2025 at the age of 100. Born on January 30, 1925 in San Francisco, she will be remembered for her warmth, kindness, and unwavering positivity. She leaves behind a legacy of love, resilience, and dedication to family, education, and community. Her memory will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Patricia, affectionately known as Pat, lived a full and vibrant life. She met her beloved husband, Ross F. Anderson, in San Francisco while he was serving as a Naval Officer and she was in graduate school. Their 49 year marriage was a testament to enduring love and partnership, lasting until Ross's passing in June 1995. Their journey together led them to various cities across the United States including Toledo, Atlanta, Menlo Park, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, finally settling in Atherton.

Pat was the loving mother of three children: Ross S. Anderson, Bruce G. Anderson, and Lynn Anderson Poole (Edward). She was a proud grandmother to Eva Anderson, Justin Anderson, Chris Anderson (Miriam), Sara Poole, and Wm. Michael Poole. Her legacy continues with her great-grandchildren, Henry Anderson and Eleanor Anderson, who will forever cherish her memory.

Pat's early years were spent growing up in Los Angeles, where she attended USC and earned her history degree. She received her teaching credential at UC Berkeley and was a substitute teacher for several years. Pat was an active and cherished member of her community. She was a long-time member of the Woodside Atherton Garden Club, the Junior League, and a past member of the Town & Country Club. Her contributions to these organizations reflected her commitment to service and fostering connections within her community.

For the past two decades, Pat resided at the Vi in Palo Alto, where she was known for her unwavering optimism and positive spirit, always offering a kind word or smile to everyone she encountered. The family is profoundly grateful for her devoted caregivers, especially Rowena Pascual, who provided steadfast support and comfort.

Gifts in memory of Pat can be made to the Woodside Atherton Garden Club.



PAID OBITUARY

MAGEE

continued from page 7

pandemic to focusing on mental health support for students and families,” said San Mateo County Board of Education Trustee Chelsea Bonini.

As threats to federal funding for public education increase, Magee intends to shape a vision for the county that is child-centered, according to an April 10 county press release.

“We will work tirelessly to ensure every child, regardless of background, has access to the educational opportunities they deserve,” said Magee in a written statement. “This includes students with disabilities and those from historically marginalized communities. We must expand our investment in the social, emotional, and mental health of our young people.”

Magee said she is also committed to advancing a countywide initiative called “The Big Lift,” which aims to ensure children are reading proficiently by third grade.

For her work during the pandemic, Magee received the Pillar of the County award from the San Mateo County School Boards Association and was named Superintendent of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators.

Under Magee’s leadership, the county has been awarded the 2020 Sustainable San Mateo Sustainability Champion Award. It has been the only county Office of Education to earn the California Green Ribbon Schools Gold Achiever award. The County Office of Education has also been recognized as a statewide leader in increasing education on battling climate change and creating more sustainable communities.

In July, the county will be releasing a climate change and environmental justice curriculum that was developed through a \$6 million grant from the legislature in 2021.

The curriculum, Seeds to Solutions, will be available for every grade level in California schools. ■

*Email Staff Writer
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LEHUA GREENMAN



*“Easter is the time to rejoice and be thankful for the gift of life, love and joy.”
Have a Blessed day.
Happy Easter!”*

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Dorothy (Dottie) Hope Stivers

May 17, 1932 – March 11, 2025

Dorothy (Dottie) Hope Stivers, 92, passed away peacefully at home on March 11, 2025. Dottie is survived by her loving daughters, Katie, Sarah (Tom) and Hope, and grandchildren Zachary and Teresa (Ahmad). She was preceded in death by her husband Edward (1972), son Chris (2015), brother Ted Garfield (2020), sister Louise Muranko (2004), brother-in-law Norman Stivers (2021), and her parents Edward and Hope (nee Dillingham) Garfield.



Dottie was born May 17, 1932, in Bratenahl (Cleveland), Ohio. She graduated from Laurel School in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and received her Masters Degree in Chemistry from Wellesley College in 1955. She met her husband, Ed, at Arthur D. Little in Boston, and they were married November 26, 1960 in Cleveland. Ed and Dottie ventured west to Atherton in 1961 to be part of a new startup company, Raychem, and they were extremely happy in their new California home.

Tragedy struck in 1972 when Ed was killed in a plane crash while traveling on Raychem business. The Stivers and Raychem families rallied around Dottie and her children. At the age of 40, Dottie devoted the rest of her life to raising four children on her own, with the help of family and friends. Always brave, throughout the years she took her four children on amazing family adventures and several cross-country road trips with the extended family. Annual trips to her timeshare in Cancun and Stivers family reunions in Belize and Costa Rica are also treasured memories.

Anyone who knew Dottie knew she was a huge fan of jigsaw puzzles. Other pastimes included family game time, crossword puzzles, and other word and number games. Throughout her children’s school years, Dottie was an active PTA, club, and community volunteer. She enjoyed being involved with her children’s diving team, attending musicals, and playing tennis and bridge with friends.

As an empty-nester she became an Enrolled Agent preparing income taxes, and enjoyed more tennis, walking, and travel; travel highlights include Australia, European river cruises, the Galapagos Islands, and Machu Picchu. She discovered the fitness club Curves and made several close friends there. She delighted in dining, wine-tasting, and Lamplighters (a semi-professional musical theatre company) performances with the “Tennis Ladies”, “Curves Gals”, and “Gang of Nine”.

Tragedy struck again in 2015 with the death of her son, Chris. With all three of her daughters nearby, she once again persevered. Her daughters picked up her love of jigsaw puzzles; when together it was a cherished activity through the remainder of her life.

Dottie lived a long, very full life, and her smile and laugh will be remembered by many. A celebration of her life will be held in Jennings Pavilion at Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Avenue, Atherton on June 6, 2025 at 2:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, her daughters request that donations in Dottie’s name be made to the Galapagos Conservancy or Lamplighters Music Theatre, organizations that were near and dear to her heart.

