

The Almanac

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

JUNE 13, 2025 | VOL. 60 NO. 40



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Emily Steinberger

Graduation 2025

Graduates throw their caps into the air at the conclusion of Woodside High School's graduation ceremony on Friday, June 6. For all the pomp and circumstance, see Page 14. For more photos, visit almanacnews.com/graduation.

Residents up in arms over false rumors of quiet zone cancellation

Staff decided to wait to determine funding source while designs are created

By Arden Margulis

Residents described a panic that swept through the city about 24 hours before the start of Menlo Park City Council's Tuesday meeting. They heard the city was canceling its Caltrain quiet zone project and quickly organized to defend the project. In a matter of hours, the city received 114 emails lambasting officials for deciding to omit the project without any public input; many spoke in support of keeping the project at the meeting before the council discussed it.

However, the city was never planning on removing the project.

Residents were correct that it was omitted from the capital improvement plan before the City Council that day. But that doesn't mean the project is dead, city officials say. According to Public Works Director Azalea Mitch, city staff decided to wait until it is further along to include it in the budget. City contractors are currently finalizing the design of the project.

Mitch said the city will solicit bids in the winter after the design is finalized as contractors are generally looking for work and may be cheaper. Mitch said when the city has a better idea of the project's cost, it would look at grants to fund the project.

The project is still on track and a priority for the city.

Menlo Park keeps downtown street closure as gathering space

Council plans to discuss how to improve area

By Arden Margulis

The Menlo Park City Council plans to keep a one-block street closure downtown that opponents claim is under used and contributing to a struggling downtown.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Menlo Park closed several blocks to cars in downtown to facilitate additional outdoor dining and community areas. One of those streets, Ryan Lane near Ristorante Carpaccio, is already set to reopen.

However, a block of the eastbound lane of Santa Cruz Avenue between Curtis and

Doyle streets remained closed. While originally the three restaurants on the block had outdoor seating on the closed lane, they have since moved a majority of dining to the curbside parking area. The entire lane remained closed with part of the block being used as a small gathering space with picnic tables in front of Walgreens, Starbucks and Tilak Menlo Park. There is also an eastbound bike lane, the only bike lane in downtown on Santa Cruz Avenue.

On Tuesday, June 10, the city council majority reversed course and decided to keep the closure in part due to its frequent use by

young adults and teens.

During the school year, teens often gather at the tables after school.

"The city has devised a bike lane that has proven to be effective at safely separating bicycles and scooters... and created a safe gathering place for teens. There was a write up about how California Avenue is trying to do this. We've achieved exactly that and I think we should preserve it, enhance it," Councilmember Besty Nash said.

Some public commenters also pointed out Palo Alto's efforts to make California Avenue a center of commerce by closing

the street to cars.

"University Ave is a nightmare, and as a pedestrian I feel unprotected and unprioritized... Compared to that, California Ave is peaceful, feels safe for children, and has a ton of successful new businesses and community initiatives. Which do we want to emulate in Menlo Park?" Emma Stanford wrote to the council.

"This block has become one of the only places in Menlo Park where students, families and neighbors can hang out comfortably. Hillview (Middle

See **STREET CLOSURE**, page 16

See **QUIET ZONE**, page 9

INSIDE

ARTSCENE 20 | FOOD & DRINK 22

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FOR SALE

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LUXURY DIVISION \$17,500,000

Portola Valley



SOLD IN 2025

LUXURY DIVISION \$25,000,000

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FOR SALE

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Woodside



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FOR SALE

12725 OLD LA HONDA RD | OFFERED AT \$1,495,000

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SOLD IN 2025

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If you are thinking of listing your home, meet with Michael Repka to learn how a recent court case and massive settlement has brought down the cost to sell a home.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Willow Commons offers a variety of one and two-bedroom apartment units for residents.

Willow Commons welcomes its first tenants to Portola Valley

Project aims to provide low income housing to adults with intellectual disabilities

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

After four years, the long-anticipated affordable and supportive housing project Willow Commons in Portola Valley is now open. On the weekend of June 7, the first residents of the housing complex moved in with their belongings, ready to live an independent life.

Willow Commons, located at 4388 Alpine Road, aims to provide adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities with supportive housing that

encourages social interaction, community and autonomy. The complex will house 16 tenants, eight of whom have already moved in.

The project was started by Portola Valley residents Jim and Patty White, who were inspired by their daughter Amy, who has a disability.

According to a study by the University of Minnesota's Institute on Community Integration, 80% of adults with intellectual disabilities have no choice but to live with family, often with aging parents.

Willow Commons is designed to connect residents, with 40% of the square footage dedicated to community space. All buildings on the property face inward to bring people together, encouraging them to see each other and prevent residents from isolating themselves.

Patty White explained that one of the biggest issues that adults with intellectual disabilities face when living alone is being isolated, which can

See **WILLOW COMMONS**, page 9

San Mateo County Sheriff: 'We do not enforce federal laws'

Officials seek to calm residents

By Clay Lambert

Electing leaders and law enforcement officials in San Mateo County are reiterating policies related to cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and other federal agencies in the wake of protests in Los Angeles that have drawn unprecedented federal response.

As hundreds of Marines filed into the streets of Los Angeles — there according to federal authorities to protect federal buildings and law enforcement — San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus issued a statement on Tuesday saying that it is not her job to enforce U.S. immigration policy.

"I want to reiterate our policy regarding the operations of ICE. Our policy complies with applicable state law. Additionally, our policy states that we 'will comply only with judicial warrants,'" she said in a statement issued Tuesday morning.

"Our office is not a federal agency and we do not enforce federal laws," she continued in the written statement emailed to news organizations. "Since I took office in January of 2023, the Sheriff's Office has not turned anyone over to ICE. Our office remains focused on critical issues including public safety, crime prevention, emergency services, and enforcing state law and county ordinances. We serve our stated mission to protect life,

property and public peace for all members of our community, regardless of anyone's immigration status."

The sheriff's statement followed similar words from Redwood City's mayor one night earlier.

"The city is committed to enhancing the cultural fabric in supporting and celebrating, you know, all of our neighbors, of all backgrounds here in Redwood City, that includes newcomers, immigrants, people who are contributing in all ways to make Redwood City what it is and what we enjoy it to be today," Mayor Elmer Martínez Saballos said during the Redwood City City Council meeting. He further noted that the Redwood City Police Department is not actively engaged in looking for undocumented people.

For her part, Corpus said her agency would respect bedrock constitutional rights while also enforcing the law.

"Regarding demonstrations, we respect and honor individuals' First Amendment rights," she said. "We also want to remind community members that we will not tolerate any violence, harm to law enforcement or civilians, or destruction of property during protests."

The statements come amid ongoing tensions over U.S. immigration policies in cities including Los Angeles, where the Trump administration has deployed members of the National Guard and U.S. Marines. ■

Menlo Park clinic aims to address youth mental health crisis

Utilizes neuroscience and talk therapy

By Arden Margulis

A new adolescent mental health clinic has opened in Menlo Park, aiming to provide intensive treatment options outside of a hospital setting for teens struggling with anxiety, depression and trauma in Silicon Valley's "pressure cooker" academic environment.

Guide Behavioral Health, located at 1906 El Camino Real in Menlo Park, opened earlier

this year. The opening comes after the Menlo Park community has experienced several suicides.

"While I respect the education system so much, I think that some of the policies about forcing the competitive edge breaks down children in a way that they cannot perform and function to the degree they could if we change some of these things," Guide Executive Director Suzzette Garcia said.

"In the Bay Area, and Silicon Valley specifically, it's a pressure cooker of expectations and achievements. These kids have so much pressure it's insane. I don't think people, or parents, realize it," said founder Danny DuRee.

"For these kids, they have proximity to suicide, they are aware that it happens and they know people that have had it happen," Garcia said.

DuRee said some of the clinic's

early clients are familiar with recent deaths.

Unlike other programs, Guide Behavioral Health treats adolescent mental health outside of a hospital setting, in an office located just blocks from M-A, Menlo School and Sacred Heart. "We really tried to make our office feel like a home. I've been to places before where it feels very institutional and medical. An important part to us was to make the space as warm and as welcoming as we

could," said DuRee.

Guide has two main treatment programs: intensive outpatient and partial hospitalization.

The intensive outpatient program includes 12 hours of weekly sessions that involve one-on-one therapy, group and family therapy, and neurofeedback. Many adolescents are referred by their therapists or come to the program after

See **CLINIC**, page 10

Celebrating 100 years of progressive education

Peninsula School encourages independent learning

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Nestled behind the trees of a quiet Menlo Park neighborhood is Peninsula School, an independent preschool through eighth grade campus housed in an 1880s mansion. This year marks its 100th anniversary of teaching students to learn independence through creativity, choice and play.

Since 1925, the school has been a champion for progressive education, a teaching model that brings learning to life and focuses on educating the whole child, said Head of School Johanna Aeschliman.

In the preschool yard, children are playing barefoot in the sand and dirt while others are inside working on arts and crafts or playing make-believe. The school's weaving room is packed with looms with intricate weaving patterns, colorful balls of yarn and students sprawled on the floor. The walls of the clay room are decorated with hundreds of student pieces, all waiting to be thrown in the kiln.



Head teacher Betty Achinstein helps students decorate the campus at The Peninsula School in Menlo Park on May 30. The Peninsula School celebrates its 100-year anniversary.

Classrooms at Peninsula School are creatively messy, colorful, joyous as various student artwork is framed and displayed throughout the campus. The white columns of the school mansion welcome visitors with rainbow-colored paper lanterns and streamers with a banner that reads "100 Years of Joyful Learning!"

For a century, Peninsula School's unique teaching approach has been promoting young learners to become creative thinkers, problem solvers and active community members.

