

# The Almanac

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

MAY 9, 2025 | VOL. 60 NO. 35



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## Users say new senior center was not built with them in mind

### Tripping hazards, inaccessible restrooms and more cited

By Arden Margulis

Amid ongoing issues with other recreational programs, Menlo Park seniors have raised concerns about the senior center at the Belle Haven Community Center.

Hard-to-use chairs, tripping hazards, inaccessible restrooms and unclear emergency plans are some of the concerns listed in a petition that has garnered 200 signatures.

The senior center is open weekdays at the new community center and provides services to residents 60 years of age and older. Meta, then-Facebook, paid for the center, which replaced the Onetta Harris Community Center, located at the same space. The Harris Center previously had a separate building for seniors, but as part of the modernization, the senior center was put in the same building as the other services.

Seniors have said that the redesign did not take into account their needs.

"It makes us very sad that the

seniors aren't a priority in the new building at Belle Haven," said one longtime resident, a disabled senior, who spoke through a translator at a council meeting.

"It just wasn't designed for us," he added at another meeting.

Seniors say that the chairs in the center are not accessible to people with disabilities, which has led to tripping and falls. The furniture at the previous center was "carefully selected with accessibility in mind," according to the petition.

Additionally, the bathrooms are not accessible and the doors are very heavy, according to one senior. Many seniors need staff assistance to open the doors, which they say is inconvenient and undignified.

Eduardo Hernandez, a Belle Haven resident for 25 years who organized the petition, said that he has concerns about the city's safety plan.

"I was deeply concerned to learn that [a city employee had] misled us regarding the existence of a safety plan for the Belle Haven Community



Belle Haven Community Campus in Menlo Park on April 22, 2024.

Devin Roberts

Campus. At the front desk, I was told that the safety cards were just printed today. When I reviewed them, they contained only maps of the

building — no actual safety instructions or emergency procedures," Hernandez wrote in an email to the city council. "I then went to the library on the

second floor, where the librarian told me they were unaware of any safety plan and did not

See **SENIOR CENTER**, page 13

## May Day Festival brings out Woodside

### Tradition honors past, celebrates youth

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The morning of the 103rd May Day Festival started out with gray and cloudy skies but the joy of the annual celebration brought out the sun by noon on Saturday, May 3. Hundreds of people were ready to "giddyup" as they gathered alongside Woodside Road to collect candy and watch neighbors ride on horses and parade floats.

This year's May Day theme was "Giddyup, Woodside!" and featured Woodside's Mounted Patrol, Woodside

Elementary School's class of 1970, Woodside High School marching band, town representatives, WHOA!, Los Trancos Woods Community Marching Band and the eighth grade cast of Woodside Elementary's operetta "Moana Jr."

Kids with paper bags, boxes and umbrellas went crazy as parade participants tossed handfuls of candy as they passed by the crowd. Children were trying to collect as much candy as they could to win the candy grab contest at the end of the parade. The winning prize: bragging rights and candy.

Parade emcees Tyler MacNiven and Melanie Westervelt kept spirits high as they announced each participant with enthusiasm, wit and commentary.

This year the Woodside PTA honored Karen Seiko Arimoto-Peterson with the title of grand marshal and Sharon LaCrosse Ryan as deputy marshal.

"Karen has been a lifelong friend of all of ours, of Woodside, of the community," said MacNiven as the grand marshal rode by on a BMW convertible. "She is the heartbeat." Arimoto-Peterson graduated from Woodside High School



Magali Gauthier

Members of the May Day Parade kindercourt ride in a Woodside Fire Protection District engine on May 3.

in 1964 and was a teacher at Woodside Elementary for 40 years. She has a deep-rooted connection to the town and

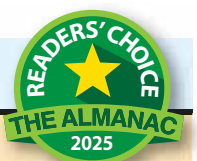
dedicates much of her time to various committees and

See **MAY DAY**, page 12

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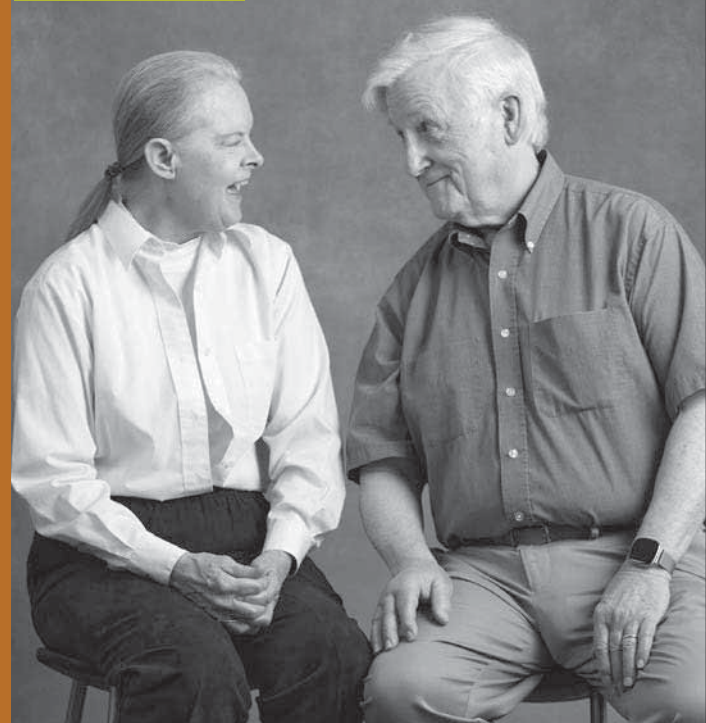
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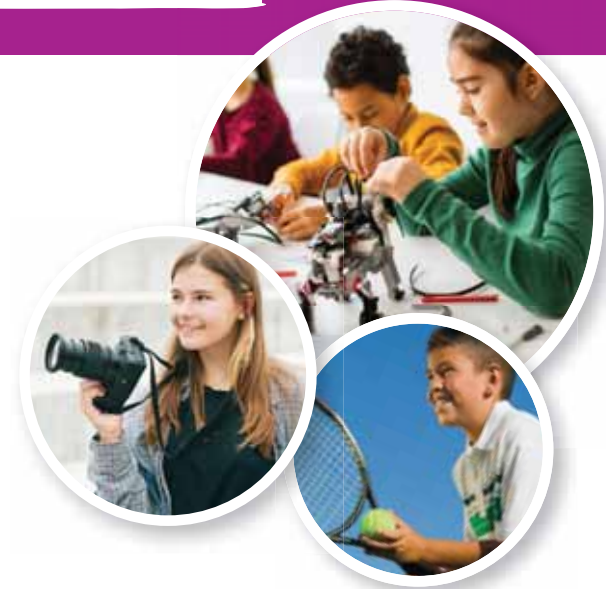
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# Local News

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## Friends remain hopeful missing hiker soon will be found

Search moves into more limited phase

By Simmerdeep Kaur

As another day in the search for missing Redwood City resident Margaret “Elaine” McKinley continued May 5, her friends and family gathered in the parking lot of Windy Hill Open Space Preserve to assist and hold onto hope for her safe return.

“She (McKinley) is strong, she is smart, she is 100% alive,” said her sister Kelley McKinley.

McKinley, 79, was hiking at the preserve in Portola Valley on May 1 with her partner, Kit Durgin, and a friend when she went missing. Since then, several counties have joined the intense search for McKinley, who has dementia. She was last seen wearing a red jacket and black pants on the Lost Trail.

On May 6, San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office said the search had morphed into the limited continuous search phase. That phase would continue indefinitely with scaled down resources, according to a Sheriff’s release.



Courtesy San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office

The hunt for clues to the whereabouts of 79-year-old Margaret Elaine McKinley continues.

Originally from Texas, McKinley moved to the San Francisco Bay Area in search of more opportunities to learn and advance her career, according to Iris Biblowitz, her best friend.

“She’s extremely skilled and educated, and she wanted to learn,” Biblowitz said.

The two served together in the Peace Corps in Togo, West

Africa, from 1968 to 1970. Before retiring, McKinley was vice president of a corporation that manufactures medical equipment such as MRI and PET scan machines. Biblowitz said McKinley was a great boss who always went out of her way to train and support people, especially the working class and the BIPOC community.

“She really wanted to give people who hadn’t had a chance the opportunity to develop,” Biblowitz said.

McKinley has lived in Redwood City for about 45 years. Friends describe her as an experienced hiker and a fast walker.

“All you have to do is look to the left, and she’s gone,” said Linda Hook, a friend and former colleague.

Hook, who worked with McKinley for several years, also described her as someone with a great sense of humor who would always be the “star of the meeting.”

“We all love her and we’re

See **HIKER**, page 16

## Peninsula Family Service marks 75 years of work

Organization works to support families across region

By Arden Margulis

Whether it’s a child entering preschool or a senior battling loneliness, Peninsula Family Service has quietly supported generations of Bay Area residents for 75 years. The nonprofit marked its milestone anniversary on May 1 with a celebration at the San Mateo County History Museum.

“We help all of the community, across generations, across age groups, because we know all people have needs, and we want to be there for them to make sure that they have the support to live healthy, stable lives,” service CEO Heather Cleary said in an interview at the event.

The nonprofit says it has more than 45 programs and reaches over 10,000 residents annually in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

PFS started in 1950 by providing talk therapy services to residents in San Mateo.

“When I came to the agency, (Peninsula Family Service was called Peninsula Family Agency at the time), we were a marriage, family and child counseling agency. We had six full-time counselors, and some part-time counselors. We soon found that there was a huge demand, but there was a demand for other things too. We had young women come in, they had one or two children and the father had disappeared. They had no means of support,” said Don Cameron, who was CEO of the organization from 1969 to 1997.

In 1973, PFS had expanded to launching a network of family day care homes in Redwood City. With funding from the state and city, it trained mothers in nursery techniques and then hired them to operate child care services out of their homes. Low-income parents who were working or in workforce education programs could send their children to PFS at significantly reduced fees. Families were charged fees on a sliding scale by income. It later expanded to include infant care.