PAID OBITUARY

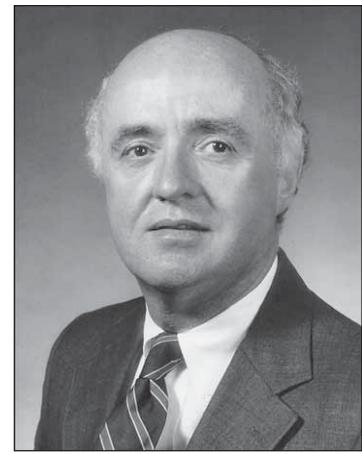
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Joseph Stanley Baylis

September 28, 1933 – April 1, 2025

Joseph Stanley Baylis passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 1 at his home in Menlo Park, CA. Joe was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1933, the youngest of six children of Francis Ray Baylis and Jessie (Kenny) Baylis. He lived a modest life in his childhood, overcoming persistent health issues in his youth, then becoming president of his high school class in Dexter, Michigan. Joe joined the Army after high school, where he was stationed at the US Army headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany from 1954-56 as a stenographer and clerk typist. He cherished those army memories and his time in Heidelberg all of his life, and he was a proud veteran.

After the Army, Joe enrolled at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, following in the footsteps of his father and many Baylis relatives at U of M. There he joined the Chi Psi fraternity and majored in business. He was a lifelong avid fan of U of M sports and faithfully watched and cheered on the Michigan Wolverines, including making many trips back to Ann Arbor for homecoming football games. Go Blue!

After graduating college in 1960, Joe moved to California to start a career in banking. There he rekindled a friendship with Shirley Sullivan, a fellow Michigan alum who had also moved to San Francisco after graduation. A romance developed, and the two were married in 1963. Shirley and Joe were a loving couple for 61 years of marriage.

Joe worked for 25 years for Crocker National Bank in various branch offices throughout California, first as assistant manager, then branch manager, then vice president. Later in his career he worked at University National Bank in Palo Alto as Senior Vice President in private wealth management. His career allowed Joe and Shirley to live in many beautiful parts of California, including Monterey, Santa Barbara, and Menlo Park-Atherton, as they raised their three children John, Brian, and Sara.

Joe had varied interests and devoted himself to many causes over the years. He was keenly interested in genealogy, and kept meticulous and detailed family records of the Baylis family, the Sullivan family, and extended relatives. He and Shirley played tennis, golf, and were members of the Menlo Circus Club. He cherished his beach house at Pajaro Dunes on Monterey Bay, which he and Shirley owned for 40 years. They loved to entertain friends and family at Pajaro Dunes, hosting the Baylis family Thanksgiving dinner there every year. He and Shirley took many trips together, with their children and in later years with friends, including throughout Europe, Mexico, Egypt and India. Joe regularly volunteered at the Menlo Park Veterans Hospital, transporting and assisting hospitalized veterans. He was a board member for several foundations over the years, including the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, the New England Historical Society, Castilleja School, and the Palo Alto chapter of the American Red Cross.

Joe is survived by his loving wife, Shirley; his son John; his son Brian, daughter-in-law Melissa, and grandsons David and Adam; his daughter Sara Cabral, son-in-law Nigel Cabral, and grandsons Hunter and Grant. Joe was a loving and beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend to many in the community. Even at 91 years old, he maintained a sharp mind, a humorous spirit, a love for family, and a kind and generous heart. He will be deeply missed.

A gathering of friends and family will take place on Sunday, May 18 at the Baylis family home.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Red Cross or the VA Palo Alto in Joe’s memory.

PAID OBITUARY

WE'RE PROUD TO BRING OUR READERS SOME OF THE BEST JOURNALISM IN THE STATE.

The annual **California Journalism Awards** competition, which celebrates excellence in reporting, design, photography and multimedia recognized our Peninsula team with **24 awards** in the following categories:

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- General Excellence
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“

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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LETTERS

Our readers write

Should Menlo Park prioritize climate action?

On Saturday, March 22, Menlo Park held its annual priority setting meeting. In an online survey preceding the meeting, respondents were asked if climate action (and other priorities from last year) should continue to be prioritized. A few responded negatively. Some stated climate change is a hoax and addressing it is a waste of time, effort and money. One commenter even alleged it's a money laundering scheme. Others said it's a global issue and way too big for little Menlo Park to do anything about it.

If I could talk with those folks, I'd say to them, "I get it." The climate crisis is a massive issue — too big for Menlo Park to tackle on its own. But we are all in this together. While the world and Menlo Park are making encouraging progress, we still have a long way to go and a short amount of time to get there. So, I think climate action should be a priority for Menlo Park (and all other cities), especially in light of the current federal administration's

shocking rollbacks of countless environmental protections. We can make a difference locally. And in the process, we will have better local air quality which improves and saves lives. We, as individuals, did not cause climate change — that burden falls primarily on the burning of fossil fuels. And the fossil fuel industry, having known the ill effects of their product for decades, has exacerbated the issue with their tactics of denial, doubt, and delay — not to mention their additional role in and promotion of the increased production of plastics. The way our food is produced and wasted is a significant contributor as well. There are, of course, other factors too.

When it comes to global warming, every fraction of a degree of warming prevented is a reduction of suffering. It could be the difference between a small island nation surviving versus being submerged and its people displaced. It could be one less extreme heatwave that takes a grandmother before her time. It could be the survival of a key species that preserves an critical ecosystem. So, let's continue to fight for that fraction of a degree.

The City should not only prioritize climate action but, more importantly, put in place the

policies, programs and funding necessary to make progress. Here in Menlo Park, the City can enact impactful and fair building codes this year that make our buildings safer, healthier, more efficient, and cleaner. The City should increase outreach and partner with community-based organizations to help educate our residents and businesses on ways we can make a difference with the appliances we use in our homes and offices, the way we get from one place to another, the food we eat and waste, and the clothes we wear.