Encouraging independent learning

Peninsula School uses an educational method that emphasizes student voice, agency and responsibility. Every day, kindergarten through eighth grade students have 45 minutes to explore a studio activity, choosing anything from woodshop, weaving, pottery, music and the library.

"All those choices are open to them and each day they get a fresh choice," said Admissions and Enrollment Director Michele Buschini. "There isn't a structured curriculum during this time and that's a chance for them to dive into whatever kind of project they want to work on." By the time students reach middle school, "They have free

See **PENINSULA SCHOOL**, page 17

Menlo Park Monthly Market Report

May 1, 2025 - May 31, 2025

Rossetti Realty Inc.

TOP 10 SALES*	
1. \$9,500,000 1360 Garden Lane	2. \$8,600,000 35 Hasketh Drive
3. \$8,000,000 720 Vine Street	4. \$7,300,000 662 Berkeley Avenue
5. \$6,250,000 1765 Oak Avenue	6. \$5,850,000 2 Lassen Court
7. \$5,500,000 1271 Bellair Way	8. \$5,360,000 378 Felton Drive
9. \$5,300,000 711 Central Avenue	10. \$5,025,000 550 Saint Francis Place

ACTIVE LISTING May: 57 Apr: 49 ↑16%	AVERAGE SALES PRICE May: \$3,774,069 Apr: \$3,250,212 ↑16%	AVERAGE SALES PRICE/SQ Ft May: \$1,558 Apr: \$1,504 ↑4%
PENDING LISTING May: 36 Apr: 40 ↓10%	AVERAGE SOLD DAYS ON MARKET May: 34 Apr: 15 ↑127%	MONTHS OF INVENTORY May: 1.80 Apr: 1.30 ↑38%
SOLD LISTING May: 32 Apr: 39 ↓18%	SALE/LIST PRICE May: 100.50% Apr: 103.80% ↓3%	30 YEAR MORTGAGE RATE May: 6.94% Apr: 6.81% ↑2%

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

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The Almanac

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

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

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LEHUA GREENMAN

"A father is someone you look up to no matter how tall you grow."
Happy Fathers Day!

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What is the Portola Valley Fund and how will it work?

Organizers say it will tap into community spirit

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

A new nonprofit organization in Portola Valley aims to address the town's budget issues by fundraising for various projects. Organizers of the Portola Valley Fund unveiled the organization during the Town Council meeting on May 14, but the fund has been in the works for over a year.

Jon Goulden, Portola Valley resident and former chair of the Planning Commission, came up with the idea to start an official organization that would fundraise for the town during the peak of its financial crisis. He recruited Sarah Dorahy and former council member John Richards to join as board members.

The organization is project focused, said Goulden. Fundraising projects will first be approved by the town before the Portola Valley Fund lists the project on its website where

community members can make donations. This is a free service that the nonprofit is providing to the town, he clarified.

"People can say, 'Oh, I like Project A, I'll put some money in for that.' But if they don't like Project B, that's fine, as opposed to just generally giving us money then we would decide what to do with it," Goulden added.

These projects could potentially include infrastructure improvements, upgraded cameras to livestream meetings, professional development for town staff, a dog park and resurfacing of the pickleball courts. Projects approved by the town are yet to come through to the fund, said Goulden.

For each listed project, a goal amount will be determined in which contributors can donate to help the anticipated costs for the project. The money will be donated to the town in the form of a grant.

In the past, independent fundraisers were held to raise money

for projects such as the \$16 million Town Center renovation completed in 2008. The neighboring town of Woodside has had a community foundation since 1952 but this will be the first time Portola Valley will have a nonprofit dedicated to supporting it financially.

"While I was on the council, we were at least under the impression that our finances were really solid, and they have for as long as I've been in town, but there's just never been really felt to be in much of a need (of a foundation)" said Richards.

The town's financial crisis appears to be at ease for now, Goulden added. With the creation of the fund, the town will have a supplementary budget for projects it may not have the means for in the future.

"There's always been more ideas on the committees than there was ever money to actually satisfy all their thoughts and ideas," Goulden said.

Although the town is still

watching its finances closely, the Town Council was presented with a balanced budget in March after the new proposed budget estimated town expenses would be reduced by \$2.5 million. That left the town with a surplus of \$97,000 for fiscal year 2024-25. The staffing shortage and reduced service hours continue to be a challenge for the town, but has allowed for a temporary cut in the budget.

The Portola Valley Fund's board includes longtime residents who have all been involved in many sectors of town government. Richards, who grew up in Portola Valley, served on the Town Council for 13 years, four years on the Planning Commission and seven years on the Architectural and Site Control Commission. Goulden carries experience from co-chairing the Portola Valley Schools Foundation and recently ended his term on the Planning Commission. Dorahy is a member of the Ad Hoc

Housing Element Committee, a former PVSF trustee and has volunteered for local schools.

With Portola Valley's strong history of volunteerism, Goulden said the fund is a natural way for residents to give back to the town.

"It gives us a better opportunity to continue with something we've been doing in town for a long time, and that's trying to create community," said Richards. "It's another option for people to get involved with the town and volunteer without having the stress of dealing with things like the Brown Act."

The Portola Valley Fund is still at its beginning stages. To take its next step, the board is waiting for the town to make its next move in approving a project.

For more information on the nonprofit organization visit portolavalleyfund.org ■

*Email Staff Writer
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San Mateo County supervisors start process for sheriff's removal

Corpus' legal team lambasted the county's effort to oust the sheriff

By Neil Gonzales

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has launched the process to remove embattled Sheriff Christina Corpus from her office — a power granted by a ballot measure that voters passed earlier in the year.

During a special meeting on Thursday, June 5, the five-member board unanimously approved the "Notice of Intent to Remove" the sheriff after deliberating for about an hour in closed session. The supervisors returned to open session to vote.

Although supervisors have formally set a path toward

the sheriff's removal, Board President David Canepa told the Pulse after the meeting that the process is just beginning.

"People need to recognize there are more steps," Canepa said. "This is not the final conclusion. We haven't removed her. Today just initiates the process."

The Notice of Intent has yet to be made public because Corpus has objected to its release, the county said in a news release, but it's a 59-page document that includes the reasons for considering the sheriff's ouster and calls for her to appear at a pre-removal conference expected soon.

At this conference, the county said, Corpus will have the chance to respond to the charges in the NOI. Among the allegations are flagrant and repeated neglect of a sheriff's duties and obstruction of an investigation into her conduct.

The NOI largely stems from a 408-page report from a county-commissioned independent investigation last year that lays out corruption, abuse of power and other violations in Corpus' administration.

Following that report, supervisors approved placing Measure A on a special ballot election in March, seeking to amend the county charter to allow them

until the end of 2028, which coincides with the expiration of Corpus' six-year term, to fire her with cause by a four-fifths vote. The measure passed overwhelmingly with 84% of the votes in favor.

During public comments before the board deliberated and

voted on the NOI, Corpus' legal team lambasted the county's effort to oust the sheriff.

"This matter started out as political," Corpus lead attorney Thomas Mazzucco said, addressing the board. "Then it

See **SHERIFF**, page 8

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

Choosing the Trustee of My Trust



Dear Monica: Is it advisable to have a paid fiduciary (trustee) manage my estate? Erin D.

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- JUN 28 JEREMY PELT
- JUN 29 TIFFANY AUSTIN
- JUL 12 JOHN PIZZARELLI
- JUL 13 SAM REIDER
- JUL 14 CAILI O'DOHERTY
- JUL 19 ANAT COHEN & MARCELLO GONÇALVES
- JUL 24 JOEL ROSS
- JUL 27 PAUL CORNISH
- JUL 29 GEORGE CABLES
- JUL 31 TAYLOR EIGSTI

Schedule and artists subject to change without notice.



Town of Atherton

Planning Commission, June 25, 2025
REGULAR MEETING, 6:00 P.M.

*This is meeting is held virtually and in-person at the Council Chambers
80 Fair Oaks Lane*

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the items listed below during their regular meeting.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said application is set for hearing by the Planning Commission at its meeting on **June 25, 2025, at 6:00 PM** in-person and via teleconference accessible through the information provided below, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the projects listed in the public hearing section should or should not be approved. This meeting will be held via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The public may participate in the Planning Commission Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

Topic: Atherton Planning Commission Regular Meeting
Time: June 25, 2025, 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
In person Option: 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027
Zoom Meeting Option and Details:
<https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/j/84150249099>
Meeting ID: 841 5024 9099
One tap mobile:
+13017158592 (Washington DC)
+13052241968 (US)
Find your local number: <https://ciathertonca.zoom.us/j/kglcVN4cq>

Remote Public Comments:
Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. The following email will be monitored during the meeting and public comments received will be read into the record.
Email: planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us

Projects under Public Hearing:

1. Request for a **Conditional Use Permit (CUP25-001)** to construct an approximately 3,700 square-foot putting green at Sacred Heart Schools, **150 Valparaiso Avenue (APN 070-390-010)**, in an area of grass located adjacent to the Penner Aquatics Building and east of the existing baseball and soccer fields, towards the center of campus. The site is located within the Public Facilities and Schools (PFS) Zoning District. Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Section 17.36.030 (Allowed Uses and Permit Requirements) requires any modifications to the activities of private school sites to seek a Conditional Use Permit by the Planning Commission. Pursuant to AMC Section 17.36.050, Sacred Heart Schools will also provide a report on its current Master Plan. This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to: CEQA Section 15311 (Accessory Structures). If you have any questions on the item please contact Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner, at bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us or (408) 688-2432.
2. Request for a **Tree Protection Zone Exception (PTPZ25-00005)** for (1) one Coast Live Oak for a first and second floor addition/remodel to an existing one-story residence at **98 Maple Avenue (APN 060-331-250)**, an approximately 6,026 square foot site within the R-1B zoning district. Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Sections 8.10.050 (Request for exceptions to the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)) and 8.10.020 (Definitions) outline the requirements for construction activities within the TPZ. The Town of Atherton's *Heritage Tree Preservation Standards and Specifications* further describes that the Planning Commission may grant a Tree Protection Zone Exception (PTPZ) in the R-1A Zoning District for projects that are within a distance of a heritage tree less than 8 times the diameter of the trunk at breast height, noted as "8x." The PTPZ application requests that the Planning Commission consider approval for construction activities that are 1.8x from the subject Coast Live Oak. This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to AMC Section 15.32.100 and CEQA Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). If you have any questions on the item please contact Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner, at bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us or (408) 688-2432.
3. Request for the **Heritage Tree Removals (HTR25-006)** of (2) two Coast Live Oaks (trees no. 11 and 20) and (1) one Valley Oak (tree no. 18) to accommodate construction of a new single-family dwelling at **285 Camino al Lago (APN 0070-260-240)**, an approximately 1.26-acre site within the R-1A zoning district. Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Sections 8.10.040 (Removal of and Damage to Heritage Trees, Permit Process) and 8.10.020 (Definitions) outline the requirements for heritage tree removal. Staff has determined the subject trees are not dead or dangerous; therefore, removal requires consideration and approval by the Planning Commission. This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to AMC Section 15.32.100 and CEQA Section 15301 (Existing Facilities). If you have any questions on the item please contact Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner, at bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us or (408) 688-2432.