“It was very difficult because the family’s options were so

limited. We decided to set up a child care program so those people could have someone taking care of their kids while they got job training or a job. It was the first time the agency had moved from just talk therapy to concrete services, and since then, it’s taken off,” Cameron said.

Today, PFS runs nine early learning centers, including two dedicated to families in emergency and transitional housing, in San Mateo County. Together they serve more than 400 children.

PFS also expanded to include financial education, and has employment services for people over 50. “We know that financial empowerment isn’t yet taught in schools so we need to support people with education about building assets and credit,” said Cleary.

She said PFS is piloting a program to assist graduating high school seniors who are going into trade jobs and include a financial literacy aspect.

“Peninsula Family Services is the leader ... not just in San Mateo County, but I would say in the state. The work they’ve done, especially around loneliness, is critically important,” said San Mateo County Board of Supervisors President David Canepa.

“When San Mateo County declared loneliness a public health crisis, they worked with us in partnership to figure out how to reach people. San Mateo County is the third wealthiest county in the country. The county did a survey of residents and found that 50% feel lonely. There’s something wrong with that,” Canepa said. “There are a lot of peer counselors here today and those are the people on the ground making direct connections with our population.”

PFS started its peer counseling program for people 55 years old and older in 2008. At no charge, residents can be matched with a peer counselor who often shares a similar background and can attend weekly individual or group sessions.

See **FAMILY SERVICE**, page 20

## San Mateo County hosts first wildfire preparedness fair

Event draws over 400 who heard about a range of precautions

By Angela Swartz

Fluffy service dogs, Smokey Bear, Cal Fire’s Captain Cal and more than 400 people milled about the San Mateo County Event Center in San Mateo on Saturday, April 26, for the county’s first event to equip the public with practical information for preparing for a wildfire.

“Be Wildfire Safe & Ready” featured booths with information on backup battery packs for use during power outages, which have become more frequent during heat waves, to demonstrations on how to turn off your natural gas valve.

There were also opportunities to meet emergency response crews from the Sheriff’s Office,



Courtesy San Mateo County

Heather Vandenberghe, far left, speaks on a panel focusing on first-hand accounts with, from left, Betsy Burton Firebaugh, a survivor of the 2020 CZU fire, Jed Wilson, chief of San Mateo County Fire, Mark Lorenzen, chief of the Menlo Park Fire District, and Supervisor Jackie Speier.

American Medical Response San Mateo County and local fire departments. County Supervisor Jackie Speier coordinated the event, in part, because of the massive fires that hit Los

Angeles in January.

One panel featured wildfire survivors, including Menlo Park resident Heather Vandenberghe,

See **WILDFIRE**, page 21

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Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Seven-year-old Mushka scrubs a shirt on a washboard during Old Woodside Store Day on May 4.

## Old Woodside Store Day brings people back to 1800s

Store is a portal into the past

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Old Woodside Store Day transported locals back to the 1800s and surrounded them with old-time sounds of a banjo and fiddle while they took part in a seed-spitting contest, split wood shingles, and tried their hands at making rope, washing clothes and making butter the old-fashioned way.

"I want people to get a sense of how life has changed," said Carmen Blair, education director of San Mateo County Historical Association.

For over 35 years, the Woodside Store has hosted a one-day event on the first Sunday of May to celebrate the historical site and bring people back to what life was like in the 1800s.

The Woodside Store was built in 1854 by Dr. Robert Orville Tripp, a San Francisco-based dentist, and his business partner Mathias Parkehurst. The store catered to lumberjacks who were logging the original redwood trees in the area, said Jim Wagner, head volunteer storekeeper. The store itself was built out of the original San Mateo County redwood trees that grew on the land centuries ago, he added.

The historical site was once known as the only general store between San Francisco and San Jose, selling such items as groceries, clothes and even dental service, said Blair.

The store was in operation until 1909 when Tripp died and was later acquired by the Woodside Community Church

in 1926. It was not until 1940 that it became a county park and is now currently being operated as a museum by the San Mateo County Historical Association.

While the site is typically visited by third and fourth graders on school field trips, Old Woodside Store Day welcomes the broader community to enjoy the ambiance of what many think resembles the wild west, said Blair.

Visitors were able to make their own wood shingles with a mallet and froe, an axe-like tool made to split wood. Children were able to saw wood with a two-man and one-man saw like those common in the 1800s and were learning from volunteers about how much physical labor was involved with everyday tasks such as scrubbing laundry on a washboard and churning butter.

The store is operated by county staff and volunteers, some of whom have been with the site for over 30 years. Wagner has been volunteering since 1995 and said he loves being able to interact with the community and share the history of the store to visitors.

The staff has used the original ledgers from the 1880s to understand what goods were sold in order to place replicas in the store. A chalkboard in the store also lists the original prices of each item and is used during field trips to simulate a shopping experience for students. ■

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# JobTrain celebrates 60 years of success on Peninsula

CEO imagines home-grown organization expanding throughout region

By Lisa Moreno

Despite migrating to the United States as a university teacher and journalist, Christopher Luna felt “so lost” when he arrived, he said.

As someone with a background in communications, not being able to speak English was all the more difficult, Luna said — until he entered a JobTrain career center in South San Francisco. With the help of its staff, he was able to begin learning English and eventually began working for the nonprofit.

His journey, migrating to the United States and receiving assistance from JobTrain, allows him to empathize with the people he works with today, as an employment services specialist in the North Fair Oaks JobTrain career center.

“I can see myself in every person I work with,” said Luna, who is fully booked every day, consulting with residents who are seeking employment.

But his experience is not rare; In fact, it’s common enough that

JobTrain has a name for the people it hires through its assistance — “homegrown tomatoes.”

JobTrain, a career development organization that began in East Palo Alto and has expanded across the Bay Area, celebrated 60 years of service at a fundraising event on the morning of April 30.

JobTrain’s philosophy is to directly connect people who are unemployed or looking to change their career paths with local businesses and professionals, in order to learn about a trade, then find a job. In 1965, East Palo Alto Pastor John Sweeny adopted the idea from a Philadelphia reverend who called it a “win-win” for industries in need of workers and people in need of work.

And 60 years later, the model has served Peninsula residents well, including those who don’t have high school diplomas as well as those with advanced college degrees. The program has expanded from East Palo Alto into Menlo Park, Redwood City, South San Francisco, San Jose

and Half Moon Bay, along with various training opportunities throughout the Bay Area.

JobTrain offers resume assistance, job search help, employment training, career exploration and general supportive services that could range from helping people get business licenses or even actions as seemingly simple as using Google maps for directions, Luna said.

The main Menlo Park location serves as JobTrain’s headquarters, offering regular training pathways that ebb and flow with the job market. Most recently, JobTrain added property management to its program offerings in an effort to connect more residents to the local affordable housing industry; the program was so popular that officials asked JobTrain to provide the service in Oakland.

The program specifically targets people living in unstable housing conditions, Barrie Hathaway, JobTrain CEO said in an interview with this publication. That way, he said, they can learn the skills they need to



Courtesy Esmeralda Cerrato

JobTrain CEO Barrie Hathaway listens to a speech by State Sen. Josh Becker at the nonprofit’s breakfast event on April 30.

find housing then help others in the future.

“Their lived experience is so helpful in that job, that employers want to hire somebody with lived experience,” Hathaway said.

Currently, JobTrain also offers construction, HVAC, nursing, technology and culinary training pathways among others. Although as the demand for the nonprofit’s services increases, so does its need for more physical space to accommodate residents, which have manifested in the form of “career centers.”

JobTrain’s Menlo Park location, an economic and

employment center, serves as its main training base, but “career centers” act as starting points for people interested in assistance. The career center in North Fair Oaks is JobTrain’s newest location, built approximately eight months ago.

Those who enter the building may mistake it for a community center rather than an office. With a large open space in the main room, residents mingle with staff. There is a kitchenette and play spaces for children.

The center often serves as “more than just a career center.”

See **JOBTRAIN**, page 16

Stanford | MEDICINE

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# Developers compliant with agreements for Middle Plaza, Springline

Agreements benefit city and its residents

By Arden Margulis

The developers behind the Springline and Middle Plaza developments in Menlo Park are following their agreements with the city, the planning commission determined during its April 28 meeting.

The commission found that the Springline development by Presidio Bay Ventures and the Middle Plaza development by Stanford University are in compliance with their respective agreements signed by the developers.

The agreements provide the city and residents with additional funds and amenities and provide guarantees and exemptions to the developers. Presidio Bay was allowed to construct an additional 112,108 square feet



Magali Gauthier

Springline at 1300 El Camino Real in Menlo Park in 2022.

of residential and commercial spaces and Stanford received guaranteed approval due to the agreement.

Presidio Bay guaranteed \$83,700 in sales tax revenue for the city annually, adjusted for inflation, starting two years after

occupancy starts. This guarantee started on Aug. 2, 2024, and ends when the development agreement ends on March 9, 2027.

City staff set the guarantee based on the citywide average sales tax per square foot of retail space. Springline is expected to generate over \$100,000 in sales tax for the city this year. City staff hoped the incentive would encourage Presidio Bay to rent retail space to quality businesses.

Presidio Bay made \$2.4 million in payments to various city funds, built 20 below-market-rate units, built and operated a dog park open to the public, and advertised a coworking space to members of the public.

Stanford's agreement required it to build eight below-market rate units and have open space available to the public, which

staff say the university has done.

Stanford also is required to fund 50% of the cost to build a train crossing near the development up to \$5 million. The city is still working on the new crossing and Stanford is not required to pay until the city has finished the approval process.

Stanford, which as a university is not required to pay any property tax, agreed to pay \$1.5 million to the Menlo Park City School District's foundation.