Now is the time to do something more substantial, and to bring the community together at the same time. The City should enable the formation of a new community task force composed of a variety of stakeholders such as City leaders, business owners, homeowners, renters, landlords, developers, contractors, and environmental groups to come together and collaborate in order to develop a workplan to achieve the goals of Menlo Park's Climate Action Plan. Additionally, the City should continue to pursue opportunities to build dense affordable all-electric housing in amenity-rich locations near public transit (like, I don't know, downtown). And the City must continue to

help residents in Belle Haven transition to cleaner equipment, increase the urban tree canopy, and adapt to sea level rise and the many other detrimental effects of a warming planet.

Ultimately and thankfully, the City did elect to again prioritize climate action — moreover we all must organize, mobilize, and realize that Menlo Park can make a difference. It is our obligation to our neighbors, our children, future generations, and small island nations to do all that we can. The changes we demonstrate as a City and individuals can embolden and inspire others to do the same — that is the multiplier effect making our efforts even more impactful. We must never give up this fight for a healthier planet that will sustain us for generations to come — there is too much beauty in this world to lose to do otherwise.

*John McKenna
Menlo Park*

as depicted in the developers plans. Parking, schools and traffic will be irreversibly negatively impacted.

Before any of this is considered, the city needs to permanently fix Santa Cruz Avenue downtown. Members of the City Council and Planning Department should tour downtown Los Gatos and see what they have done there. It is aesthetically pleasing, functional and allows traffic flow. Menlo Park's downtown temporary road changes, and poorly planned temporary sidewalk cafes is a problem that first must be addressed before adding more housing.

The City needs to come up with a permanent solution on Santa Cruz Avenue first, before embarking on another misadventure.

*Noel Smith
Menlo Park*

City needs to fix Santa Cruz Avenue first

I've lived in Menlo Park for over 40 years, and do not want to see downtown ruined by the proposed massive projects. One small scale development perhaps, but not the large scale

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 2345 Yale Street, 1st floor, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Questions? Email editor@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6529.

Stanford athletes and scientists team up to boost performance

At Stanford, scientists and athletes are collaborating through the Wu Tsai Human Performance Alliance to improve sports performance, training, injury prevention, and recovery. Researchers use advanced data collection and analysis — such as sprint profiling, muscle adaptation studies, and biometric monitoring — to better understand how athletes perform and recover. Projects span various sports, including baseball and rowing, combining real-world athletic needs with cutting-edge scientific research. This unique partnership not only benefits athletic outcomes but also advances scientific knowledge of human performance. **SCAN TO READ THE SPOTLIGHT**



PRESENTED BY  **Stanford University**

A SPIRITED STORY

Palo Alto author J.E. Weiner's debut novel is a Southern Gothic saga with a ghostly side

By Ashwini Gangal

Humans and ghosts inhabit the pages of author J. E. Weiner's "The Wretched and Undone" with equal panache. Her debut novel tells the story of a Polish immigrant family in the Texan town of Bandera, known as the "cowboy capital of the world," set around the eve of the Civil War. Themes like assimilation, faith, family, history and horror are prominent throughout the book.

"It's a frontier story ... a quintessential American story," said the Palo Alto-based author, who is a trained historian and has a "very full" day job as fundraiser at Stanford University; she works as a senior associate vice president in medical center development.

It was a Stanford Continuing Studies class she took on novel writing that got her started on this book; she said she found a mentor and friend in Lynn Stegner, one of the teachers in the program.

Published by History Through Fiction, a boutique press based in Minneapolis, Weiner's novel is a work of historical fiction and is positioned to straddle multiple genres, including Southern gothic, Western and Texas noir. "It is a love letter to the Texas Hill Country and to the state and area I grew up in," said Weiner, who spent her early years in Dallas. "When you read

Westerns, it's very similar to the Ten Commandments; that's the closest thing to analogize it to. And there's a 'Code of the West' element to this book."

As a reader she enjoys "gallows humor" and "darkly comedic books" and counts titles like "The Glutton" by A. K. Blakemore and "The Sisters Brothers" by Patrick deWitt among her favorites, alongside the works of authors like Cormac McCarthy, Flannery O'Connor, Larry McMurtry, Jim Nesbitt and Baron Birtcher.

For this novel, which took Weiner around four years to research and write, she gleaned material from several historical sources including contemporary memoirs, old interviews of locals, and accounts of family history from the region. She found the work of J. Marvin Hunter, a journalist and founder of the Frontier Times Museum in Bandera, particularly helpful. "He interviewed all of these Polish founders in the town," she said, referring to books like "Pioneer History of Bandera County: Seventy-Five Years of Intrepid History," that gave her insight into the lives of the early settlers of the place. "They told the stories of their lives, their hardships and what they faced."

Given the fact that a revenge-seeking specter is one of the characters in the book, how is the author ensuring she doesn't

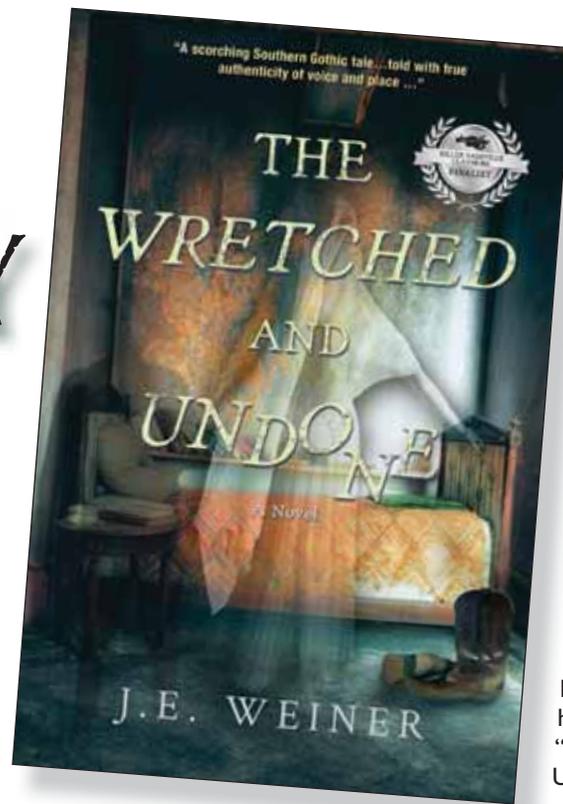
alienate the skeptics?