The agenda for this meeting with links to related staff reports can be found online by **Friday, June 20, 2025**, here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

IF YOU CHALLENGE the listed projects in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing. Planning Commission decisions are appealable by any aggrieved person to the City Council within 10 days of the date of the decision. If you have any questions on an item please contact the Planning Commission Contact: planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us

Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

ATHERTON PLANNING COMMISSION

/s/ Brittany Bendix
Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner

SHERIFF

continued from page 7

got personal. I'm now asking you to be practical and follow the law."

Among his concerns about the removal process, Mazzucco raised the issue of prejudgment bias on the part of the board.

Supervisors Noelia Corzo and Ray Mueller have made previous public statements indicating they're "finding guilt without looking at the evidence," Mazzucco contended. "They've already prejudged the evidence. That's not the jurisprudence we're used to. You are now acting in a quasi-judicial capacity."

Because of this, Mazzucco believes Corzo and Mueller would have to drop out of the process. "You can't get four-fifths of a vote when two of you will be recused," Mazzucco said.

Mazzucco also argued that because Measure A election results were certified in April, supervisors could only bring allegations against the sheriff from that point.

"I didn't really understand that," Canepa told the Pulse, regarding Mazzucco's cutoff contention.

As for Mazzucco's bias argument against Corzo and Mueller, Canepa said: "We're going through this process — all five of us. The process established involves Corzo and Mueller."

Among other public commenters, Thursday was Vanessa Lemus-Tapia, daughter of Carlos Tapia, president of the San Mateo County Deputy Sheriff's Association union, which has clashed with Corpus.

"I once believed in Sheriff Christina Corpus' promises of accountability, transparency and integrity — values she campaigned on," Lemus-Tapia said, addressing supervisors. "But transparency and integrity are not just campaign slogans or promises, they are commitments to the people, and Sheriff Corpus has failed to uphold them."

Lemus-Tapia also criticized the NOI for not being made public.

"With all due respect, it

is unacceptable that (Corpus) was given the option to keep the Notice of Intent document private," Lemus-Tapia said. "No elected official under investigation for misconduct should be allowed to decide what the public gets to see."

Jim Lawrence, board chair of the civilian watchdog group Fixin' San Mateo County, expressed similar sentiments. "I am disappointed that the sheriff sought to keep (the NOI) out of the public eye," Lawrence said in a news release. "With this secrecy, we don't know what the supervisors voted on (Thursday). The public deserves transparency."

During the board meeting, County Attorney John Nibbelin explained that keeping details of the NOI from the public at this time reflects "an abundance of caution" given various legal matters pertaining to "the privacy of peace officer personal records."

But the NOI would be released to the public "at the end of the entire administrative process," Nibbelin said.

For now, he said, that process heads to the pre-removal conference, after which the presiding officer "would provide the board with a written recommendation regarding whether to remove the sheriff."

The board would "meet as soon as practicable thereafter to render its decision," he said. "Any action to remove the sheriff would require a four-fifths vote at that time. A vote to remove the sheriff would be subject to appeal by the sheriff."

An appeal hearing would then take place, at which the public could attend, unless the sheriff requests that it be closed, Nibbelin said.

Corpus previously told the Pulse that she has no plans to leave office. "I will fight this injustice and not resign," the sheriff had said.

Corpus has filed a \$10 million lawsuit against the county, alleging that she has suffered discrimination and harassment. ■

*Email Contributing Writer
Neil Gonzales at
ngonzales92@yahoo.com*

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AlmanacNews.com/obituaries

WILLOW COMMONS

continued from page 5

lead to more serious problems like depression.

“The whole idea of having a large building with community space and programming is that the community space offers them the social scaffolding to be in community with one another,” she said.

The main entrance to the property serves as the main hub for community gathering, with a large kitchen, dining room, multipurpose room and a soon to be coffee shop. Programming will include yoga, cooking classes, book groups, art and more.

The housing complex includes one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments fitted with a kitchen and bathroom. Units qualify as low-income housing which means all residents have to verify they are below 80% of the Area Median Income level. San Mateo County’s AMI is \$104,400 for a single resident.

During an open house on June 6, visitors seemed impressed by the design of the complex. With muted colors and lots of trees and grass, the housing project blends well into the bucolic nature of Portola Valley.

Patty White said for many residents, Willow Commons will be their “home for life.” As part of the application process, potential tenants are interviewed by a panel of behavioralists, psychologists and individuals in service organizations. Applicants are also invited to join community events to see if they get along with other residents.

“We make sure that socially, everyone gets along well together and (can be) part of a well-functioning community,” she said.

Jim White hopes that the

housing project will show that there are other ways to create supportive housing for intellectually disabled adults outside of group homes and care facilities. Across the Peninsula, group homes have declined between 10% to 15% over the past five years due to a weak staffing model and the high expenses to operate a facility.

“What we’re trying to show is you can do something slightly different with a small number of people,” said Jim White. “You can do some clever things from social dynamics, service efficiencies, service specialization and service redundancy.”

Through Willow Commons, he hopes to be able to produce data through studies that compare social happiness, engagement and other social metrics around working, school participation and family satisfaction.

The new housing complex is a community space for the residents but will also serve as

a gathering space for the rest of town. By 2026, the Whites hope to open Common Grounds, a high-end coffee shop located at the corner of the property that will be open to the public and staffed by Willow Commons residents. The shop will be operated in a partnership with Santa Cruz-based coffee roaster Cat and Cloud and will serve as a vocational program for residents.

Although Willow Commons was initially expected to be completed in 2024, Portola Valley’s high staff turnover and staff shortages caused various delays for project permits, said Jim White. He said the town’s challenges “cost the project a million dollars and a year of lost time.”

Despite the delays, Jim and Patty White are excited for residents to make themselves at home at Willow Commons and are proud to complete an example of what affordable and supportive housing can look like in Portola Valley. ■

QUIET ZONE

continued from page 1

Friendly ‘argument’

Residents’ efforts did not fall on deaf ears. City councilmember Jeff Schmidt advocated against waiting to determine how to fund the project, especially given uncertainty about the availability of federal grants.

“I feel very strongly that we need to look at a funding strategy, not a hope-based strategy. I’ve seen that not play out time and time again. I could really see this getting kicked down the road,” Schmidt said.

Schmidt then said that the city has money now, \$3 million surplus and \$2 million in the downtown amenity fund, and now would be the time to appropriate funds.

Vice Mayor Betsy Nash “vehemently” disagreed with funding the quiet zone from the downtown amenity fund.

“It’s wonderful to promise all of

this money to all these different groups, to all these different programs. We have to be very careful with our money and really be very conservative,” Nash said. She expressed that given her experience navigating the city’s finances during the COVID-19 pandemic, she believes reserves are very important and is concerned about the city’s financial state.

Nash also said the city will need to use those funds for its downtown vibrancy priority.

Schmidt said he is still concerned about the city relying on future grants.

“No disrespect to staff, but I don’t think that’s where we are going. I don’t think that’s where our federal friends are going,” Schmidt said. Many city councilmembers already support directing part of the surplus to the capital improvement plan, which includes the quiet zone project. ■

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

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Derek Hine, 89, a Portola Valley resident who worked as an athletic director and physical education teacher at Corte Madera School in Portola Valley, died on April 13.

Ethel Isabella Newell, 77, of Portola Valley who was a docent for the Legion of Honor Museum in San Francisco and traveled throughout the U.S. and Europe, as well as to Hong Kong, Singapore, India and Tunisia. She died on May 19.

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

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detection, diagnosis, risk reduction, the latest science and advancements in clinical trials and treatments, and local resources for assistance. We'll also be welcoming donations to accelerate research and other promising pathways toward a cure. So join us to champion this extraordinary cause! Enjoy music, exclusive shopping experiences and giveaways as you explore new ways to connect and communicate with your loved one. We encourage you to introduce yourself to us and learn more about the care and services we provide. We're eager to listen and ready to help.



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CLINIC

continued from page 5

residential treatment. The program is designed so participants can still go to school.

The partial hospitalization program is much more intensive. Teens spend all day at Guide but return to their families in the evening. The program is designed for adolescents transitioning directly from stabilization programs.

Both programs involve cognitive behavioral therapy and emotional regulation. Garcia designed the programs to be flexible so as to not create another barrier for treatment. As long as it's safe and medically appropriate, Garcia said families can take breaks — such as for summer travel.

Guide is also unique in its approach to modern technology.

“We really changed the narrative around phones. I've worked in a lot of positions where they

would take patients' phones, but teens need to learn how to navigate this world with this device. Phones can be a very powerful tool and so we want to teach teens how to utilize technology,” said Garcia.