If Stanford's share of the cost of the crossing is less than \$5 million, it will need to contribute an additional \$1 million to the foundation. City staff believe it will not need to make the extra contribution. ■

Email Staff Writer Arden Margulis at [amargulis@almanacnews.com](mailto:amargulis@almanacnews.com).

# Atherton discloses anonymous donor behind new police motorcycles

Donor was a foundation with \$2 billion in assets

By Arden Margulis

In response to The Almanac's Public Records Act request, the town of Atherton agreed to disclose records relating to a then-anonymous donation it received for three new police motorcycles along with previous anonymous donations. Atherton initially declined to disclose the donor citing the request for anonymity, but after meeting with legal counsel, reversed course and provided the records on May 2.

The \$180,000 came from the Koum Family Foundation, created by WhatsApp co-founder Jan Koum. Koum is an Atherton resident and billionaire. According to Internal Revenue Service filings in December 2023, his foundation had over \$2 billion in assets. The foundation has previously focused on donations to Jewish community

organizations, including a legal group that is suing Menlo-Atherton High School.

As part of its request, The Almanac received email conversations between town and police staff and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which organized the donation on behalf of Koum. The Koum Family Foundation is a donor-advised fund run by SVCF.

The Silicon Valley Community Foundation has previously made contributions to the Embarcadero Media Foundation, the parent company of The Almanac. These funds did not come from the Koum Foundation.

The Koum Foundation never requested anonymity in email conversations or the grant agreement. The Koum Foundation initially approached Atherton Chief of Police Steve McCulley on April 2 about a potential

grant of \$180,000 to purchase motorcycles. McCulley had a phone call the same day with a foundation official, however the discussions during the phone call were not disclosed.

McCulley did not respond to requests for comment.

SVCF declined to comment. Atherton Deputy City Manager Anthony Suber, who originally told The Almanac that Koum requested anonymity, declined to confirm how Koum made that request or provide additional information.

The initial email from SVCF states that the grant is made "in honor of the Redwood Support Group."

According to the California Secretary of State's website, only one organization is registered under that name, Redwood Support Group Incorporated. Redwood Support Group Inc. has three licenses from the

California Bureau of Security and Investigative Services, which issues licenses to private security companies.

Redwood Support Group has a license for private patrols, private investigations and a firearms training facility.

## Other donations

As part of The Almanac's request, this news organization obtained records about other donations.

Atherton has a five-year commitment from Goldman Sachs' corporate giving program, starting in 2024, for \$40,000 annually in donations to support a police officer nutrition program and training in "perishable skills." The program is funded by Goldman Sachs' corporate funds and is allocated based on recommendations from employees.

The California Commission on Police Officer Training requires police officers receive a combined 20 hours of training across five categories of perishable skills every two years. The skills include tactical firearms, driving, arrests, communications and use of force.

Goldman Sachs' letter awarding the grant does not mention anonymity as a condition of the grant.

Atherton also received \$195,000 in 2023 and \$200,000 in 2024 from the Schwab Charitable Fund, which according to its website, is a donor advised fund into which individuals can donate and select where their funds go. The \$195,000 donation was used for an officer wellness program, as

previously reported.

## Policy

Neither Atherton nor the Atherton Police Department have an official policy on anonymous donations. The city only requires that officers direct citizens interested in a donation to the chief of police.

Menlo Park also does not seem to have a policy governing donations to the city, although it did benefit from Schwab's \$195,000 donation for wellness. Menlo Park police was not immediately available for comment. ■

Email Staff Writer Arden Margulis at [amargulis@almanacnews.com](mailto:amargulis@almanacnews.com).

## OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

**Mabel Teresi**, 90, a 65-year resident of Palo Alto who worked as a volunteer, cafeteria baker and a banker, and hosted meals and parties for the holidays, on April 30, 2025.

**Dorothy (Dottie) Hope Stivers**, 92, who moved to Atherton in 1961 to join startup company Raychem, and was an active PTA, club, and community volunteer during her children's school years, on March 11, 2025.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at [AlmanacNews.com/obituaries](http://AlmanacNews.com/obituaries). ■

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COMPASS

# Meet Stormy, Wunderlich Park's new mini horse

Horse is helping visitors cope with anxiety, and other stressors

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

A spunky and short miniature horse at Woodside's Wunderlich Park is keeping the county park's Meet a Mini Horse program alive at Folger Stable. Stormy, a 10-year-old mini horse, has taken over for the beloved Shetland pony Lightning, who died in March 2024.

The Meet a Mini Horse program launched with Lightning during the COVID-19 pandemic as a partnership between Chaparral Ranch and Wunderlich Park. The owners of the ranch were unable to keep up with the cost of his care and offered to lease Lightning to the park's stables to serve as the program's ambassador. During his time at Wunderlich Park, he helped comfort community members during a time marked by loneliness, isolation and fear.

After Lightning's death, Chaparral brought in Stormy to carry on his predecessor's legacy in May 2024.

"He's very sweet but he has an attitude," said 15-year-old Sariah Kazem, who has been taking care of Stormy for the



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Stormy, Wunderlich Park's 10-year-old miniature horse, gets his daily grooming.

past nine months. Kazem had been struggling a bit, but Stormy has helped her a lot, said her mother Amy Kazem.

Equine therapy has been clinically shown to have benefits for people struggling with anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder and depression. Amy Kazem said that she feels Stormy has been more beneficial to her daughter's mental health than

some humans that have tried to help her.

Once a week, Kazem spends an hour with Stormy, grooming, feeding and taking him on a hike. After spending time with him, Kazem said he feels like a friend. Over time, she's gotten to see his personality grow and looks forward to seeing him every week.

"I've always loved animals and

worked with a lot of different ones. It's been nice getting to know how to work with horses, especially since he's a mini horse," she said. Stormy is the first horse she's ever known.

Since large horses can be intimidating, the mini horse program gives people the space to interact with horses in a safe and approachable manner. Kazem's mother said she had a negative experience with a horse when she was young but Stormy has been helping her regain her confidence around horses again.

As the ambassador of the program, Stormy meets hundreds of people every week including young children, medically fragile youth, senior groups and park visitors.

"Horses used to be a part of every person's everyday life a hundred years ago and now it's very rare," said Wunderlich Park Executive Director Kym Teppo. "We see it as a special mission to maintain that connection to horses that's special to people in some way."

Stormy is still learning the ropes at his new job and Kazem is helping him adjust to the new

environment. When she takes him on hikes, it gives Stormy the opportunity to be exposed to hikers, other equestrians and desensitizes him to new things out in the field, said Teppo. As an added benefit, Kazem is able to gain the mental health benefits from being outdoors and working with an animal.

Kazem is part of a pilot program for one-on-one sessions where students have the opportunity to form long-term relationships with horses, Teppo said. Equine assisted therapy can be expensive and organizations often have long waitlists. Kazem's mother said she's grateful for Teppo to offer this opportunity to her daughter.

"It's undoubted that there's a human horse connection that is so good for people's mental health," Teppo added. "Stormy is a great little ambassador for the work that we're trying to do on a bigger scale, which is showcasing these two parks (Huddart and Wunderlich Park) that we're stewards of." ■

*Email Staff Writer  
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**MAY DAY**

*continued from page 1*

community efforts.

Ryan has served as the elementary school's librarian for 25 years and is well known among the students of Woodside. She was recognized for her dedication to organizing student service projects, maintaining the school's library and organizing events and programs for students.

"Now we have nepotism at its finest. It's the Kindercourt riding in on the old white fire engine," yelled MacNiven. The young royalty of this year's kindergarden court, dressed in capes and crowns, waved to the crowd throwing candy and demonstrating the noble attributes of sharing and caring.

This year's court honored King Tyson Boitnott and Queen Sasha Lazaro, Princesses Valentina Arguello and Kelsie Simkover and Princes Andres Guerrero and Silas Hall.

The past and the present joined together as the following float featured Woodside Elementary's Class of 1970. Many alumni traveled from across the country to reunite and celebrate May Day on a 1935 fire engine.

The parade briefly came to a



Magali Gauthier

Members of the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County lead the May Day Parade in Woodside on May 3.

stop as the eighth grade operetta cast gave a special preview of their 2025 performance, "Moana Jr." Students hopped off a float resembling the Disney princess Moana's seacraft as they took stage on Woodside Road. The cast performed a musical number as the student playing Maui sang "You're Welcome," to the crowd.

After the parade, the

community gathered at the Woodside School Amphitheater for the award ceremony and maypole dance.

"The Woodside parade is more than just a procession and the maypole dance is more than a charming tradition," said Mayor Brian Dombkowski. "These are both living testaments to our shared history and

the values that unite us together for over 100 years. These traditions remind us of our roots."

Dombkowski also recognized the town's incoming Town Manager Jason Ledbetter, who will be taking over from current Town Manager Kevin Bryant on May 15.

Following speeches and the honoring of the grand and

deputy marshals, the honoree of the Elward Thomas Citizen of the Year Award was announced. This year, the award was given to Jenny Hayden, Woodside Elementary school board president.

Hayden, who has been a life-long resident of Woodside, has been serving the school board since 2018. She was honored for the many hours she's devoted to school events. Hayden also was recognized for the efforts she made to campaign for two ballot measure campaigns, Measure E and Y, to ensure the school secured critical funding.

To finish out the ceremony, the Woodside Elementary third graders adorned with flower crowns and pastel outfits, walked through the amphitheater as they took the stage for the anticipated maypole dance. The dancers decorated the pole with long strings of colorful ribbon in a well executed performance that was met with smiles and applause from the audience.

The May Day festivities continued into the afternoon as community members went up to the school yard to enjoy a barbecue lunch, carnival games and quality time. ■

*Email Staff Writer  
Jennifer Yoshikoshi at  
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# OPEN HOUSE

## Adult Day Services at Rosener House

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**SENIOR CENTER**

*continued from page 1*

know what to do in the event of an emergency.”