"Some of the people who I consider to be skeptics, they still watch 'Star Trek' and there's no such thing as Klingons to the best of our knowledge, right?" she said. "There are ways in which you can suspend your disbelief when you read literature and anything that's fictionalized is, ultimately, not necessarily reality."

That said, Weiner does bring her share of real-life ghost stories to the table. Her grandmother, for instance, who lived on a farm in Pennsylvania, near Gettysburg — a borough known for haunted houses and strange sightings — claimed to have seen the ghosts of Civil War soldiers on the property, she said. Her sister also claims to have seen a ghost, not unlike the floating figure in white on the front cover of the book, at her ranch in Bandera.

Weiner has had a couple of first-hand spooky encounters, too. Besides a "footsteps going up the stairs" anecdote from childhood, she has had a memorable run-in with an apparition as an adult, during one of her visits to her grandmother's house as a college student, she said.

"I was sleeping in my mother's old childhood bedroom and I'm



Courtesy J. E. Weiner
Author J.E. Weiner pays tribute to Texas hill country with her debut novel, "The Wretched and Undone."

telling you, I woke up to someone laying on top of me, face in my face, feeling like the wind is being sucked out of my lungs," she said, about a very visceral experience that has informed one of the scenes in the book. "It was really dark in the room but there was a blackness around in the shape of a head."

Even so, the novel is not a "supernatural, paranormal, caught-on-camera kind of story," she said, explaining that the ghosts in the novel serve as metaphoric manifestations of good and evil.

"They're metaphors for the struggles that the characters in the book are undertaking, the demons they confront and the angels that they need ... I also think they represent the notion of forces beyond our control — whether of this world or not, up to you — that confront our moral compass, our sense of right and wrong, our sense of self versus family and community, and the struggles that we face in those black-and-white



J. E. Weiner

moments of our lives," she said. "So I think there's a way in which you can thread that needle even if you're not a believer." ■

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Learn more about the author and "The Wretched and Undone" at jewiner.com.

Review: 'The Heart Sellers' is an emotionally charged comedy with an Asian soul

TheatreWorks stages play that explores what moving from Asia to America in the 1970s was like

By Ashwini Gangal

When the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 was signed into law by then-president Lyndon B. Johnson, the fortunes of skilled Asians aspiring to come to the United States changed overnight. Erstwhile barriers, that were disproportionately porous for Europeans, were finally lifted and

thousands of Asians journeyed to the land of opportunity.

But as anyone who has left their home in search of a better one can affirm, the real journey begins after the plane lands. In "The Heart Sellers," playwright Lloyd Suh lays bare the emotional turbulence of the immigrant experience. The title is a pun on the last names of the men who sponsored this monumental act — Sen. Philip

A. Hart and Rep. Emanuel Celler — which is commonly known as the Hart-Celler Act. TheatreWorks Silicon Valley stages the play in its Northern California premiere.

Set in the Nixon era, the play unfolds over a single evening, as Luna (Nicole Javier) and Jane (Narea Kang) go from being strangers to friends. Having moved to the U.S. from the Philippines and South Korea,

respectively, to join their husbands, who're medical students, they find common ground in their quest to belong. As they struggle to cook Thanksgiving dinner, the turkey in the oven becomes a powerful allegory for their shared desire to assimilate, bringing the writer's masterful use of symbolism in the spotlight.

Also noteworthy is the sensitivity in Suh's writing. Just

moments into the play, the words "back home" appear, forging an instant bond with anyone who has ever moved. A lot of the dialogue is written in broken English, accurately portraying the language gap many Asian immigrants face. The writer balances emotion with humor, providing well-timed comic relief throughout the play.

The sense of time and place comes through clearly through

Worth a Look

Malcolm Harris

Malcolm Harris is a former Palo Alto resident and the author of the bestselling “Palo Alto: A History of California, Capitalism, and the World” (among other books). His latest publication, “What’s Left: Three Paths Through the Planetary Crisis” discusses how to prevent a climate apocalypse through collective political action, incorporating progressive, socialist, and revolutionary strategies. Harris will discuss the book with author and journalist Diana Helmuth at an event hosted by Kepler’s.

April 19, 4 p.m., Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real #100, Menlo Park; \$16.74-\$48.24 depending on ticket option; <https://tinyurl.com/MalcolmHarrisKeplers>.



Courtesy Julia Burke/ Little, Brown and Company

Author Malcolm Harris.

Francisco Ramos

The comedian and voice actor Francisco Ramos has appeared in many TV shows and films; co-written, directed and starred in his comedy short “Zoo Animals;” and even voiced King Marmoset in the animated film “Rio.” Born in Venezuela and raised in the U.S., Ramos was a top-10 finalist on “The Last Comic Standing” in 2015. He brings the laughs to Stanford as part of his current comedy tour, offering two shows at the Bing Concert Hall Studio.

April 18, 7 and 9 p.m., The Studio, 317 Lasuen St., Stanford; \$30-\$35; live.stanford.edu.

‘An Adventure Through Video Game Music’

Audience members can help choose their own musical adventure when pianist Ryan McGaughey, who also composes for video games and is a music educator, combines his classical piano prowess with video game music at his performance in Mountain View. In addition to McGaughey’s piano, the show will also include games, giveaways and visuals to complement the music. “There are 28 possible music selections that you could hear from Final Fantasy X/X-2. I say possible because YOU, the audience, will be helping me choose what music we’ll hear!” McGaughey wrote in an Instagram post about the show.

April 19, 7:30 p.m., Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View; \$28-\$34; tickets. mvpca.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=666.