“In the sessions, we talk about reflecting on what they are using their phones for, ‘Am I connecting with a friend because I feel anxious and alone?’ or ‘Am I doomscrolling on social media?’” Garcia said.

Although some claim teens need to work harder in order to get over their issues, Garcia refutes that.

“I've never worked with more resilient, stronger people than adolescents dealing with mental health. When someone has the least amount of life experience, everything is stacked against them. Every reason not to go on is there, and yet they still have the courage to show up. It may look like they're absent from school, but they got out of bed

that morning when everything wanted them to stay in. When people say adolescents just need to work harder, I think there is a lack of understanding, one about the neuroscience of how the brain works, and then the reality of the pressure they face,” Garcia said.

However, Garcia emphasized that teens have control.

“I don't see people as victims, because I think when you see them as a victim, it infantilizes them to believe they're not powerful enough to overcome this. However, I do think it's important to validate and to not gaslight individuals about their reality and the obstacles they face and environmental and neurological factors that have caused mental health conditions. These are diseases. They're not simply poor character traits,” said Garcia.

DuRee's background is not in mental health. Previously, he was a Mountain View-based



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Guide Behavioral Health Executive Director Suzzette Garcia talks with founder Danny DuRee during the daily staff huddle at Guide offices in Menlo Park on June 10.

trust and estate attorney.

“Being an estate attorney, you hear people tell you what's going on in their family. So I saw that there was a need and somebody needed to do something and provide services,” DuRee said.

Guide's staff includes two intensive care coordinators who are graduate students training to become therapists, four licensed therapists, one pre-licensed therapist completing clinical hours, a psychiatrist who serves as medical director, and a nurse practitioner.

“When I was developing the curriculum, it was touched by every single person. We looked at all the places we've worked at over the years, all the theories that we study, and asked ourselves ‘What's missing?’ ‘What's wrong?’ We looked at various things: issues within LGBT, issues with socioeconomic,

language barriers, policies, social media, AI. I think that's really unique,” Garcia said.

Guide currently only treats people between the ages of 13 to 17. It plans to expand to include programs for young adults later this summer. Guide accepts many insurance plans. ■

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

HELP IS AVAILABLE

Any person who is feeling depressed, troubled or suicidal can call 988, the mental health crisis hotline, to speak with a crisis counselor. In Santa Clara County, interpretation is available in 200 languages. Spanish speakers can also call 888-628-9454. People can reach trained counselors at Crisis Text Line by texting RENEW to 741741.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Five-Year Review
Installation Restoration Sites 26 and 28
Former Naval Air Station Moffett Field
Moffett Field, California**

June 2025

In February 2025, the Department of the Navy (Navy) completed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Five-Year Review of the Installation Restoration (IR) Sites 26 and 28 at former Naval Air Station (NAS) Moffett Field, Moffett Field, California. Former NAS Moffett Field is located 35 miles south of San Francisco and 10 miles north of San Jose. The Navy conducted the Five-Year Review in accordance with the requirements of CERCLA Section 121 (c). The purpose of the Five-Year Review is to determine whether the remedies selected for implementation in the Record of Decision (ROD) documents at Installation Restoration (IR) Sites 26 and 28 are and remain protective of human health and the environment.

Protectiveness of the remedy was determined through document and data review, interviews, and site inspections and is summarized below.

IR Site 26

The remedy at IR Site 26 is short-term protective of human health and the environment with respect to the remedial action objectives (RAOs) identified in the 1996 ROD and 2014 ROD Amendment. Remedy implementation is complete and land use controls (LUCs) are in place to prevent access to contaminated groundwater and minimize vapor intrusion (VI) risk. To ensure long-term protectiveness, further investigation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) is needed to assess potential human health and environmental risk.

IR Site 28

The remedy at IR Site 28 is short-term protective of human health and the environment with respect to the RAOs identified in the Middlefield-Ellis-Whisman (MEW) Study Area ROD and the 2010 MEW Study Area ROD Amendment. The groundwater and VI remedy at IR Site 28 is currently protective of human health and the environment because there is no direct exposure to contamination. LUCs are in place to prevent access to contaminated groundwater. The VI control systems, monitoring program, and institutional controls are in place to minimize VI exposure risk. For the remedy to be protective in the long term, accelerating the reduction of the source of VI in the Shallow Zone (A aquifer) should be completed. Further investigation of PFAS is also needed to assess potential health and environmental risk.

The next Five-Year Review for IR Sites 26 and 28 will be completed in February 2030. Questions or comments on the preparation of this CERCLA Five-Year Review or other Navy environmental activities at the former NAS Moffett Field may be directed to:

David Darrow

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC)
Base Realignment and Closure Environmental Coordinator
33000 Nixie Way, Building 50, Suite 207
San Diego, CA 92147
david.c.darrow.civ@us.navy.mil

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional information and key documents for sites at the former NAS Moffett Field are available at www.bracpmo.navy.mil and at the locations listed below.

Information Repository
Mountain View Public Library
585 Franklin Street,
Mountain View, CA 94041
(650) 903-6887

Administrative Record
Contact: Ms. Diane Silva NAVFAC Southwest
1220 Pacific Highway, Code EV33
Naval Base San Diego Bldg. 3519
San Diego, CA 92132
(619) 556-1280



**WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS GIVEN pursuant to Sections 5473, et. seq. of the California Health and Safety Code that the District Board of West Bay Sanitary District has, by general regulation, elected to collect its charges for sewer services for FY 2025-2026 on the tax roll in the same manner as general taxes and will cause to be filed with its Secretary a written report containing a description of each parcel of real property receiving sanitary sewer service from the District and the amount of the charge for each parcel.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that on Wednesday evening, July 9, 2025 at the hour of 7:00 p.m. at the meeting room located at the District's offices, located at 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA or by Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86854273116?pwd=OtFMB0B6uie1LLmPbod5YfUeKV3EB.1> Meeting ID: 868 5427 3116 Passcode: 936525

The District Board will conduct a Public Hearing to hear and consider all protests and objections, if any, to the report.

Anyone wishing to address the District Board concerning these matters may do so in writing at or before the date of the Public Hearing or may be heard at the time of the Board's meeting.

Dated: May 28, 2025

/s/ Sergio Ramirez
Sergio Ramirez
General Manager



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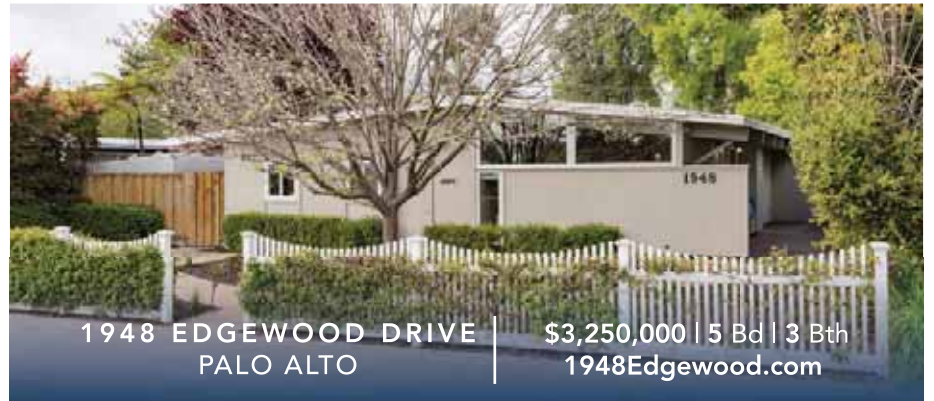
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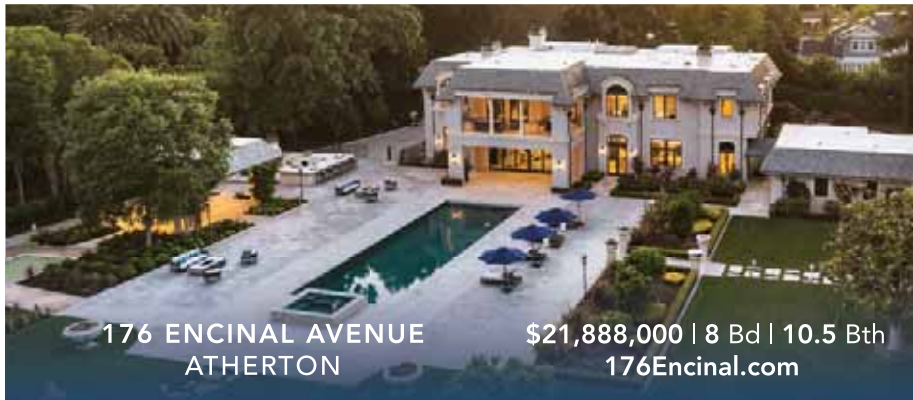
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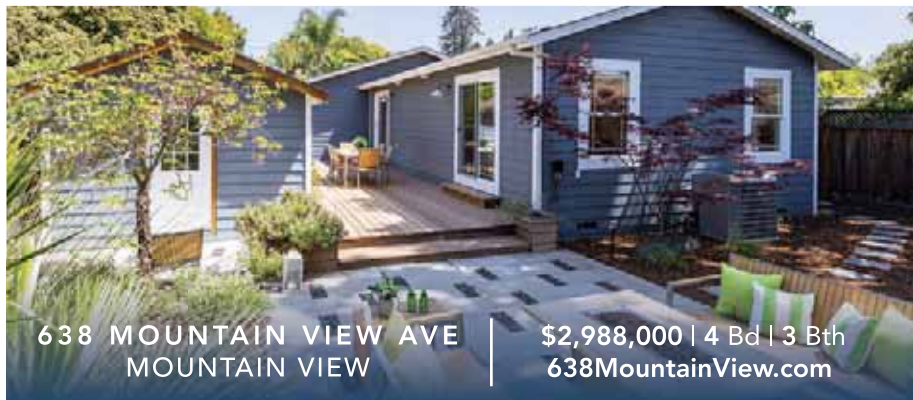
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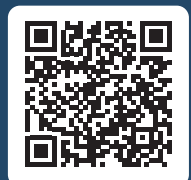


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Photos by Tâm Vũ

Left: A graduate receives a diploma from photography teacher Sarah Frivold, right, at the graduation ceremony at Menlo Atherton High School in Menlo Park on June 6. Right: A graduate high fives a friend after receiving their diploma.