When an alarm went off at the center, which some say happens frequently, Hernandez and another senior say that city staff evacuated without informing the seniors what to do.

“When the alarm goes off, the young people know what to do and they take off running, but we seniors don’t know where to go. It’s a shame how we are being treated,” one senior told

the city council.

“As a senior and instructor, I have experienced the serious and disturbing problems at the new community center since it opened,” said one resident who asked for anonymity in an email to this news organization. “There’s faulty and dangerous electrical and design issues, including no air conditioning on the hottest days and inaccessible doors, bathrooms, and seating. I honestly do not know how the design and furnishing decisions passed any ‘approvals’ for seniors or

disabled people.”

This is not the first petition seniors have sent to the city council since the center opened nearly a year ago. In response to that petition, city staff and then-Mayor Cecilia Taylor met with seniors and listened to their concerns.

Following the meeting, the city produced a table summarizing the concerns and city staff’s response. “Instead of direct engagement, city leadership created this document, which was posted inside the building, but many seniors were unaware of it,” Hernandez

said. “There has been a lack of clear communication since, and the seniors are still waiting for meaningful responses.”

After Hernandez sent the latest petition, city staff agreed to host another forum on Friday, May 9. However, some seniors are concerned that the meeting may be “political lip service rather than real action,” Hernandez said. Hernandez also said seniors feel much of their concerns have been downplayed by city staff.

In response to seniors’ concerns at council meetings,

Mayor Drew Combs said, “The council and staff are aware that there are transition pains and issues from the prior structure... that in some ways there have been some suboptimal design decisions. It’s not always the easiest thing to remediate... it will just take some time.”

City Council also held a council meeting at the center instead of at council chambers at the civic center near downtown. ■

*Email Staff Writer Arden Margulis at [amargulis@almanacnews.com](mailto:amargulis@almanacnews.com).*

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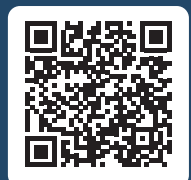


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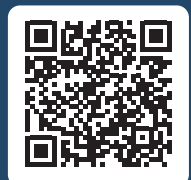
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**JOBTRAIN**

*continued from page 7*

said Esmeralda Cerrato, a regional director with JobTrain and “homegrown tomato.”

“People who don’t have jobs often face other barriers, whether that be access to a hot plate of food or housing challenges,” she said, as she walked through the building. “Here, we provide those wraparound services.”

In fact, she and her colleagues even take turns entertaining the children of people who come in for services, Cerrato said.

In a part of Redwood City

dubbed “little Michoacan,” for its high number of residents from the Mexican state, she said people feel comfortable seeking assistance at the center, even under a current federal administration that has targeted immigrant communities.

Many Redwood City residents specifically are interested in continuing their own trades, in construction, jewelry-making or house-cleaning among others, which is why the location has a partnership with Renaissance, a local nonprofit that helps people create their own businesses. To further support that work, the

center also hosts career fairs that interview on the spot and pop-up shops, like its upcoming “mama bonita” event, a Mother’s Day marketplace where residents will sell handmade items on May 8 and 9 at the Redwood City JobTrain office.

Oftentimes, JobTrain will partner with organizations in order to garner more funding for its services. For example, the California Employment Development Department has partnered with the nonprofit in the past and may continue as JobTrain eyes expansion.

Currently, JobTrain is looking

to build a new, even larger, headquarters in East Palo Alto, which has already been approved by the city council.

While the future is not completely set in stone, CEO Hathaway sees regional expansion in the future. He also promises to remain frugal and create a “strong foundation,” he said.

“We are in conversations about moving to the East Bay in a more robust way,” Hathaway said. “We’d also like to see our programs in more areas in Santa Clara County, and I think for the next three years, which is the duration of our current strategic

plan, that’s where we’re going to focus our energies.”

Aside from its strategic plan, Hathaway called JobTrain a “heart-centered” service that looks to expand where it’s needed.

“We have to believe in the people that come to us,” Hathaway said. “We have to have respect for them. We have to understand their value. We have to move without judgment. I don’t care where you’ve been, let’s get you to where you want to be.” ■

*Email Staff Writer Lisa Moreno at lmoreno@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”) adopted 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.”

AYES: Matt Miller, Randy Holthaus

NOES: None

ABSENT: John Foster

ABSTAIN: None

The Ordinance is also identified as Ordinance 25-01.

**SUMMARY OF THE ORDINANCE:** Ordinance 25-01 establishes the Woodside Fire Protection District’s updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps from the State Fire Marshal’s Office, identifying areas of varying fire hazard levels. These maps, developed using scientific models that assess vegetation, topography, and weather conditions, will not impact existing defensible space and fuel mitigation ordinances but serve as a planning tool for fire prevention and emergency preparedness.

CalFire emphasize that the maps measure fire **hazard** — long-term physical conditions that contribute to wildfire potential — rather than **risk**, which accounts for mitigation efforts like defensible space and home hardening. While some areas in the district show reduced hazard levels, this does not necessarily mean properties are safer, as the maps do not factor in evacuation routes or structure density.

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. ([www.woodsidefire.org](http://www.woodsidefire.org))

CONTACT: WFPD (650) 851-1594 [info@woodsidefire.org](mailto:info@woodsidefire.org)

**HIKER**

*continued from page 5*

really distressed,” Hook added. “She’s just a really good woman.”

Ray Kruck, operations director for San Mateo County Search and Rescue, said crews are conducting exhaustive and methodical searches. About 500 searchers from across Northern and Central California, including sheriff’s offices and search-and-rescue teams, have participated, covering nearly 4,000 cumulative miles on foot and by drone, Kruck said. He added that what appears to be clues to her whereabouts have been discovered, yet authorities have decided not to reveal them to the public until they are verified.

Gretchen Spiker, director of communications for the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office, later said the information shared by Kruck about the clues was inaccurate.

Kruck urged nearby residents and businesses to share any video footage that could help the search. He said even footage showing no sign of McKinley is valuable because it could help rule out potential paths. The public can submit videos to the sheriff’s office via an online form.

“We’d love the public to still be aware of what’s going on and share anything they know or might be able to add to our search,” Kruck said.

On Monday, about 60 volunteers, six K9 units and drones were assisting with the search, according to Sgt. Philip



*Simmerdeep Kaur*

Search and rescue operations set up by San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office at the Windy Hill Open Space Preserve on May 5.

Hallworth. Volunteers also used chainsaws to access areas with dense vegetation that may not have been fully covered during previous searches, Hallworth said.

As for McKinley’s loved ones, they continue to show up for the search every day, hopeful she will soon be found.

“Now we’re on day five, so maybe her jacket is a little torn and her hair is disheveled, but it’s still Elaine,” Kelley said on May 5. “She’s still smart, and she needs to be found.” ■

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

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

**Portola Valley Horse Fair**

The Portola Valley Trails and Paths Committee is hosting its annual Horse Fair on May 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Town Center, 765 Portola Road. The family-friendly event will feature carriage rides, petting zoo, pony rides and roping.

For more information, visit [portolavalley.net](http://portolavalley.net).

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

**Atherton transportation survey**

The Town of Atherton is working on an “Active Transportation Plan” to improve walking, biking and roller skating in the town. As part of creating the plan, the town is asking residents and anyone who travels through Atherton to fill out a brief survey on how they move about town.

The survey is available at [bit.ly/43k3Wm6](http://bit.ly/43k3Wm6). Residents can sign up for updates on the plan on Atherton’s website.

**Bike to wherever days**

As part of national Bike Month, the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition is setting up “energizer stations” from Thursday, May 15 to Saturday, May 17. The initiative expands on Bike to Work Day on Thursday, May 15 and encourages everyone to bike to wherever they need to go.

Energizer stations will have free food and water, in addition to limited edition canvas bags for anyone who signs the pledge to ride at [bikesiliconvalley.org/p2r](http://bikesiliconvalley.org/p2r). The pledge asks residents to agree to bike to somewhere on one day in May.

Menlo Park will have five energizer stations including two at the Caltrain station. See a full map of stations at [bikesiliconvalley.org/events/btwd](http://bikesiliconvalley.org/events/btwd).

— Arden Margulis

**LEHUA GREENMAN**



*“To be a mother is the most beautiful blessing. Happy Mother’s Day to all the amazing Mothers!”*

650.245.1845 COMPASS



Sign up today for the **only food newsletter on the Peninsula** at [AlmanacNews.com/peninsula-foodist](http://AlmanacNews.com/peninsula-foodist)



1715 BAY LAUREL DRIVE  
MENLO PARK



**TIMELESS LUXURY, MODERN STYLE IN CENTRAL MENLO**

Nestled on a serene cul-de-sac in Central Menlo, this exceptional home embodies refined elegance while resting on more than a quarter-acre of land. Step inside and discover a handsomely appointed, three-level floorplan where timeless luxury meets modern sophistication. Expansive formal rooms set the stage for elegant entertaining, while the chef's kitchen – equipped with top-tier appliances – flows seamlessly into the family room with a cozy, inviting fireplace. The lower level provides exceptional versatility with a gym, wine cellar, and flexible-use space, and four well-appointed bedrooms include the stunning primary suite with a spa-inspired bathroom. Outside, resort-like grounds offer a peaceful escape, featuring a firepit, outdoor kitchen, and mature shade trees, all set against the soothing backdrop of a nearby creek. Ideally located just minutes from downtown Menlo Park, and near the border of Palo Alto with convenient access to Stanford University, Sand Hill Road, and world-class shopping and dining, this home is also near many of the area's top public and private schools, presenting an unrivaled blend of luxury and convenience.

**OPEN HOUSE**

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

**1715BayLaurel.com**  
Offered at \$7,988,000

**Notice to Buyers:**

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

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com | Equal Housing Opportunity  
中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224



# DON'T OVERPAY TO SELL YOUR HOME

We have entered a new era where sellers are no longer permitted to offer any commission to buyer's agents in the MLS, which means that no commission details can be advertised on sites like Zillow or Redfin. Buyers also need to sign agreements with their agents outlining the commission they will pay their own agents before they show any properties. If a seller wants to offer additional compensation to the buyer's agent, they can, but it is neither required nor encouraged.