Paula West

Contralto jazz and cabaret vocalist Paula West is known for both her rich voice as well as her eclectic repertoire of songs, including rock and folk songs and reimagined jazz standards, and has collaborated with the likes of Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. At her run of performances at Meyhouse Palo Alto, she’ll be joined by musicians Adam Shulman, Aaron Germain, and Leon Joyce, according to an Instagram post.

April 18 and 19, 6:30 and 8:30 pm.; Meyhouse Palo Alto, 640 Emerson St., Palo Alto; \$50; meyhousejazz.com.

‘Jersey Boys’

Palo Alto Players takes on the Tony-winning musical biography “Jersey Boys,” which tells the story of the harmony-rich band The Four Seasons. The show lets the band members recall their experiences, from their rough, blue-collar youth on the streets of New Jersey to reaching pop-music glory and beyond, and features classic songs such as “Sherry” and “Walk Like A Man.” In the Palo Alto Players’ version, James M. Jones plays iconic lead singer Frankie Valli.

April 18-May 4 (Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Sundays and some Saturdays at 2 p.m.), Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto; \$35-\$60; paplayers.org/event/jersey-boys.

Dustin Dale Gaspard and Tanner Bingaman

Folk and Americana artists Dustin Dale Gaspard and Tanner Bingaman are the next musicians to perform at Red Rock Coffee’s 2nd Story series, normally held on Saturdays but holding a special Wednesday edition on April 23. Singer/songwriter Gaspard describes himself as performing and promoting “Bilingual Roots Neo-Traditional Cajun music of Louisiana,” while Bingaman writes, performs and produces “writhing folk from the hills of Appalachia via guitar, banjo and harmonica,” according to their respective websites.

April 23, 7-9 p.m., Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View; suggested donation \$20; redrockcoffee.com/2nd-story.



Courtesy Alessandra Mello/TheatreWorks

Luna (Nicole Javier), left, shares a drink with Jane (Narea Kang) in the “The Heart Sellers.”

the costumes, set design and references to the food, politics and pop culture of the ‘70s, most of which are met with gasps of recognition from older audience members. Examples include Ritz crackers, cans of squeazy cheddar cheese, Yellow Pages, TV shows like “Soul Train,” “Sesame Street” and “The Young and the Restless” and Kmart, the department store where Luna and Jane meet. One also never forgets the play is set in a time over five decades ago, because the characters, though ambitious, are bound by not just their station in life but also by their gender.

Other aspects of the play that immigrants and first-generation Americans are likely to relate to include the discussion around adjusting to everyday ‘Americanisms,’ like small talk and social niceties — to someone unfamiliar with the language and colloquialisms here, the assumed permanence of a phrase like “Can I take your coat?” can induce anxiety, as it does in Jane — the practice of shortening or ‘Americanizing’ one’s name, learning how to drive here as an adult, and overcoming feelings of homesickness, diffidence and loneliness on arriving here which tend to be at odds with the passionate desire to live the American dream.

At one point, the words “people like us” are uttered, while talking about the fact that they look and sound different from the general population which, at the time, was mostly white. This play premiered at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater in 2023, but its timeliness and relevance today, given the socio-political discourse all around, is immense. One can hardly read or say the word immigrant today without pausing to think about its myriad implications. In recreating the Asian American immigrant experience of 1973 on stage, the play does a service

to every kind of immigrant, from anywhere, across time.

Jennifer Chang’s direction is smooth and the actors’ dialogue delivery, effortless. In a brief segment towards the end of the play, Javier sings a few lines in her character’s native tongue, an unexpected, melodious treat. One of the most believable elements is Luna and Jane’s transition from being sober to being intoxicated as they guzzle cheap wine over the course of the evening.

In fact, it is through this drunken haze that the two women discuss different renditions of the term “Hart-Celler,” which, they’re amused to discover, sounds like “heart seller.” The most moving version is an allusion to a kind of contemporary Faustian Bargain, with the immigrant as someone who sells his or her heart in the process of entering the United States, making the uniformed immigration officer the proverbial devil.

At the heart of this concept is the simple truth that in coming to this country, one gains professional success and material wealth but one also gives up a great deal, most of which is intangible and abstract.

As Luna and Jane wonder about their husbands’ choice to become doctors in their home countries as opposed to in America — “how could somebody resist the difference?” ■

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“The Heart Sellers” is a co-production between TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Aurora Theatre Company and Sacramento’s Capital Stage. It will run through April 27 at Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Tickets are \$34-\$115. theatreworks.org.



San Mateo's Zero Acre Farms offers restaurants and home chefs an all-purpose cooking oil made from fermented sugar cane

By Karla Kane

Zero Acre Farms, headquartered in San Mateo, is on a mission to “give the world an oil change.” The company aims to help restaurants and home cooks replace conventional cooking oils with what CEO and co-founder Jeff Nobbs says is a more healthful and environmentally sustainable choice: oil made from fermented sugar cane.

Called “the oil of the future” in a June 2024 Food and Wine article, Zero Acre’s oil is versatile, according to Nobbs.

“You really can use it for everything. You don’t need one oil for salads, one oil for cooking, one oil for frying,” Nobbs said. “You can just have one oil to rule them all.”

Zero Acre Farms was launched about five years ago. Its oil is available to order directly and can also be found in restaurants across the country.

“Our focus is on those restaurant partnerships and how we can help them bring healthier fats into their restaurants. Those healthier fats tend to be better for the environment as well. Everyone wins,” said Nobbs, who is also the co-owner of the San Francisco and Oakland restaurant Kitava. “We work with everyone from mom-and-pop independent restaurants to chains to high-end Michelin-starred restaurants, and we’re proud of every partner.”

Bay Area chefs using Zero Acre oil in their restaurants include chef Stuart Brioza, co-owner of San Francisco’s State Bird Provisions, The Progress and The Anchovy Bar (Brioza’s recipe for rice-crusting trout appears on Zero Acre’s website); and chef Kyle Connaughton of Healdsburg eatery SingleThread. Chipotle has been an investor, and Zero Acre has also had a partnership with Shake Shack.