M-A's Class of 2025 bids farewell with unique send-offs

High school graduates 497 seniors

By Angela Swartz

Outgoing seniors shared heartfelt stories — tied to current hot button issues — before they walked across the stage with nearly 500 other graduates to accept their diplomas Friday, June 6, at Menlo-Atherton High School. The ceremony, held on Coach Parks Field, marked the Atherton high school's 74th commencement.

One student speaker, Rose Klingsporn, talked about their personal growth from freshman to senior year, including coming out as transgender.

"I didn't really know anything about myself, and with the turbulent political and social climate around trans people at the time, I tended to keep to myself," said the graduate. "I allowed myself to morph from a scared freshman to one of the cool seniors I had so admired. This year, I was the drummer for the spring musical, 'Hadestown,' and I made real, tangible connections to other students at every grade level."

Another graduate, Wilder Perez Sanchez, detailed his 26-day journey to East Palo Alto from Guatemala at age 16

to pursue a better education. He also spoke about working 48 hours between two restaurant jobs while in high school to support his family. He said he never imagined graduating from high school in the U.S.

"When I had to learn English, I wasn't really sure if I was smart," he said. "I didn't know if I could actually learn a different language. But I did it with a lot of practice, effort and support. If you have come to this country recently and you still feel lonely, my advice is to ask for help. This friendly M-A community will support you. Be kind to others,

especially while you're getting used to your life here."

During the ceremony, Principal Karl Losekoot presented an honorary diploma to the sister of Dylan Scirpo. Dylan, 17, was an M-A student and water polo player who died shortly before the start of his senior year in 2024. Losekoot also presented the family with Dylan's framed water polo cap.

Losekoot encouraged students to "dream of a problem you want to solve, or dream of something you want to learn."

"Perhaps you want to learn how to use artificial intelligence,

or figure out how artificial intelligence can improve education. Perhaps you want to learn how to write, or use your writing to help people. Our world needs big dreams now," he said.

Graduates Isabel Zohar and William Knox performed "The Way I Am" by Ingrid Michaelson.

Superintendent Crystal Leach and Sathvik Nori, president of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees, were also in attendance. ■

Angela Swartz is a Contributing Writer.

Woodside Priory holds 65th commencement ceremony

Seventy-one graduates receive diplomas

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Woodside Priory School celebrated its 65th commencement ceremony on May 31 as 71 graduating seniors walked the stage. The Class of 2025 was honored for their academic achievements,

community leadership and embodiment of school values on Father Christopher Hites, OSB Memorial Field in Portola Valley.

The ceremony began with a traditional Scottish pipe procession and a speech from Head of School Patrick Ruff. Graduating senior Emeric Chang delivered

the student address and was honored as valedictorian.

This year, former Priory parent and Co-Founder of Strava, Mike Gainey, joined the ceremony as the commencement speaker. He offered words of

inspiration from his personal and professional experiences.

Woodside Priory School is dedicated to preparing each student to lead meaningful and balanced lives. As the Class of 2025 takes their next

step, they leave behind a legacy of compassion, curiosity and courage. ■

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



Photos courtesy Woodside Priory School

Seventy-one students graduate from Woodside Priory School's Class of 2025 on May 31.

Woodside High Class of 2025 ‘made things happen’

Sports triumphs, new courses signal group effort

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Woodside High School’s Class of 2025, dressed in bright orange caps and gowns, lit up Bradley Field as graduating seniors gathered for their commencement ceremony on the morning of June 6. This year marked the school’s 66th graduating class with 436 students crossing the stage.

The ceremony celebrated the hard work and accomplishments made throughout the students’ four-year high school journey. For Principal Karen Van Putten, this school year also marks her four-year anniversary since starting her role as an administrator for Woodside High School.

Student speaker Hannah Baltodano and Valedictorian Emilia Rose took to the podium and spoke about the student experience.

“Our lives are just beginning, the future is bright and it’s ours to shape,” said Baltodano. She gave an inspirational speech to remind her fellow classmates to cherish the moments they shared at Woodside and to brave the unknown journey that awaits them.

As an annual tradition, the senior class announced its gift to the school. This year’s gift represents guidance. The Class of 2025 gifted Woodside High with a campus map, recently installed at each school entrance.

Rose reflected on the trials

and tribulations of the high school journey in her speech titled, “Growing into Wildcats.”

“We are wildcats. We can climb any tree, jump any gap and run any distance. There is no challenge that we cannot rise to,” she said.

Rose encouraged her peers to take the time to relax as they prepare to take their next step into the future.

“I insist that the next time that we look down on ourselves to assess if we are ready for our future endeavors, we also look back and see how much we have grown and evolved from our past selves,” Rose said.

To energize the crowd, Van Putten led a call and response from the hundreds of students and audience members as they collectively yelled “Woodside Wildcats.” The school spirit created a roaring echo across the field.

Van Putten commended the Class of 2025 for their ambition to “make things happen.” Students pushed to start a girls flag football team, a boys volleyball team and encouraged the school to start new Advanced Placement courses in physics and psychology.

From 2021 to 2025, the graduating class was part of many new beginnings, including the formation of the Model U.N. club, a Science Olympiad team, a student-run record label and a robotics team that grew to



Photos by Emily Steinberger

Above: Hannah Baltodano presents her speech, “Keep Moving Forward,” at Woodside High School’s graduation ceremony in Woodside on June 6. Right: A graduate fixes his cap in a mirror.



achieve the highest levels of success. Van Putten said history was made during their time when the girls softball team won its first Central Coast Section championships and the girls relay team broke the school’s record.

To close out her speech, Van Putten introduced seniors Grace Coffee and Kash Hodges who performed a cover of the song “Unwritten” by Natasha Bedingfield before the graduates names were called.

As each student crossed the

stage, the crowd blew air horns and cheered loudly. In the final moments of the ceremony, the graduates turned their tassels from right to left and, in celebratory tradition, tossed their caps into the air — marking the end of their high school chapter. ■

GRADUATION 2025

For complete graduation coverage, including lists of graduates, photos, ceremony videos and more, visit AlmanacNews.com/graduation.

Menlo School congratulates Class of 2025 in Atherton

This year marks school’s 106th graduating class

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Members of Menlo School’s Class of 2025 received diplomas in a morning ceremony in front

of the historic Stent Family Hall on June 5. This year, 149 students graduated from the Atherton campus, marking its 106th graduating class.

Speeches were given by staff

and students followed by a performance from the Menlo School choir and instrumental music program.

A “Charge to the Senior Class” was given by Menlo School

English teacher Oscar King IV followed by remarks from Head of School Nathaniel “Than” Healy. Graduating seniors Miraal Zaki from Menlo Park and Avani Ganesan from Atherton

shared speeches reflecting on the student experience. ■

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



Courtesy Menlo School

Left: Menlo School’s Class of 2025 toss their caps in the air as they celebrate. Right: Menlo School celebrates the graduation of 149 students in the Class of 2025.

TIDE Academy celebrates its ‘small school community’

Speakers say their class had personality

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On June 5, TIDE Academy in Menlo Park celebrated the graduation of its Class of 2025 in an evening ceremony inside Smithwick Theatre at Foothill College in Los Altos. The senior class of 64 students received high school diplomas as they crossed the stage.

This year marks the third class to graduate from TIDE Academy since the school’s inception in 2019.

The ceremony featured speeches by graduating seniors Theodore Hipple, Ella Chamness, Madelis Pacas Retana, Kingsley Sarkissian and Brea Brenner.

“These last four years have been proof enough that we are capable of being changemakers,” said Hipple. “We made change and it was never about the problems, it was always about the opportunity to lead a solution.”

Chamness followed with a speech about the unique environment of TIDE Academy’s small classrooms which allowed students to build connections and community. That community served as a support system that helped students carry “each other every step of the way.”

In a Spanish speech titled, “De sueño a realidad,” Pacas Retana shared the story of her hardworking parents who immigrated to the United States, making sacrifices to allow her and her siblings to achieve their dreams. To her classmates and teachers, Pacas Retana expressed her

appreciation for the welcoming community that held out open arms when she transferred into the school during her sophomore year.

The strength of TIDE’s community remained a theme throughout all student speeches. Sarkissian’s speech noted that although the school may lack typical school events like rallies and football games, “the thing that TIDE does not lack is personality.”

“The personality of the Class of 2025 is entirely wrapped up in the close-knit community that we have fostered,” Sarkissian said.

Brenner spoke to the crowd commending her classmates for their bravery in joining a new school and creating a new community.

“Each person here was a ripple, influencing the next, passing along energy, ideas and enthusiasm,” she said. “Creating a culture requires more than boldness and influence. It requires community.”

Principal Simone Kennel reflected on her own journey from her middle school dream of becoming a flight attendant, her high school-era idea to become a news reporter and her path to becoming an educator. It wasn’t until later in her life that she discovered she was driven by her purpose to inspire students by teaching what she loved — writing.

From this story, she left her students with a quote: “Your paths may change but your purpose is



what will drive you.”

Before students made their way up the stage to receive handshakes and diplomas, the school played its annual senior memory video. The screen behind the podium showed clips of key moments for the Class of 2025 highlighting various school events.