While some listing agents will still try to contractually obligate sellers to pay 2% or more to the buyer's agent, DeLeon Realty has taken a different approach. Our sellers benefit from our industry-leading home preparation, staging, and marketing services while paying a total commission of 3%. Additionally, if a buyer chooses not to pay a buyer's agent, Ken DeLeon and his team will represent them on our listings at no cost to either the buyer or the seller.

Our client-centric business model and policies are just a few of the reasons why we are the leading listing team in all of Silicon Valley!

LIST WITH US  
FOR **3% TOTAL**  
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Michael Repka (DRE #01854880) **650.488.7325**

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DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224 | Equal Housing Opportunity





# 721 14TH AVENUE MENLO PARK



## STYLISH & SERENE IN NORTH FAIR OAKS

Set along a peaceful, tree-lined street in North Fair Oaks, this charming home blends timeless curb appeal with bright, breezy interiors. Wide plank floors, crown molding, and abundant natural light enhance the open layout, anchored by a chef's kitchen with quartz countertops and premium appliances from JennAir and Fisher & Paykel. The living room centers around a fireplace, while three spacious bedrooms include a well-appointed primary suite. Outdoors, a vine-draped pergola, sunny deck, lawn, and planter boxes create a serene setting for entertaining or everyday enjoyment. Solar panels add modern efficiency, and the prime location offers easy access to downtown, beautiful parks, commute routes, and acclaimed Menlo-Atherton High School (buyer to verify eligibility).

### OPEN HOUSE

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

[721Fourteenth.com](https://www.721fourteenth.com)

Listed at \$1,988,000

### Notice to Buyers:

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

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## Notice to BEAR GULCH District Customers Regarding Rate Change for Pre-Authorized Infrastructure Improvements

On or around May 15, 2025, California Water Service (Cal Water) will file Advice Letter 2554 with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) seeking permission to change rates in its Bear Gulch District and other ratemaking areas for costs associated with recently completed and previously authorized infrastructure improvements. Although previously authorized by the CPUC in Decision 24-03-042 as part of the utility's triennial rate review process, these project costs could only be recovered through a rate increase after they were completed.

In the advice letter, Cal Water requests additional revenue of \$34,112, or 0.04% of currently authorized revenue. If approved, effective July 1, 2025, the water bill of a Bear Gulch District residential customer with 8 CCF (approximately 5,984 gallons) of monthly water usage would increase by approximately \$0.04, or 0.05%.

A copy of Advice Letter 2554 is available on the internet at [www.calwater.com/rates-advice-letters/](http://www.calwater.com/rates-advice-letters/) (from the dropdown menu, select Bear Gulch). Copies may also be obtained from the company's local Bear Gulch office by calling (650) 561-9709. You may also contact the company's headquarters by mail at 1720 North First Street, San Jose, California 95112-4598, or by calling (408) 367-8200 and asking for the Rates Department.

Cal Water offers many programs to help customers manage their water bill, including a low-income Customer Assistance Program (CAP), water-saving appliance/device rebates, and other conservation programs. Please visit our web site at [www.calwater.com](http://www.calwater.com) to take advantage of these opportunities.

### Responses and Protests

Anyone may respond to or protest this filing. A response supports the filing and may contain information that proves useful to the CPUC in its evaluation. A protest objects to the filing in whole or in part and must set forth the specific grounds on which it is based, and shall provide citations or proof where available to allow staff to properly consider the protest. The grounds for protests are:

1. The utility did not properly serve or give notice of the filing.
2. The relief requested in the filing would violate statute or CPUC order or is not authorized by statute or CPUC order on which the utility relies.
3. The analysis, calculations, or data in the filing contains material errors or omissions.
4. The relief requested in the filing is pending before the CPUC in a formal proceeding.
5. The relief requested in the filing requires consideration in a formal hearing or is otherwise inappropriate for the filing process.
6. The relief requested in the filing is unjust, unreasonable, or discriminatory (provided that such a protest may not be made where it would require relitigating a prior order of the CPUC).

A response or protest must be made in writing and received by the CPUC's Water Division by **June 6, 2025**, the end of the comment period. The response or protest should be either emailed to [water.division@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:water.division@cpuc.ca.gov) or mailed to Tariff Unit, Water Division, 3rd Floor, CPUC, 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102. On the same date the response or protest is sent to the Water Division, it must also be either emailed to [cwsrates@calwater.com](mailto:cwsrates@calwater.com) or mailed to Rates Department, California Water Service, 1720 North First St., San Jose, CA 95112.

Cities and counties that need Board of Supervisors or Board of Commissioners approval to protest should inform the Water Division within the protest period so that a late-filed protest can be considered. The informing document should include an estimated date on which the proposed protest may be voted.

If you have not received a reply to your protest within 10 business days, contact Cal Water at (408) 367-8200 and ask for the Rates Department.

5/9/25

CNS-3922991#

THE ALMANAC

## FAMILY SERVICE

continued from page 5

"Being a peer counselor is very rewarding," said Roberta Gonzales-Gregg, a San Carlos resident who has been a peer counselor for five years. "I like to say it is a win-win. We're reaching out to a particularly isolated group of people and not only am I giving back to someone in need, but the rewards I get back are amazing. It's a very special experience. It made me more aware of those in need and told me more about myself."

Gonzales-Gregg runs a group peer counseling group.

"I like to call us the 'gem gals' because whatever the topic we are speaking of, someone will have something that is really a gem of wisdom and that is so rewarding. I like to write poetry and when I am reading the poetry, I see a little twinkle in their eyes and it's really rewarding for me," Gonzales-Gregg said.

PFS also runs the Fair Oaks Adult Activity Center, which has events focused on social connection, nutrition and wellness.

"PFS is really special to me because my mom, who was the city librarian for Menlo Park, was a member of the Menlo Park Family Services Auxiliary and when I was a little girl. I have so many fond memories of going to their shop and being part of



Courtesy Todd Rafalovich/Peninsula Family Services

More than 100 people attend the Peninsula Family Service's 75th anniversary celebration at the San Mateo County History Museum in Redwood City.

such a great organization," said Olympic swimmer and former Palo Alto City Council candidate Anne Cribbs.

Cribbs is organizing a charity golf tournament for PFS in November.

"I don't think you can measure the impact of such an important organization. We're really lucky to have PFS in the community," Cribbs added.

PFS does have its challenges. "We receive 17% of our \$22 million budget from the federal government so we definitely have been impacted by recent executive orders," said Cleary.

Cleary said PFS was ordered to remove diversity, equity and inclusion from its organization due to an executive order and although it followed it, PFS remains committed to equity.

"We've made some changes but we stand true to our principles: that we support our community, that we believe in the principles of equity," she said. "We know to serve the community, we need to look like that community."

Cleary said PFS receives funds from the federal Early Head Start program, which provides child development services and family support services to low-income children under 3 years old. Cleary said PFS is currently worried that its Head Start program will not be funded.

"We are always facing challenges but the one thing we always have is the support of our community," Cleary said. ■

Email Staff Writer Arden Margulis at [amargulis@almanacnews.com](mailto:amargulis@almanacnews.com).

### Menlo Park Monthly Market Report

April 1, 2025 - April 30, 2025

TOP 10 SALES*			
1. \$8,549,000 1325 Garden Lane	2. \$7,735,000 1180 N Lemon Avenue	3. \$6,195,000 316 Yale Road	4. \$5,610,000 60 Gloria
5. \$5,500,000 522 Palmer Lane	6. \$5,430,000 321 Claire Place	7. \$5,150,000 901 Cotton Street	8. \$5,100,000 1316 American Way
9. \$4,860,000 1420 Mills Court	10. \$4,510,000 1930 Camino A Los Cerritos		

<b>ACTIVE LISTING</b> Apr: 50 ↑ 32% Mar: 38	<b>AVERAGE SALES PRICE</b> Apr: \$3,233,638 ↓ 12% Mar: \$3,694,559	<b>AVERAGE SALES PRICE/SQ FT</b> Apr: \$1,478 ↓ 15% Mar: \$1,746
<b>PENDING LISTING</b> Apr: 39 ↑ 11% Mar: 35	<b>AVERAGE SOLD DAYS ON MARKET</b> Apr: 16 ↑ 78% Mar: 9	<b>MONTHS OF INVENTORY</b> Apr: 1.30 ↓ 7% Mar: 1.40 <small>If no further homes/condos were to come to market, the area would be SOLD OUT of residential real estate in the number of MONTHS shown!</small>
<b>SOLD LISTING</b> Apr: 38 ↑ 41% Mar: 27	<b>SALE/LIST PRICE</b> Apr: 103.90% ↓ 3% Mar: 107.30%	<b>30 YEAR MORTGAGE RATE</b> Apr: 6.81% ↑ 0% Mar: 6.78% <small>Source: Bankrate</small>

\*April 2025 compared to March 2025

### Making A Move?

Sellers Start Here: [RossettiHomeValue.com](http://RossettiHomeValue.com)

Buyers Start here: [RossettiPropertyFinders.com](http://RossettiPropertyFinders.com)

**Gail Antoinette Rossetti**  
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 License #01179344

**3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas Suite C Menlo Park, CA Phone: 650-854-4100**

**WILDFIRE**

*continued from page 5*

who relocated to the Peninsula from Southern California after the destructive Palisades Fire earlier this year. She saw plumes of smoke blown by 80 mph Santa Ana winds, listened “to that little voice in my head,” and fled before evacuation orders. A neighbor who left nine minutes later ultimately had to abandon his car in traffic and run for his life.