Brioza called it his “workhorse” oil — ideal for vinaigrettes, mayonnaises, aiolis, sautes and marinades, taking the place of grapeseed oil, his former favorite for those recipes.

“Its uses are almost immeasurable. In our kitchen we go through a lot,” he said.

Brioza described the taste as largely neutral, with a pleasant hint of buttery and toasty flavor, as opposed to grapeseed oil’s stronger taste and more perishable nature.

“I look at mayonnaise as a litmus test,” he said. “Several years ago, I made five different mayonnaises using different oils — the same exact recipe to the gram.” He did a blind taste test with his staff, and the mayo made with Zero Acre oil received

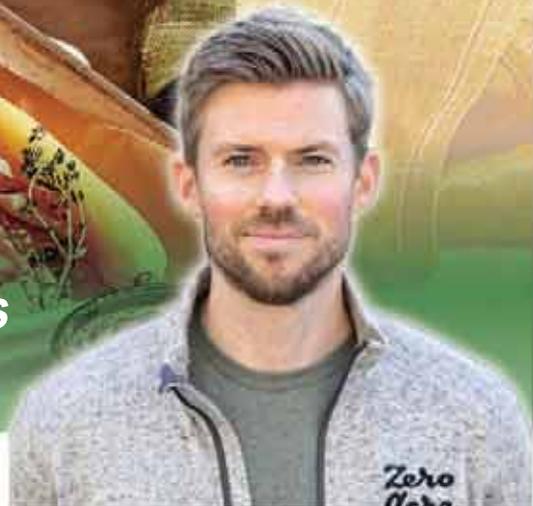
the highest marks.

“Zero Acre for me has been just a really good, consistent product,” he said.

Zero Acre’s roots

The company stems from Nobbs’ longtime curiosity about environmental and wellness issues.

“I’ve always been very interested in food and health and sustainability,” he said. “When I was a kid, my nickname was ‘Nature Boy’ because I was always out exploring things with my dad.” Nobbs’ father was an environmental scientist, his mother was a nurse and his grandfather



‘This sort of blend of health and nature has always been the lens that I look at the world through.’

JEFF NOBBS,
ZERO ACRE FARMS CEO AND CO-FOUNDER

was a doctor.

“This sort of blend of health and nature has always been the lens that I look at the world through,” he said. When Nobbs was in his early 20s, he lost both of his parents to cancer. “That kind of led me down this path of, why people get sick, what we can do about it,” he said. He became even more interested in the relationship between food and health, and in food oils in particular.

“There are a lot of aspects of how food affects our health, but the one that seemed to have this disproportionately large impact compared to people talking about it and doing anything about it was the oils that we consume, especially the way that we consume them, which is, we cook the heck out of them, we deep-fry them, we use them for days or even weeks on end,” he said.

When those oils oxidize, they break down into known toxins. But on any given day, more than one-third of Americans eat fast food, which is typically fried, according to Nobbs.

“Nearly three-fourths of the restaurants in the country have fried food on the menu, so it’s no wonder that these oils are now 20% of our calories in the U.S.,” he said.

Seed oils in particular — including canola oil, corn oil, peanut oil, sesame oil, soybean



Clockwise from the top: Zero Acre oil can be used in place of conventional cooking oils. Jeff Nobbs founded Zero Acre Farms with a goal of offering an alternative to conventional cooking oils. Stuart Brioza, co-owner of San Francisco’s State Bird Provisions, The Progress and The Anchovy Bar, cooks with Zero Acre oil, which is made from fermented sugar cane. Photos courtesy Zero Acre Farms.

See **ZERO ACRE FARMS**, page 26

Public Notices

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE is hereby given pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the California Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of the UCC, and Section 535 of the Penal Code. The undersigned, Menlo-Atherton Storage Storage ("MAS") in Menlo Park, CA, will sell via online public sale by competitive bidding the personal property of Nena Byrd, Virginia Reyes, Nancy C. Spencer, Morgan D. Ropp, and Edgar P. Rodriguez Estrada. Property to be sold: personal affects, shelving units, tools, boxes of unknown contents & more. The auction will be held online at www.storagetreasures.com. The sale will begin April 28, 2025 at 4pm and end on May 5, 2025 at 4pm. Goods must be paid for in CASH at MAS and removed at completion of the sale. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between MAS and obligated party. Menlo-Atherton Storage, 3757 Haven Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025 650.366.3757. Please refer to www.storagetreasures.com for all other terms and conditions governing the bidding and auction process. (ALM Apr 18 and 25, 2025)

CLAU THERAPY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-300076
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CLAU THERAPY, located at 2027 Dumbarton Ave, E Palo Alto, CA, 94303.
Registered owner(s):
CLAUDIA CATTANEO AUXIER
2027 Dumbarton Ave.
E. Palo Alto, 94303
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 March 11, 2025.
(ALM Apr 11, 18, 25 and May 2, 2025)

HAVEN WINE & CHEESE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-300127
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) HAVEN WINE & CHEESE, located at 1925 MENALTO AVENUE, MENLO PARK, CA, 94025.
Mailing Address: PO BOX 389 MENLO PARK, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
ERE VINO, LLC
PO BOX 389
MENLO PARK, CA 94025
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 17, 2025.
(ALM Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

FORD AVIATION CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-300068
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) FORD AVIATION CONSULTING, located at 360 Bowsprit Dr, Redwood City, CA 94065.
Registered owner(s):
CAROL MARY FORD
360 Bowsprit Drive
Redwood City, CA, 94065
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on January 1, 2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 10, 2025.
(ALM Apr 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

MANY LIVES CHINESE MEDICINE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-299820
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) MANY LIVES CHINESE MEDICINE, located at 499 Seaport Ct. #101, Redwood City, CA 94063. Mailing Address: 3600 Page Street Redwood City, CA 94063.
Registered owner(s):
MLCM, INC.
3600 Page Street
Redwood City, CA 94063
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 10/01/1999.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 14, 2025.
(ALM Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