As the ceremony came to an end, a mariachi band played a cheerful tune as students and families rejoiced while giving hugs, taking photos and soaking in the final moments of their high school careers. ■

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



Photos by Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Above: Silly string was in evidence at the TIDE Academy graduation ceremony on June 5. Top: Students dance to the live music of a mariachi band after the graduation ceremony.

STREET CLOSURE

continued from page 1

School) kids are there almost every day after school, eating, talking and biking safely. I know because I was one of them last year. It’s more than just a street. It’s now space for people to connect within the community,” Menlo-Atherton freshman Julianne Hanson told the council.

Councilmember Jeff Schmidt was the vote that switched keeping the street closed into the majority. “I feel like I probably became more of an ally (for keeping the street closed) because I just spent more time on my bike downtown ... now I feel like there’s so many kids that are using it and I feel like it’s more important to stay with what we have,” Schmidt said.

Now that the council decided to keep the block closed, Ali El Safy — owner of Bistro Vida

and Bar Loretta — has plans for the space. El Safy originally took responsibility for the space during the pandemic. He installed planters, tables and decor at his own expense. He said he had been delaying investing more time and money until the council decided whether to keep the space.

On June 11, less than 12 hours after the council’s decision, El Safy started installing new umbrellas at the picnic tables so residents could have shade during the summer months. “Menlo Park doesn’t have anything like the piazzas (public squares common in many European countries including France where El Safy started working in restaurants),” he said on Wednesday. “One of the nice things brought by COVID is people started going outside. They want a place to drink coffee, sit down and read a newspaper. It’s not just kids, it’s a community space.”

He has a vision for the block. He thinks there should be a small stage where the city can host local artists and bands. He also hopes to bring back a weekly “Bon Marché” artisanal market that he used to organize in the space.

“I don’t make any money from (the block closure) but it’s so nice for the community to have,” El Safy said. He said he is looking forward to seeing the city’s plan.

“[If the closure ended] I don’t know where we would go. I think I’d have to just kind of walk around and I feel like that would get really tiring,” said Kalia, a freshman at TIDE Academy, in an interview.

“Sometimes the stores are too crowded or loud outside and it’s nice to be outside with everyone,” said Hillview Middle School seventh grade student Olivia Fraser.

The Menlo Park City School District did not officially oppose the closure. However, Hillview

Principal Danielle O’Brien and MPCSD Superintendent Kristen Gracia said in a statement, “Hillview students have for generations spent time in downtown Menlo Park after school and we strive to help our students be conscientious and respectful neighbors... As the City Council considers the future of the closed portion of Santa Cruz Avenue, we hope they will continue to prioritize welcoming public spaces that encourage all ages to gather and enjoy our downtown amenities.”

Some businesses have requested the council reopen it as part of its effort to increase downtown vibrancy. Some claim the closure contributes to odd traffic patterns and leads to less visits to downtown stores.

“Keeping the 600 block of Santa Cruz Avenue closed year-round is ultimately a disservice to our downtown community. While it really benefits one business in particular, it

creates a barrier that limits traffic and access to the many other businesses beyond that business towards El Camino Real,” said Keith Quiggins, owner of Rococo & Taupe, an interior design firm located west of the street closure.

The council informally voted 3-1 to keep the street closed. Mayor Drew Combs dissented and felt the closure should be part of a broader strategy. It was not exactly clear what position Councilmember Cecilia Taylor had but once the council decided to keep it closed, she expressed she had some ideas for the space.

The council directed city staff to set up a study session some time in the future to discuss improvements to the space. City staff plan to discuss how to improve the space later this year. ■

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

PENINSULA SCHOOL

continued from page 6

rein of campus,” she added. The school has no bell system but students are expected to be in class on time. By the values of Peninsula School, students are encouraged to build responsibility by tracking their own class schedules.

Aeschliman calls this the “freedom of responsibility.”

Starting in second grade, students also take part in the camping program where they experience sleeping away from home either on the campus or at a campground. As the grade level progresses, the number of camping nights increases.

For middle schoolers, students take the responsibility of planning these trips to decide the location, what meals will be made, how they’ll get there and what they need to buy.

Making choices starts as early as preschool, where students are given the opportunity to drive their own learning, said Buschini. While teachers will initiate ideas, students are molding the curriculum by what they are interested and excited about. “It’s a way to enrich their curiosity,” she added.

Promoting diversity and community

Peninsula School draws families from across the Bay Area — some commute from as far as the East Bay and San Jose. According to Aeschliman, 50% of the student population is made up of students of color and across Peninsula School families, 18 different languages are spoken at home.

As the school embraces diversity, students are also introduced to a curriculum on justice issues that impact various communities starting from kindergarten. Peninsula School students have taken part in protests for the Black Lives Matter movement, climate change and recently hosted a walkathon to raise money for communities affected by the Los Angeles fires.

‘Frank and Josephine Duveneck, who founded our school, really believed that the purpose of education in our country was to educate citizens for participation in a democracy and Peninsula School is deeply founded on those ideas.’

MICHELE BUSCHINI,
ENROLLMENT DIRECTOR

“We’re trying to get our students to think outside of themselves and look around in their community and figure out what are some of the problems that need to be solved,” said Aeschliman.

Through the humanities curriculum, students are exposed to the idea that they are capable of standing up to injustice. By the fourth grade, children are engaging with questions about how history influences and informs the world around them and what they can do to make change.

The young learners are also showing interest in current events, including the Israel-Hamas war and the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, Aeschliman said. The school’s curriculum uses developmentally appropriate literature and discussions to hold conversations in a respectful, safe and productive way.

“Early progressive thinkers like John Dewey, Maria Montessori and Frank and Josephine Duveneck, who founded our school, really believed that the purpose of education in our country was to educate citizens for participation in a democracy and Peninsula School is deeply founded on those ideas,” said Buschini.

By encouraging students to be active members of society, they are learning to practice critical thinking, debate, negotiation and to question authority, she added. ■



Tâm Vũ

Students play together at The Peninsula School in Menlo Park. The Peninsula School celebrated their 100 year anniversary.

Public Notices

T.S. No. 124461-CA APN: 083-014-190 & 083-014-090 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE’S SALE IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 7/12/2016. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER On 8/6/2025 at 1:00 PM, CLEAR RECON CORP, as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 7/22/2016 as Instrument No. 2016-071935 of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of San Mateo County, State of CALIFORNIA executed by: CONLEY F LAW, TRUSTEE OF THE CONLEY F. LAW REVOCABLE TRUST, UTD DECEMBER 16, 2011 WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER’S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, SAVINGS ASSOCIATION, OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE; OUTSIDE THE MARSHALL ST. ENTRANCE TO THE HALL OF JUSTICE AND RECORDS, 400 COUNTY CENTER, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063 all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 8975 LA HONDA ROAD, LA HONDA, CA 94020 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition, or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$680,050.03 If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder’s sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned or its predecessor caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder’s office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale.

If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (855) 313-3319 or visit this Internet website www.clearreconcorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 124461-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: Effective January 1, 2021, you may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an “eligible tenant buyer,” you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an “eligible bidder,” you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (855) 313-3319, or visit this internet website www.clearreconcorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 124461-CA to find the date on which the trustee’s sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee’s sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee’s sale. If you think you may qualify as an “eligible tenant buyer” or “eligible bidder,” you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. FOR SALES INFORMATION: (855) 313-3319 CLEAR RECON CORP 3333 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 225 San Diego, California 92108 (ALM Jun 13, 20 and 27, 2025)

POWERCLEAN PROS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-300640
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) **POWERCLEAN PROS**, located at 1205 Wayne Way, San Mateo, CA 94403.
Registered owner(s):
POWERCLEAN PROS LLC
1205 Wayne Way
San Mateo, CA 94403
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 05/01/2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 15, 2025.
(ALM May 23, 30, Jun 6 and 13, 2025)

T. H. DESIGNS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-300630
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) **T. H. DESIGNS**, located at 464 Pacific Ave, Pacifica, CA 94044.
Registered owner(s):
TAMARA HARMON
464 Pacific Ave
Pacifica, CA 94044
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 8/24/1987.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 15, 2025.
(ALM Jun 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2025)

JATELO PRODUCTIONS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-300536
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) **JATELO PRODUCTIONS**, located at 2211 Menalto Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303.
Registered owner(s):
MEDA ODHAMBO OKOLO
2211 Menalto Avenue
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/12/1990.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 05, 2025.
(ALM May 23, 30, Jun 6 and 13, 2025)

WHOLESOME KINK
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-300781
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) **WHOLESOME KINK**, located at 590 Hillcrest Way, Emerald Hills, CA 94062.
Registered owner(s):
LAUREL CROSBY DETTLOFF
590 Hillcrest Way
Emerald Hills, CA 94062
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 June 02, 2025.
(ALM Jun 13, 20, 27 and Jul 4, 2025)

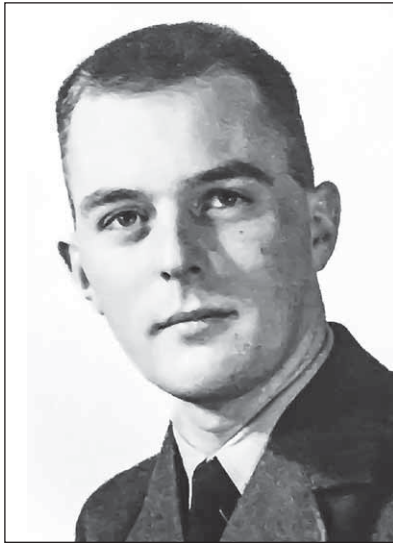
AAR HAULING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-300534
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) **AAR HAULING**, located at 642 Sylvan St. APT 4, Daly City, CA 94014.
Registered owner(s):
JOSE LUIS RODRIGUEZ
642 Sylvan St, APT 4
Daly City, CA 94014
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
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 May 05, 2025.
(ALM May 23, 30, Jun 6 and 13, 2025)

TAKEMOTO & CO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-300712
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) **TAKEMOTO & CO**, located at 303 Twin Dolphin Drive, STE 600, Redwood City, CA 94065.
Registered owner(s):
JOHN TOSHI TAKEMOTO
303 Twin Dolphin Drive, STE 600
Redwood City, CA 94065
SHELLIE KIM SAKAMOTO
303 Twin Dolphin Drive, STE 600
Redwood City, CA 94065
This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/01/2003.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 28, 2025.
(ALM Jun 6, 13, 20 and 27, 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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Derek Lancaster Hine

August 4, 1935 – May 17, 2025

Derek Lancaster Hine passed away near his home in Portola Valley, California, after a long battle with dementia and multiple myeloma.