“Grab the things that if your house burns, what are you going to miss?” Vandenberghe said

during the panel. She does regret not shooting video of her home and its contents prior to the fires as documentation for her insurance. “Don’t spend time grabbing clothes. Save your memories. ... I’m very grateful that I just trusted my intuition and got out when I did.”

Officials at the fair emphasized the importance of leaving early in an emergency. Experts also shared how to pack a “go bag,” install fire-resistant landscaping and how to sign up for local emergency alerts.

Emily Rogan, a senior programs manager for nonprofit

consumer rights advocacy group United Policyholders, said during a panel that “hardening your home and creating defensible space improves your insurance options and protects your assets.”

“If you are dropped by your insurance company, start shopping right away,” she noted. “You will get 75 days notice, but you might need that entire time to find replacement coverage.”

San Mateo residents Marc and Tracey Molina came to the event with their sons, Matteo, 1, and Marco, a 3-year-old dressed in a firefighter outfit, according to a county press release.

“We hope to learn what we need to do in case fire happens, especially right now when it seems like there are wildfires all over the place,” Marc Molina said in a prepared statement. “Hopefully, we can learn safety first before anything happens.”

The San Mateo County Large Animal Evacuation Group hosted a booth at the fair. Michelle Ameri, vice president of the group, said that after the CZU and Edgewood fires, her organization decided to invest in a rescue team with a trailer and equipment to evacuate large animals that might have fallen into a ravine or

other hard-to-reach areas. They’re using \$25,000, including from the county’s Measure K half-cent sales tax, for the trailer, equipment and training.

Going into wildfire season, the group is hosting one to two monthly trainings on animal handling, ham radio use and CPR classes. They host trainings on Zoom and drills in person.

Learn more about emergency preparedness and sign up for emergency alert notifications at smcgov.org. ■

*Angela Swartz is a Contributing Writer.*

# Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
File No. M-298564

The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder’s Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S): ANNA BEA PHOTO  
1 Devonshire Blvd Apt 2  
San Carlos, Ca 94070

FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON: 09/20/2024  
REGISTRANT’S NAME(S): ANNA REINKE

1 Devonshire Blvd Apt 2  
San Carlos, Ca 94070  
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY An Individual.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on May 01 2025. (ALM May 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2025)

THE DERMAL FORMULA  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300488

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) THE DERMAL FORMULA , located at 70 N El Camino Real, Suite B, San Mateo, CA, 94401. Mailing Address: 815 N Humboldt St. Apt 404, San Mateo, CA 94401.  
Registered owner(s): THE DERMAL FORMULA INC.  
70 N El Camino Real, Suite B  
San Mateo, CA, 94401

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 02/18/2025.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 29, 2025. (ALM May 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2025)

FLEET FEET MENLO PARK  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300245

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) FLEET FEET MENLO PARK , located at 859 Santa Cruz Ave, Menlo Park CA 94025.

Registered owner(s): ORANGE RED BLUE FAMCO LLC  
505 Homer Ave  
Palo Alto, CA 94301  
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 11/13/2017.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 26, 2025. (ALM May 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2025)

PRESTIGE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300317

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) PRESTIGE , located at 1300 Industrial Road #15, San Carlos, CA 94070.  
Registered owner(s): PRESTIGE ENTERPRISES LLC  
1300 Cotton Street

Menlo Park, CA 94025  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/04/2025.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 04, 2025. (ALM Apr 25, May 2, 9 and 16, 2025)

JDM ICONS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300472

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) JDM ICONS , located at 557 Grand Street, Redwood City, CA 94062.

Registered owner(s): JP FAMILY HOLDINGS, LLC  
557 Grand Street  
Redwood City, CA 94062  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 25, 2025. (ALM May 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2025)

DRIFTWOOD COTTAGE WINES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300454

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) DRIFTWOOD COTTAGE WINES , located at 819 11th Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063.  
Registered owner(s): KATHERINE HUSHER  
819 11th Ave.  
Redwood City, CA 94063

This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/22/2025.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 24, 2025. (ALM May 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2025)

MY GYM SAN CARLOS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300196

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) MY GYM SAN CARLOS , located at 189 El Camino Real, San Carlos, CA 94070. Mailing Address: 2329 Ensenada Way San Mateo, CA 94403.  
Registered owner(s): ROSEK ANDERSEN FITNESS LLC  
2329 Ensenada Way  
San Mateo, CA 94403  
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 24, 2025. (ALM May 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2025)

ANNALEIA FLORAL  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300285

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) ANNALEIA FLORAL , located at 1305 Speers Ave, San Mateo, CA 94403.

Registered owner(s): ANNALEIA HAMILL  
1305 Speers Ave.  
San Mateo, CA 94403  
State of Incorporation/Organization: California  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 3/21/2025.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 02, 2025. (ALM May 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2025)

JUNK KING SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300341

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) JUNK KING SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO , located at 863 Malcolm Road , Burlingame, CA 94010. Mailing Address: PO BOX 1486 San Bruno, CA 94066

Registered owner(s): FLAGSHIP JKBAY INC  
2108 N St Ste N  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 09, 2025. (ALM Apr 25, May 2, 9 and 16, 2025)

ALEX THE LOCKSMITH  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300201

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) ALEX THE LOCKSMITH , located at 2302 Carlmont Drive Apt 5, Belmont, CA 94002.  
Registered owner(s): OLEKSANDR PEREPYLSIA  
2302 Carlmont Drive Apt 5  
Belmont, CA 94002  
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 24, 2025. (ALM Apr 25, May 2, 9 and 16, 2025)

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

Case No.: 25CIV02600  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Gloria Falcinelli Eldredge filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
GLORIA ANN FALCINELLI to GLORIA FALCINELLI ELDRIDGE  
GLORIA ANNE FALCINELLI to GLORIA FALCINELLI ELDRIDGE  
GLORIA FALCINELLI ELDRIDGE to GLORIA FALCINELLI ELDRIDGE  
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: 6/18/2025, 9:00 AM, Civil 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: 4/23/2025  
Nancy L. Fineman  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM May 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2025)

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

Case No.: 25-CIV-02282  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Jose Orlando Ramirez filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
JOSE ORLANDO RAMIREZ to ORLANDO JOSE RAMIREZ  
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: 6/2/2025, 9:00am, Civil department of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City ,Ca 94063.  
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:  
ALMANAC  
Date: 04/03/2025  
Chad L Peace  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Apr 25, May 2, 9 and 16, 2025)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

CHRISTEL CAPELL CORNEW  
Case No.: 25PR000479  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of CHRYSTEL CAPELL CORNEW.  
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: DANIEL RICHARD CORNEW in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO. The Petition for Probate requests that: DANIEL RICHARD CORNEW be appointed as

personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent’s will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on May 13 2025 at 9:00 AM in Dept 3, Southern Branch, Hall of Justice, San Mateo County of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.  
Petitioner in Pro Per:  
Daniel Richard Cornew  
182 Brookside Dr.  
Portola Valley, CA 94028  
650-504-2554  
(ALM May 2, 9 and 16, 2025)

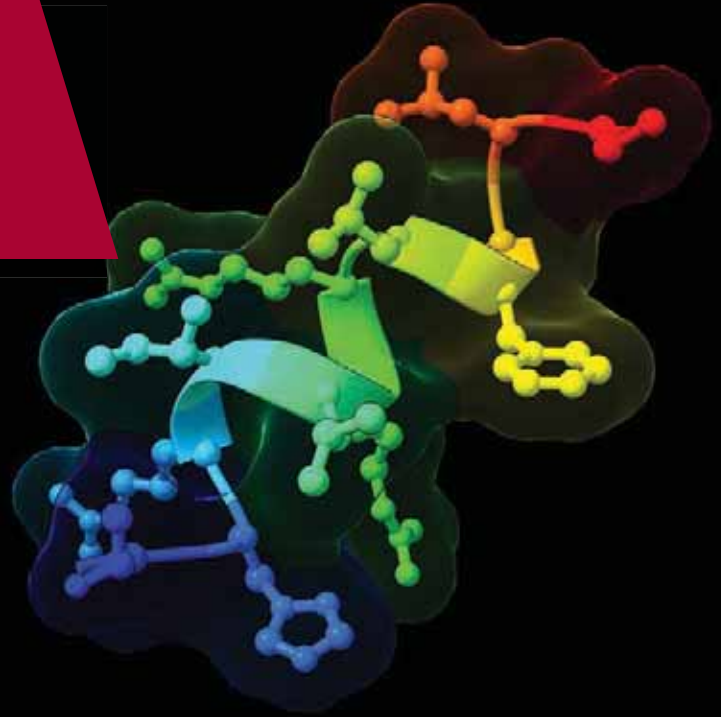
**The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.**

- 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.**  
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For assistance email [LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com).

# Newly discovered molecule rivals Ozempic in weight loss

Stanford researchers have identified a naturally occurring molecule, BRP, that can suppress appetite and facilitate weight loss in mice and pigs. It is comparable to Ozempic (semaglutide) but without side effects like nausea or muscle loss. BRP works through a different metabolic pathway, specifically targeting the hypothalamus, which controls hunger and metabolism. Researchers used an AI algorithm, Peptide Predictor, to find BRP among thousands of possible peptides derived from prohormones. Animal studies showed BRP leads to fat loss and improved glucose tolerance without behavioral or GI issues. **SCAN TO READ THE SPOTLIGHT**



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## Finding a common thread

### Gallery House artists and Cañada College designers team up for art-inspired fashion show

By Heather Zimmerman

During its many decades on the Peninsula, Gallery House has exhibited art in a wide variety of media, but a collaboration with Cañada College's Fashion Design and Merchandising program brought a catwalk to the co-op gallery for the first time.

The gallery is home to about 20 members who work in paintings, digital art, photography, ceramics, woodworking and jewelry.

Nine of those member artists teamed up with 12 fashion design students from Cañada College to stage a runway show featuring fashions inspired by art at the gallery. The event took place on April 26 with two sold-out showings in the downtown Menlo Park gallery.