HIGHWAY 1 FITNESS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-300300
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) HIGHWAY 1 FITNESS, located at 225 Cabrillo Highway Suite 104B, HALF MOON BAY, CA 94019.
Registered owner(s):
WOOSHIFIT LLC
515 EL GRANADA BLVD
HALF MOON BAY, CA 94019
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2022.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 03, 2025.
(ALM Apr 11, 18, 25 and May 2, 2025)

D & V CLEANING LLC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-300315
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) D & V CLEANING LLC, located at 222 88th St APT 202, Daly City, CA 94015.
Registered owner(s):
D & V CLEANING LLC
222 88th St APT 202
Daly City, CA 94015
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/10/2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 04, 2025.
(ALM Apr 11, 18, 25 and May 2, 2025)

SILVER OAKS MEMORY CARE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-299925
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SILVER OAKS MEMORY CARE, located at 16 Coleman Place, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
FOX OPS LLC
355 Main Street
Vacaville, CA 95688
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/1/2018.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 27, 2025.
(ALM Apr 11, 18, 25 and May 2, 2025)

SEQPRO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-300080
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SEQPRO, located at 348 Hatch Drive, Foster City, CA 94404.
Registered owner(s):
MEDGENOME INC
348 Hatch Drive
Foster City, CA 94404
State of Incorporation/Organization: DE
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 12, 2025.
(ALM Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

PACIFIC TRUST REAL ESTATE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-300140
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PACIFIC TRUST REAL ESTATE, located at 1300 El Camino Real #100, Menlo Park CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
DAVID WEIL HOMES, LLC
1350 Cloud Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025

BRIK HOUSE, INC.
2920 Juniper St.
San Mateo, CA 94403
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Joint Venture.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on March 17 2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 18, 2025.
(ALM Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 25CIV01930
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Lea-Ann Hutter filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
LEA-ANN HUTTER to LEA ANN HUTTER
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: May 19, 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: March 20, 2025
Stephanie Garratt
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 25CIV01858
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Jo Ellen Johnson filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
JO ELLEN JOHNSON to JO ELLEN WILLIAMS
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: May 12, 2025, 9:00 AM, 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: March 14, 2025
Hon. Stephanie G. Garratt
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.

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

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

ZERO ACRE FARMS

continued from page 25

oil and others — are commonly used in cooking, especially in restaurants. Seed oils are relatively neutral in taste, have a fairly high smoke point (the temperature at which an oil emits smoke), are affordable and, because they're liquids, easy to use.

However, they're also high in polyunsaturated fats. When fried, "those are the types of fats that tend to break down into toxic aldehydes, into trans fats, into a bunch of other stuff we don't want to be eating," Nobbs said. Some have chemical antioxidants added to prevent them from quickly going rancid, among other issues, according to Nobbs.

"What we were looking to do was to have something that conventional oils offer in terms of the good, but with none of the bad," Nobbs said. Zero Acre oil, he said, is free from synthetic antioxidants and chemical extraction, low in polyunsaturated fats and boasts a high smoke point. According to the company, Zero Acre oil has "35% more healthy monounsaturated fats than olive oil" (and though it comes from sugar cane, there is no sugar left in the oil after the fermentation process.)

Research on fermenting sugar cane for oil has been going on for the past century or so, Nobbs said, with an increase in interest in recent decades. When he learned about it, "the light bulb sort of went off," he said.

"We found the right manufacturing partners and supply-chain partners (the sugar cane is grown in South America), built out a team and all that to make it happen, and brought it to market a couple of years ago," Nobbs said.

Going green

Environmental sustainability is also part of Zero Acre Farms' mission. The name refers to the goal of decreasing the amount of land used to produce cooking oil.

"Vegetable oils, kind of broadly speaking, which includes soybean oil and canola oil and the rest, they take up about 30% of croplands globally, and since the 1960s they've taken up more land than basically every other food combined," Nobbs said. Most are annual monocrops and, in the U.S., some are subsidized, such as soy, corn and cotton.

"They have this disproportionately bad environmental footprint. Not only are they inefficient, in that they need a ton of land just to produce a little bit of oil...they're also quite bad from an emissions standpoint and so they've got to go," Nobbs said. "It doesn't make sense to clear all this land to grow an entire plant just to press its tiny seed for some oil and then rip it all out of the ground, including

More information is available at zeroacre.com. Instagram: [@zeroacrefarms](https://www.instagram.com/zeroacrefarms).

its roots, every year just to do it all over again."

Sugar cane uses 87% less land than canola oil (and 99% less water than olive oil), according to Zero Acre's website.

"It's also a perennial crop, so it's not uprooted every year like an annual monocrop is, and it gets its water primarily from rainfall, not irrigation, so kind of across the board — emissions, land use, water use — all the numbers are really good," he said.

Nobbs said people may not be aware of how prevalent cooking oils are in daily life.

"I think a lot of people think, 'Oh this doesn't affect me, this isn't an issue,' until they start looking at the ingredients lists of everything in their kitchen and their pantry and their fridge, and they start asking restaurants what oils they cook with," he said.

The debate over the merits and possible dangers of seed oils has been simmering in recent years, with the likes of Christopher Gardner, professor of medicine and director of nutrition studies at the Stanford Prevention Research Center, writing in an MSNBC opinion piece that Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. had joined "the seed oil conspiracy theorists." Gardner added that "there is an overwhelming body of scientific evidence confirming this family of oils is more healthful than harmful in moderation."

And in a March 13 interview in Stanford Medicine's Scope publication, Gardner said most claims about seed oils are misguided and that other dietary changes — such as avoiding ultraprocessed foods — will lead to bigger health benefits than focusing on seed oils. (Nobbs has argued that media coverage of the seed oil debate has been flawed.)

To Nobbs, the very fact that cooking oils have increasingly become a topic of debate at all is a good thing.