Born in 1935 to Joseph Lancaster Hine and Lilian Amy Ault, Derek was a proud “Coventry kid.” One of six siblings, his early years were shaped by World War II. Separated from his family, he was evacuated to Shipston in the Cotswolds for two years. Rejoining his family, they watched from Mobbs Wood Farm as Coventry burned in the Blitz. After his father died of tuberculosis, his mother, along with older siblings Keith and Iris, raised him and his younger brothers, Gordon and Colin.

Over the next eight decades, Derek would live a remarkable life—as an aeronautical engineer, pilot, ski patroller, entrepreneur, vintage motorcycle collector, marathon runner, husband, and father. Everything he did, he approached with intensity, energy, passion, and humor.

His education began at John Gulson School, where discipline was strict and physical punishment common. Determined and resourceful, he earned money for a bicycle through two paper routes and soon bought his first of many Vincent motorcycles. As a teenager, he joined the Air Training Corps and took his first flight to Gibraltar. He pursued aeronautical studies, earning a Certificate of Engineering Apprenticeship and a Higher National Certificate in Engineering from Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft. There, as an apprentice, he contributed to various aircraft design projects.

Faced with the prospect of mandatory military service in postwar England, Derek instead followed his adventurous spirit to North America, where he served in the Royal Canadian Air Force. In the late 1950s, after Canadian defense cutbacks, he found himself in Toronto with only a few dollars in his pocket. Undeterred, he headed to the United States, lured by the skiing in Utah. He took a job at Morton Thiokol in Logan, working on tracked snow vehicles, then moved to General Motors in Santa Barbara to work on a lunar rover proposal. Later, while working long hours on the Lockheed C-5A project as a “job shopper,” he took a rare day off to go skiing—an outing that would change his life.

That Thanksgiving at Squaw Valley, Derek met Susan Kell, who happened to be riding single on a chairlift. They bonded over a shared love of “The Goon Show,” and it was the start of 58 years of marriage filled with travel, adventure, and above all, the joy of raising their two sons, Graham Lancaster and Roger George.

Derek soon entered his entrepreneurial

phase. His first company, A.R.E.C., introduced the Snow Job motorcycle conversion. He later founded Hine Design Inc., a family effort that included Gordon, Keith, and his sons. The company built robotics for the semiconductor industry and, after 12 successful years, was sold to Asyst Technologies.

Derek “retired”—sort of. A visit to Hawaii to see his friend Joe Rizzi sparked the idea of a wave-powered vehicle. This led to a new venture with Roger: the founding of Liquid Robotics. Their Wave Glider, an autonomous ocean vehicle, gathered data across the globe and was eventually acquired by Boeing.

His passion for flight culminated in earning his pilot’s license with neighbor Maureen Houck. After owning a Cessna, Derek built his own Lancair IV-P, N114L, with the help of friends Brent Regan and Neesh Wallace. It became his pride and joy, carrying him across the continent—including annual trips to the Oshkosh airshow. His version of an African safari was joining fellow pilots for an aerial tour of the Serengeti with Susan.

Derek’s love for skiing began on wooden skis and leather boots in Montreal and led to 25 years as a volunteer ski patroller at Alpine Meadows. He heliskiied and cat-skiied whenever he could, often with his sons or friends. To stay fit for skiing—and keep his mind sharp—he took up long-distance running, sharing many miles and marathons with his good friend Gerry Barker.

He had a lifelong fascination with space and astronomy, inspiring his sixth-grade son to write a twelve-page paper titled Black Holes, Stars, and Stellar Evolution, which earned an A+. A highlight of Derek’s later years was receiving a phone call from astronaut Tim Peake aboard the International Space Station.

Though dementia and cancer gradually took him from us, Derek’s spirit never faded. Even in his final days, shows about black holes captured his full attention, and his wit continued to shine—delighting and surprising his caregivers with jokes and playful humor.

The family deeply thanks those wonderful caregivers from Ivy Park at Palo Alto, 1+1 Cares, and Betty Kaufusi Mafi.

This is only part of Derek’s story—he’d be the first to remind us of the missing details, and he would have relished the opportunity to fill them in himself.

Emigrating from England, Derek achieved his version of the American Dream. Through his dedication, curiosity, and tireless energy, he gave his family a full and generous life. For that, and for so much more, we are forever grateful.

PAID OBITUARY

Employment

TECHNOLOGY

Snowflake Inc has mltpl Senior Solutions Architect positions avail in Menlo Park, CA. Dplyng Snwflke following bst prctcs, incldng ensrng knwldge trnsfr so tht cstms are proprly enbled & can extnd the cpblties of snwflke on their own. Tlcmgt prmtd. Successful candidate’s starting sal will be dtrmnd based on permissible, non-discriminatory fctrs such as skills, exp, & geo lctn. This role is also elgbl for a cmptve bnfts pckge that incld: medical, dental, vision, life, & disability insrnce; 401(k) ret plan; FSA & HSA; at least 12 paid holidays; PTO; parental leave; ee asst program; & other co bnfts. \$170484 – 241500/yr. To apply, send rsme & trnspts w/ job title & Ref#6607138 to resume@snowflake.com. EOE.

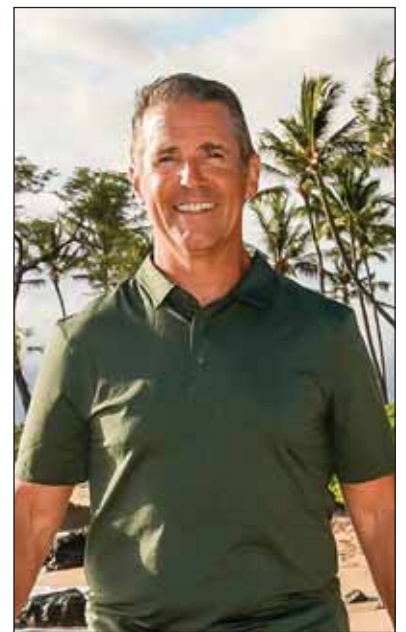
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Daniel James Flahavan

March 23, 1969 – April 13, 2025

Dan Flahavan, beloved husband of Christy and father of Haley and Tenley, passed away on April 13th at the age of 56. Dan lived a life marked by purpose, passion, and deep connection with those around him. His warm presence and magical laugh illuminated every space he entered.



Born and raised in the Bay Area, Dan’s passion for helping others was evident in all facets of his life. Dan took tremendous pride in his 32-year career as an Athletic Director and physical education teacher at Corte Madera School in Portola Valley. Dan was

constantly developing his program to inspire a love of movement in all students. He taught with intention and a strong belief in the importance of a positive attitude, growth mindset, teamwork and humor. To enrich his teaching career, Dan established Panthers Camp in 1995, with the mission of “building confident movers who inspire others”. Dan found tremendous joy at Panthers Camp because it allowed him to combine his favorite things - mentoring students and being with his family. Working alongside Dan at camp was the highlight of summer for his wife and daughters. Dan’s leadership extended beyond the classroom as a courageous advocate for fellow teachers. Dan demonstrated integrity and tenacity as the head of the PVSD teachers bargaining team, most recently establishing Portola Valley School District as a leader in fair compensation for teachers. He led with an unwavering vision of world class education for all students.

Dan brought enthusiasm, integrity and a competitive spirit to every team he coached, not just at work but also for his daughters. He was their greatest fan and built his schedule around them - rarely missing an opportunity to coach or cheer them on in any endeavor. Off the field, he could be found playing tennis, cycling, running in the foothills, and cheering for the Oregon Ducks. His steadfast faith in God shaped his life and relationships and he absolutely loved the life he built with his family.

Dan was deeply loved by his family, dear friends and colleagues. He is survived by his wife, Christy and their daughters, Haley and Tenley, who were the center of his world. He is also survived by his mother Rose; brother Tom (wife, Donnie); sister Carolyn Schlaefer (husband, Mike), nephew Daniel; sister-in-law Jennifer, nephews Michael and Kevin; mother-in-law Nancy Brown; brother-in-law Dan Brown (wife, Noel), and nieces Kennedy, Campbell, and Piper. Dan was preceded in death by his father, Tom, brother, John, sister Julie and father-in-law, Hal.

Dan’s life will be honored and celebrated on June 20th, 1:30 pm at Menlo Church, 950 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park.

PAID OBITUARY

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Stanford Dish closure

The Stanford Dish area will be closed from June 16 to June 30 for annual maintenance and fire mitigation work, according to Stanford University. The Dish is a trail located in the Stanford University's Academic Reserve and is typically open from 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. during the summer.

Stanford plans to conduct tree trimming and shrub removal to mimic the effect of natural wildfires. The dish has experienced decades of fire suppression, which can lead to overgrowth and native plants dying out. Even with the trimming, Stanford plans to leave many large fallen logs and dead trees (called "snags") as habitats for native species.

Atherton summer concerts

The Town of Atherton will start its annual summer concert series, Sounds of Summer, with The Freshmakers performing at 6 p.m. on June 19 at Holbrook Palmer Park. Grillzilla burger and sandwich food truck will be selling food at the event. Pets and children are welcome.

The next concert will be on July 17 with Take 2 Dance Band.