The artists and designers had been working together since January on the show, with some students even coming to work in the artists' studios, according to Jeanne Ichnowski, Gallery House's community outreach liaison, who organized the event together with Jaleh Naasz, fashion design program coordinator at Cañada College.

Volunteer models from Cañada College, who included some of the designers themselves,

walked the runway wearing 12 designs that drew on themes and aesthetics from works on display in the gallery.

The Cañada students actually took on a double challenge, using an artist's work as inspiration in addition to creating garments that were environmentally conscious, as these pieces were also presented in "Eco Elegance," a fashion show at Cañada College held on Earth Day.

The designs included some unique uses of fabrics, such as Emily Liza Hebb's coat, with a colorful, pixel-like swirl made of a patchwork of recycled garments on the back, inspired by a mixed-media work by Peter Koltai, or Gir Session's cocktail dress, with fabric highly embellished to resemble woodgrain and decorated with lichen, drawing on the botanical themes and organic shapes of Carina Rossner's jewelry.

The show offered a chance to hear from both artists and designers, who took turns sharing the themes and inspirations behind their works before each design hit the runway.

With some pieces, the influence of the art on the design was more straightforward and with others, it was more implied.

Moises Cruz Jauregui designed a deep blue velvet gown sprinkled with sparkling fish on the skirt that were revealed after the model pulled off the blue tear-away skirt initially worn over the gown. It drew on a piece by photographer Steven Shpall in which a woman wearing a blue gown is encircled by goldfish.

One of two designs by Yelena Panchenko, a floaty white dress with white fabric poppies at the neckline, built on a motif from artist Asia Morgenthaler's "White Poppy" ceramic piece. Panchenko's design asked viewers to imagine the loss of color from California's iconic orange poppy, as a metaphor for the bleaching and destruction of the world's coral reefs.

Rosine Abergel Ferber's floral painting, "Fleurettes: Vase Gris et Fleurs," drew Nicholas Melendrez to hand-paint flowering vines on an all-black work-wear ensemble.

The fashion show is part of Gallery House's community outreach effort, Ichnowski told this publication. The co-op gallery moved to Menlo Park in 2024 after a 65-year tenure in Palo Alto. ■

See more photos from the show at [almanacnews.com/arts-culture](http://almanacnews.com/arts-culture).

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at [hzimmerman@almanacnews.com](mailto:hzimmerman@almanacnews.com).

Left: Works by artist Jeanne Ichnowski (left) inspired a dress designed by Jaleh Naasz, seen on model Jasmine Gomez (right). Ichnowski's art is displayed behind them. Far left: Designer and model Gabriela Cardenas walks the runway in a dress inspired by artist Azita Gandjei during a fashion show at Gallery House in Menlo Park on April 26. Photos by Vivian Cromwell.



## Palo Alto's 3rdThursday series celebrates second anniversary

Youth voices, community connections and plenty of music planned for May 15 and beyond

By Karla Kane

Two years ago, Palo Alto's 3rdThursday series was founded with the goal of bringing joy to California Avenue through live music. It's faithfully lived up the car-free area of the neighborhood each month ever since (without inclement weather yet putting a damper on things).

"I have connections with the rain gods," producer Carol Garsten joked. "We haven't gotten rained out in two years."

On May 15, 3rdThursday celebrates its second anniversary with the theme of "We're Two-gether," which Garsten said emphasizes the mission of connecting the community.

There will be a cake, remarks by Palo Alto Vice Mayor Vicki Veenker, a photo booth, a craft table, "community inspiration tables" for folks to share their thoughts, and, of course, music.

Americana-rock artist Anthony Arya, who appeared on NBC's "The Voice" singing competition show and is an alumnus of Stanford University, will be performing at California Avenue and El Camino. Also performing are The Wildcats — a longtime "dad band" that's raised funds for Palo Alto Partners in Education Foundation for years — and guitarist and vocalist Claudio Melega, who plays in a range of styles and can sing in five different languages.

Kicking off the event will be a 5 p.m. pop-up at 414 California Ave., featuring youth ages 12-19 giving short talks and performing music and spoken-word pieces, co-sponsored by Palo Alto City Council Member Julie Lythcott-Haims and Palo Alto Youth Council, according to a recent press release.

The youth perspective will be an increasing priority for 3rdThursday, thanks to the efforts of Gunn High School freshman Ananya Iyer, who's joined the team with the goal of getting students more engaged with the series and sharing their voices.

Iyer has been a musician for years, starting on piano and moving to violin, and plays with an orchestra. Her experiences have led her to appreciate how music builds bonds.

"There's so many things it intersects with, specifically community," she said. "I just think music is such a great way to bring people

together." She contacted Garsten to share her desire to help facilitate "sustainable youth outreach," and Garsten was thrilled.

"I was blown away," Garsten said of the teen's initiative. "When that starts to happen with an event, when people reach out to me to get involved, I feel like that's like a huge success."

"Moving forward," the press release states, "3rdThursday will feature a youth area to shine the light on the creative and brilliant Gunn, Paly and Stanford students."

Iyer said she hopes to see some of the many high school clubs take part in future events, and that 3rdThursday can help amplify more youth voices, as well as introduce more young people to local artists and organizations.

"I want to make sure my classmates and my cohort, they're also exposed to community music. It's really underrepresented in youth circles," she said.

Each month's 3rdThursday event has a certain theme, and Garsten said those themes will repeat on a yearly basis. For example, April had an Earth Day theme. June will mark the second annual "LoCal Libations" wine walk, while July celebrates fun and games, partnered with the city's community services department, the library and other organizations. August is a foodie walk, with sample bites from local restaurants, and is a fundraiser for the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

"The first year was a ton of experimenting," Garsten said of the series. With the second year, she and the 3rdThursday team got things "dialed in."

While 3rdThursdays have typically run from 6-9 p.m., the team hopes to continue offering some performances starting at 5 p.m.

"We're looking to expand that first hour," Garsten said. "We're looking for more people to join our team; we're looking to grow."

As years go by, "We need our community now more than ever," she said. "This event is just more valuable than ever for people. We need each other." ■

Email Assistant Lifestyle Editor Karla Kane at [kkane@almanacnews.com](mailto:kkane@almanacnews.com).

May 15, 6-9 p.m. (pop-up youth performances starting at 5 p.m.), California Avenue, Palo Alto; free; [3rdthursday.fun](http://3rdthursday.fun).

# Worth a Look

## Jorge Luis Pacheco

Cuban pianist, singer, percussionist and composer Jorge Luis Pacheco brings his distinctive fusion of jazz and Afro-Cuban rhythms, incorporating classical influences and improvisational skills, to a pair of performances at Meyhouse Palo Alto. Pacheco has collaborated with the likes of Wynton Marsalis and Dave Weckl and performed internationally, including at the Kennedy Center and the Apollo Theater.

May 9, 6 and 8:30 p.m., Meyhouse Palo Alto, 640 Emerson St., Palo Alto; \$50; [meyhousejazz.com](http://meyhousejazz.com).



Courtesy Jorge Luis Pacheco

Cuban pianist, singer, percussionist and composer Jorge Luis Pacheco performs at Meyhouse Palo Alto.

## MovingGround Dance and Art Experience

Woodside's Djerassi Resident Artists Program offers artists the time and space to do creative work in a picturesque setting, and on occasion the public is able to experience its art and landscape as well. This weekend, Djerassi Program alumna Krista DeNio, along with MovingGround dancers, theater artists, and musicians, leads an interactive performance along the wooded trails of the Djerassi property, followed by refreshments and conversation in the Artist House. "MovingGround will be bringing their past work and research at the Djerassi Program together with their current project, Sanctuary Spaces, an art-action network that shares narratives and sheds light on real stories from people in our communities through conversation, performance, and co-creating real Sanctuary Spaces together," the event website states.

May 10, 2-6 p.m., 2325 Bear Gulch Road, Woodside; \$50-\$200; [tinyurl.com/MovingGroundDjerassi](http://tinyurl.com/MovingGroundDjerassi).

## 'Beauty & The Beast'

The classic fairy-tale romance of "Beauty and the Beast" is brought to life in balletic form with Western Ballet's production. The magical tale features the brave and beautiful Belle, the mysterious Beast, and a whole host of other beloved characters, such as the enchanted castle servants-turned-household objects, who long to be human again.

May 9-10, 7 p.m., Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View; \$39-\$42; [tickets.mvcpa.com](http://tickets.mvcpa.com).

## Dave Barry

Pulitzer Prize-winning humor columnist Dave Barry (he won in 1988, for commentary) comes to Cañada College for an event presented by Kepler's Literary Foundation, in conversation with Angie Coiro. Barry's memoir, "Class Clown" (he was literally granted that title in high school), covers his childhood through his celebrated career as a journalist and author, written in Barry's trademark humorous style, following the advice from his Midwestern parents to "never to take anything too seriously."

May 12, 7 p.m., Cañada College theater, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City; \$16.74-\$80.79 depending on ticket and book option; [tinyurl.com/DaveBarryKeplers](http://tinyurl.com/DaveBarryKeplers).

## ALO

The rock band ALO (Animal Liberation Orchestra) has local roots, having originated (albeit under a different band name) in Saratoga more than 30 years ago, formed by childhood friends Zach Gill (keys and vocals), Steve Adams (bass and vocals) and Dan "Lebo" Lebowitz (guitar and vocals). With Ezra Lipp (drums and vocals) now in the lineup, ALO is on tour in celebration of its newest album "Frames," which was released in April. All four members write and sing lead, and the band's website describes its latest record as a fusion of rock, alt-pop, electronic, R&B, folk, dance, funk "and a touch of subtle wit."

May 9, 8 p.m., The Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; \$54-\$118; [theguildtheatre.com](http://theguildtheatre.com).