"We are very excited about the momentum right now, even if it's controversial," he said. "People talking about oil is like a dream come true for us." ■

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

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SUMMERLearn more at AlmanacNews.com/camp-connection/

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

CAMP CONNECTION 2025

ACADEMICS

Early Learning Institute Palo Alto, Pleasanton

AN AMAZING SUMMER WRITING PROGRAM. Every year, Emerson Montessori School offers its three Write Now!® courses — camp-like sessions designed to improve students' writing and public presentation skills. Each one-week course features a different focus: Expository Writing (prose forms used in school assignments), Creative Writing (stories, plays, poems), and Presentation ("Persuasion" this year). Parents are welcome at the afternoon "Authors' Workshops" and "Speakers' Forums."

EmersonMontessori.com/WriteNow Emerson: (650) 424-1267
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Harker Summer Programs San Jose

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

Harker.org/Summer (408) 553-5737

Lydian Academy Menlo Park, Burlingame

Lydian invites 6th-12th Neurodiverse learners, 2E students, and those in need of credit remediation or advancement to complete UC-approved courses in our personalized 1:1 setting in as few as 2.5 weeks. Executive Functioning, Personal Finance, and Life Skills electives are popular, in addition to our Design Thinking and Engineering (STEAM) camps and Middle School day camps.

LydianAcademy.com/Admissions/Summer-at-Lydian/ (650) 405-1312

Pinewood School Summer Festival of Learning Los Altos

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

Pinewood.edu/Summer-at-Pinewood

ACADEMICS

STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research Stanford

Stanford Explore is a lecture series in biomedical research and offers high school students the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students. Explore various topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neuroscience, cancer, immunology and other topics.

Explore.Stanford.edu **explore-series@stanford.edu**

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Gear up for an unforgettable summer where your child will enjoy thrilling adventures, master new skills, build friendships, and create unforgettable memories — all fueled by STEM-powered fun! Registration opened January 21. Sign up today!

StratfordSchools.com/Summer (650) 493-1151

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Camp.Integem.com (408) 459-0657

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto

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

Castilleja.org/SummerCamp (650) 470-7833

Hidden Villa Los Altos Hills

Hidden Villa is a 1,600-acre living classroom where kids explore organic farms, connect with animals, and discover the intersection of ecology and equity. Our Summer Camp transforms young people, cultivating compassion, environmental stewardship, and community understanding through hands-on adventures that inspire change.

HiddenVilla.org/SummerCamp (650) 949-8606

J-Camp at the Oshman Family JCC Palo Alto

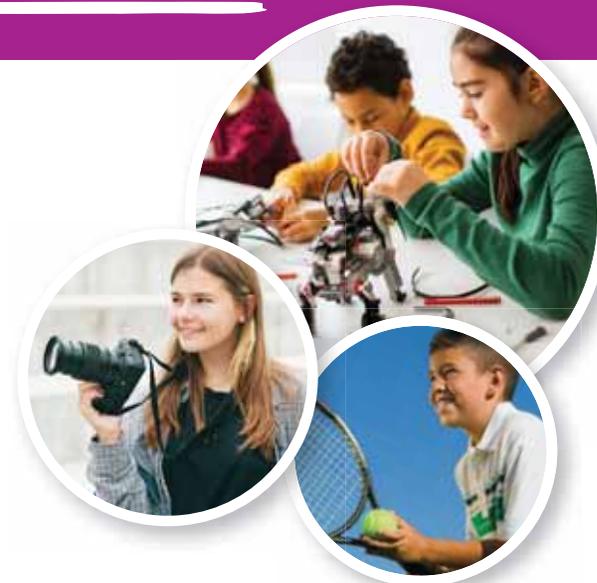
J-Camp is a day camp for incoming transitional kindergarten through 10th grade. Our camp activities build confidence, stretch imaginations and teach new skills. Every session is a unique experience, full of fun and engaging programs. We are a welcoming and inclusive community where campers of all backgrounds and their families learn, play and connect.

OFJCC-JCamp.com (650) 223-8622

Riekes Center Menlo Park

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

RiekesSummerCamps.org (650) 364-2509



ARTS, CULTURE & ENRICHMENT

Stanford Jazz Workshop Stanford

Stanford Jazz Workshop week-long jazz immersion programs for young musicians in middle school (Giant Steps Day Camp, starts July 7), high school (Jazz Camp, starts July 12 and/or July 20, and advanced teens/adults (Jazz Institute, July 27). All instruments and vocals. On the Stanford campus!

StanfordJazz.org (650) 736-0324

YMCA of Silicon Valley Silicon Valley

Unleash your child's potential at the YMCA of Silicon Valley's Summer Camps, where kids of all abilities discover new passions, make lifelong friends, and build confidence in a supportive environment. With a wide range of Day Camps to choose from, there's a perfect fit for every child. Hurry — camps are filling up fast! Register today!

YMCASV.org/SummerCamp (408) 351-6400

ATHLETICS

Maccabi Sports Camp Hayward

Maccabi Sports Camp is an overnight Jewish sports camp located on the beautiful CSU East Bay campus in Hayward. We welcome campers entering grades 3-11 with programs dedicated to building strong character and Jewish community through sports. We offer six core sports: soccer, baseball, basketball, racket sports, volleyball and multi-sport.

MaccabiSportsCamp.org/wp (415) 997-8844

Spartans Sports Camp Mountain View

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

SpartansSportsCamp.com (650) 479-5906

Stanford Water Polo Camps Stanford

New to water polo or have experience, we have a camp for you! Half day or full day options for both boys and girls ages 7 and up. All camps provide fundamental skills, scrimmages and games. Session 1 June 9-12, 2025; Session 2 June 16-19, 2025.

StanfordWaterPoloCamps.com (650) 725-9016

Please check directly with camps for updates and offerings. To advertise in print and online, contact your sales representative or email Sales@EmbarcaderoMedia.org.



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