# Food & Drink

**THE BAKESALE POP-UP BRINGS SEASONALLY INSPIRED PASTRIES AND INVENTIVE BEVERAGES TO PACIFICA'S 'BACK OF THE VALLEY'**

## BACKYARD BAKE SALE

Story by Edwina Dueñas  
Photos by Tâm Vũ

**T**here's a new pop-up in Pacifica serving freshly baked treats and refreshing libations in a relaxing backyard setting on the Coastsides. Founded by Veronica Cotter and Megan McDevitt, The Bakesale launched in October 2024 as a pop-up event held monthly in Pacifica. Customers can order from their curated menu of beverages and sweet and savory pastries or preorder a box to secure their goods. The event is hosted in the backyard of a private home a few minutes from San Pedro Valley Park, locally known as the "back of the valley" area. Upon entering the space, customers will find a display case of available goods and a beverage bar, plus multiple seating areas, gardens, fireplaces and views to enjoy.

See **BAKESALE**, page 26



**Above:** Nora Yakoubian, left, looks at the different pastry options as owner Veronica Cotter, right, explains each item. Head baker at Twelvemonth Burlingame Veronica and her friend Megan have been running a backyard bake sale for the past five months. They have fire pits, multiple levels of seating, a wide selection of freshly baked goods and hand-crafted coffee and tea beverages.  
**Top:** The Bakesale's carrot cake sits on a display stand.

# Chef-owner of Che Fico to debut fast-casual concept in Menlo Park celebrating flavors of the Jewish Diaspora

Expected to open mid-May, Bubbelah will offer borscht, schnitzel, shawarma, khachapuri and more

By Adrienne Mitchel

David Nayfeld, the chef-owner of Che Fico, is embarking on a journey that's deeply personal: opening a fast-casual restaurant in Menlo Park highlighting the flavors of the Jewish Diaspora.

Replacing Nayfeld's former Italian grocery store il Mercato di Che Fico in the Springline development, Bubbelah will offer mezze, soups, salads, housemade breads, fish, meats, sides and desserts beginning mid-May. Freshly prepared and packaged grab-and-go items as well as popular Che Fico retail products such as its pomodoro and arrabiata sauce will be available. Additionally, the gelato window formerly operating at il Mercato di Che Fico will return, likely in late May, according to Nayfeld.

"I always wanted to do food that was representative of something very personal to me," Nayfeld said, noting that the menu at Che Fico in San Francisco marks certain menu items with the Star of David to designate dishes that are reflective of cucina ebraica, or the

Jewish Italian tradition.

Nayfeld's parents and brother immigrated from Belarus, and while they weren't allowed to bring cookbooks out of the country, Nayfeld grew up eating pelmeni, borscht and matzo ball soup at home, as well as Middle Eastern and Mediterranean food out of the home. He hopes Bubbelah encapsulates the diversity of Jewish cuisine.

"People have this preconceived notion that Jewish cuisine is matzo ball soup and smoked salmon and latkes, and it is, but that's one very narrow view of it," he said. "Jewish cuisine spans the world, and they've played an integral part in putting their own fingerprints on the cuisine of all sorts of different countries."

Standout dishes include the whole harissa rotisserie chicken and the poppy seed chicken schnitzel, which are both available a la carte or as a wrap, pita or plate, said Nayfeld. Hummus will be made twice a day, falafel will be ground daily with fresh herbs and spices and naturally leavened pita will be made in house. The rotating soup selection includes beet borscht, Turkish tomato and potato, Ashkenazi split pea and more.

"(Rotating soups) make me really happy because I love a good soup," Nayfeld said. "That's something I think is very underrated."



Eric Wolfinger

David Nayfeld is the executive chef and co-owner of Che Fico Parco Menlo.

The price point is meant to be affordable, with a full meal, including tax and tip, costing under \$25, Nayfeld said. Seating for up to 50 will replace il Mercato di Che Fico's shopping aisles, outdoor seating will be available, and the color scheme will feature yellows, blues and browns.

"This is going to be a place where people can grab a quick lunch, grab a quick dinner, but also they can come for a date, and eat and have delicious food in a nice ambiance and have wine and dessert," Nayfeld said.

"I think this is going to be a really great family place."

Nayfeld permanently closed il Mercato di Che Fico April 19, about a year after debuting the concept. He said that it had become apparent that the community didn't need a high-end grocery store.

"There was a lot of engagement with the products that we made, but there was just not as much engagement with just the everyday groceries," he said. "You can't force people to want what you want for them." ■

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

Dig into food news. Follow the Peninsula Foodist on Instagram @peninsulafoodist and subscribe to the newsletter at AlmanacNews.com/peninsula-foodist to get insights on the latest openings and closings, learn what the Foodist is excited about eating, read exclusive interviews and keep up on the trends affecting local restaurants.

**Bubbelah**, 1300 El Camino Real, Suite A, Menlo Park; Instagram: @bubbelahmpk. Beginning mid-May, open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## BAKESALE

continued from page 25

As professional bakers and friends, Cotter and McDevitt have been working together for years. The two work full time at vegan bakery Twelvemonth Bakehouse in Burlingame and organize the pop-up after hours. For both women, their love of baking started early on and influences their heartfelt approach behind their new venture.

For McDevitt, the dream of working in a bakery formed in childhood, with her favorite weekend treat being a trip to her local doughnut shop. Eventually, her childhood dream led to her baking doughnuts, too. Formerly a teacher, McDevitt took a leap of faith and applied to a boutique bakery when she and her husband relocated to Florida.

'During the first week, I couldn't believe I actually got paid to make doughnuts'

MEGAN McDEVITT,  
BAKESALE COFOUNDER

"During my first week, I couldn't believe I actually got paid to make doughnuts," McDevitt said. "Soon after that, I was making three-tier wedding cakes. I absolutely fell in love with it."

Now based in Pacifica, McDevitt also operates her own business making custom cakes and confections.

Cotter's passion for baking and food can be traced to childhood memories in the kitchen with loved ones.

"I feel incredibly fortunate to

See **BAKESALE**, page 27



Lidia Valdez, right, holds her daughter Alicia's hand, left, while waiting for their order.



From left: Owner of Mushroom & Moss Apothecary Yvette Cotter, left, serves customer Nora Yakoubian. The Bakesale's variety of baked goods sit on plates.

**BAKESALE**

*continued from page 26*

come from a family of women who share a deep love for cooking, baking and enjoying food," Cotter said. "Some of my earliest memories are of rolling out sugar cookies in my grandmother's kitchen, a cherished tradition for every holiday."

When Cotter was first deciding which professional path to take, it was her mother who encouraged her to pursue her passion for baking. Cotter then enrolled in the baking and pastry program at City College of San Francisco and has been baking professionally ever since. A Pacifica native, Cotter is inspired by her hometown's welcoming spirit and diversity and enjoys the creative freedom that pop-up businesses provide.

With The Bakesale, Cotter and McDevitt aim to nourish the community they call home by whipping up a variety of treats — whether sweet, salty, fruity, decadent or savory. For each event, the duo prepares up to a dozen different items and pride themselves on the quality of their products.

"We prioritize using seasonally available produce and the highest-quality ingredients," McDevitt said. "We believe that indulgence and quality can go hand in hand — because guilty pleasures don't have to make you feel guilty."

Some of The Bakesale's most popular items include brioche buns, cinnamon rolls, savory scones and sourdough chocolate chip cookies. For their May 11 pop-up, menu items include savories such as the Herbed

Farmer's cheese and cucumber sandwich, a spinach and feta turnover and a bacon and gouda scone with chive butter. On the sweet side, guests can indulge in a maple pecan sticky bun, mini strawberry cake and lemon bars.

**'We prioritize using seasonally available produce and the highest-quality ingredients'**

MEGAN McDEVITT,  
BAKESALE COFOUNDER

Items range from \$5-\$8 apiece, and a preorder only "bakesale box" is available featuring five items for \$30. The duo brainstorms the menu for the next bake sale the week after their most recent pop-up event has taken place. While the pair work full time at a vegan bakery, the items offered at their pop-ups include dairy, eggs and traditional baking ingredients. Gluten-free items have been available at past bake sales.

The Bakesale also features a robust beverage program created by Cotter's sister, Yvette. Specialty drinks include cold brews, spiced chai and immunity shots. Past creations included drinks like a cherry chocolate cold brew, a mushroom mocha and an Elder Wellness Shot made from blueberries, cucumber, lemon, ginger, elderberry and chaga extract. Prices range from \$3-\$10 per drink.

While traditionally held on the last Sunday of each month, the next bake sale will be

timed for Mother's Day. The monthly menu is posted on The Bakesale's Instagram page a few weeks prior to the next event along with the deadline for pastry box preorders. Street parking is available, and the outdoor dining space is pet-friendly.

The pair have also hosted events at businesses in Pacifica called Bitty Bakesale. For these events, a smaller menu is available with a focus on preorders and themed offerings, with past pop-ups featuring Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day-inspired menus.

Whether hosting a monthly pop-up or Bitty Bakesale, Cotter and McDevitt strive to create a unique, high-quality menu with something for everyone to enjoy.

"This is all for the community. Ai for the back of the valley, a place that's often overlooked," Cotter said.

Thanks to The Bakesale, the back of the valley neighborhood has slowly shifted to the forefront, helping to form new connections along the way.

"People come for tasty treats, but they stay because they feel comfortable in the backyard space," Cotter said. "We've watched people start as strangers and exchange phone numbers by the end. Good food really does bring people together!" ■

*Email Contributing Writer  
Edwina Dueñas at  
eduenas3@protonmail.com.*

**The Bakesale**, 1252 Galvez Drive, Pacifica.  
Instagram: @thebakesalepacifica.  
Open the last Sunday of every month (this month's sale is May 11.)



From middle down: Nora Yakoubian shows off her box of baked goods. The Bakesale's variety of baked goods sit in trays before opening time.



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[31453highwayone.com](http://31453highwayone.com) | [jonathanspencerproperties.com](http://jonathanspencerproperties.com)



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