— Arden Margulis

Woodside Horse Park charity show

The Horse Park at Woodside will be hosting a charity horse show called "Split Rock" from 8 a.m. on July 16 to 4 p.m. on July 20.

The event is a jumping show dedicated to giving back. The Horse Park at Woodside invites community members to get involved by volunteering or attending the show.

For more information visit horsepark.org/calendar/woodside-charity-horse-show.

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

**Ethel Isabella Newell**

December 2, 1947 – May 19, 2025

Ethel Isabella Newell, affectionately known as Nonna and Big E, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, passed from this life peacefully in her sleep at home with her husband by her bedside on the morning of May 19, 2025. She lived a full, abundant life to the very end, despite having ovarian cancer for the past 4 years.

The youngest of three daughters, Ethel was born in Martinsburg, West Virginia, to Truman Burch Nold and Louise Gatrell Nold. In 1949, the family moved to Fairfax County, VA, where Ethel and her sisters spent many hours playing in the woods, hiking and riding horses. In 1960 the family moved to idyllic farm country and apple orchards near Winchester, VA. Ethel's family had deep ties in the apple business as orchardists, and as a young girl she loved roaming the orchard hills with her two dogs. Ethel graduated from Handley High School and attended the University of Mary Washington, later transferring to the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA, where she graduated with honors and earned a BA degree in Art History.

Early in college, Ethel met her future husband, Robert Yates Newell, IV, "Bobby," on a blind date arranged by her sister, Barbara. Ethel and Bobby were married in the Sir Christopher Wren Chapel on the William & Mary campus in 1970, the night before their graduation. They created lasting memories in the early years of their marriage, lived in several great cities. Ethel put her degree and passion for art history to work at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, TX, The Smithsonian Institute National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, the MIT Historical Collections in Cambridge, MA, and as a docent for the Legion of Honor Museum in San Francisco, CA.

In 1978, Ethel and Bobby moved to San Rafael, CA, later moving with their three young boys to Portola Valley, CA, where they enjoyed many years of seemingly non-stop adventures together. Ethel loved travel, adventure of all kinds, and was fearless. As an adult, she had the courage to pursue many new sports, including skiing, backpacking, camping, rafting, boating and fishing. She traveled throughout the US and Europe, as well as to Hong Kong, Singapore, India and Tunisia. Ethel was also an avid hiker and particularly loved walking the coastal

beaches of California and Washington, as well as those of North Captiva Island, Florida, where she enjoyed shelling, hiking and, more recently, chasing ghost crabs with her grandchildren.

Throughout her adult life, Ethel became increasingly committed in her faith, trust and hope in Jesus Christ. She committed herself to being an overcomer by trusting in Jesus and his promises. She was motivated and inspired to glorify God through her life as well as in her death. She was a student of the Bible and was committed to the power of prayer. For many years, Ethel was a leader in Bible Study Fellowship and was transformed by her study and application of the Scriptures in her life. With just one other woman, she founded a prayer group, Moms in Touch, which quickly grew to include many others and continued for 20 years as these women prayed weekly for their children, their children's teachers, schools and administrators. Ethel had the wisdom and heart to pray for her sons' future wives who are examples of God's goodness in answering her prayer. After her sons had grown and moved away, she became active in marriage mentoring for newly engaged and married couples and continued in a number of prayer ministries.

In 2018, Bobby and Ethel left California and moved to homes in Olympia, WA, and Reno, NV, where they could be closer to their sons and their wives, Robert Yates Newell, V, "Quint" (Kimberly Matheson), David Burch (Katherine Thurston), Matthew Byrnes (Natalie Agbayani), and ten grandchildren, Teo Thurston, Sierra Louise, Siena Grace, Kanoa Joshua, Charlie Trey, Simon Byrnes, Lily Noelani, Micah Kawika, Kaia Elise and Berdeen Isabella. Ethel joyfully learned of an eleventh grandchild on the way, a boy due to be born in October of this year.

A beautiful woman with a radiant smile and eyes that sparkled, Ethel was extraordinary. She was a woman of outstanding character, committed to her faith in Jesus and a dedicated servant of his to her family, friends and neighbors. She was a consummate homemaker and host, welcoming all who came into her home with dignity and respect, as well as a gracious smile and superb home-cooked meals. As an outstanding cook herself, she made a point of teaching her sons to be skilled cooks, an attribute they have each carried into their

own married lives. Her homes were always warm and welcoming with creative flair and understated elegance. Ethel had a huge capacity to love her family and was very intentionally active in the lives of her grandchildren. Throughout her life, she enjoyed art and music and was a gifted writer who kept extensive journals.

After Ethel received her diagnosis of stage four ovarian cancer in 2021, one of her friends asked Ethel what she could do for her. When she responded that she could pray for her, this friend organized a regular ZOOM prayer gathering which included Ethel's sons and their wives, some of her grandchildren, several close friends and extended family members. This prayer group continued for nearly four years, initially meeting weekly, then monthly, then back to weekly. For the participants in these prayer gatherings, the experiences were life-changing, bolstering and broadening each person's faith, through the significance of prayer as well as by Ethel's grace, courage and faith in the face of the challenges of cancer. To say she passed peacefully is an understatement. Through her life's journey of faith and trust in Jesus, she was not afraid, and she was not defeated by her diagnosis. She was a light and passed with an unflinching confidence that her eternal life in her Father's house was about to begin.

Ethel is survived by Bobby, her beloved husband of 55 years, her three sons and their wives, all ten grandchildren, her sister, Barbara, and her husband, T. Destry Jarvis and her brother-in-law Ronald Williamson, and she is also survived by her loving extended family and a host of long-time friends, and is predeceased by her sister, Annett Nold.

An informal outdoor Celebration of Life gathering in Ethel's memory is set for 3:00PM on June 22, 2025, at Tahoe Forest Church in Truckee, California. If you wish to remember her with a gift, in place of flowers, please kindly consider a contribution in Ethel's memory to the Olympia Union Gospel Mission <https://ougm.org/donate/> or to YoungLife, Olympia <https://greaterolympia.younglife.org/>. Ethel's family wishes to thank the physicians and nurses at Kaiser Permanente, Providence St. Peter's Hospital and the nurses and staff of Assured Hospice, Olympia, for the exceptional care Ethel received.

PAID OBITUARY

The **Almanac**
AlmanacNews.com

LET'S DISCUSS:

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THEATREWORKS STAGES SHINY NEW

‘5 & Dime’

World-premiere musical based on the play ‘Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean’ explores the dreams of a group of women in small-town Texas

By Karla Kane



Courtesy Tracy Martin

Above: Shakina stars as Joanne in “Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean: A New Musical.” She also wrote lyrics for the show. Left: James Dean fan club members Joanne (Shakina), Mona (Lauren Marcus), and Sissy (Stephanie Gibson) hold a reunion to mark their group’s 20th anniversary.

With “Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean: A New Musical,” TheatreWorks Silicon Valley offers a world premiere of a musical with roots in a cult-classic play and film of the same name. The 1970s-set show tells the story of the reunion of a James Dean fan club in small-town Texas. Back in 1955, the beloved heartthrob filmed the movie “Giant” nearby, shortly

before his tragic death. As the James Dean disciples catch up and reminisce, they also stir up long-buried secrets, still-painful wounds and cherished dreams.

Based on the 1976 play by Ed Graczyk, the rollicking musical adaptation has a book by Ashley Robinson, with country, rock and gospel-tinged music by Dan Gillespie Sells and lyrics by Shakina, who also plays the character Joanne.

“I love stories of resilient women forging unbreakable bonds through life’s challenges, because I grew up in those circumstances, around those women, and I worked hard to become one of those women,” Shakina said. “These characters each have a wound and a secret that they’re trying to heal and reveal, and I guess as a writer, I have a gift of building that bridge, which then I invite our

audiences to walk across, and experience their own resolution — which is the true catharsis of theater.”

Shakina is an artist and activist who works in television (including in “Connecting,” “Quantum Leap” and “Difficult People”) as well as in theater. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a doctorate in critical dance

studies from the University of California, Riverside, and is the founding artistic director of New York’s Musical Theatre Factory.

Robinson and Sells, who previously collaborated on the West End stage adaptation of “Brokeback Mountain,” asked Shakina to be the lyricist for the project just before the pandemic.

“I think they knew they wanted to work with a trans artist



Courtesy Tracy Martin

At their reunion, James Dean fan club members, from left, Mona (Lauren Marcus), Sissy (Stephanie Gibson), and Joanne (Shakina) share their dreams and secrets and reminisce about when Dean filmed a movie in their small Texas town.

because the show has a central trans character," she said.

"When I was growing up, every girl in drama class was doing monologues from 'Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean.' I always had a place in my heart for these iconic, larger-than-life women," she recalled. "But I somehow forgot there was a central trans character. I went back and watched the film and said, 'Oh, I must be a part of this!'"

Shakina's past songwriting experience includes a collaboration with the Swedish pop band Brainpool, and working on her own autobiographical glam-rock show "Manifest Pussy." For "Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean," she relished the chance to help bring more dimension to the characters through song.

"The lyrics allow me to give a new voice, an interior voice, to these characters, that were already so beautifully crafted," she said.

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley Artistic Director Giovanna Sardelli is directing the show and has been friends with Shakina for years. She used to head the company's annual New Works Festival, to which Shakina brought her "One Woman Show" back in 2014.

Like Shakina, Sardelli has a lot of affection for Graczyk's work.

"The play had a profound impact on me as a young actor," she said, noting that her freshman year of college, she watched in awe as older students put on a production.

"It was the first time I had seen so many women on stage fully realized — being funny, being ugly, being sisterly, being mean — I really loved it," she said.

In 2023, Shakina brought the

songs and stories of "Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean" to TheatreWorks for the first time, in a solo performance.

"Everybody said, 'We've got to do that show!'" Sardelli said, and the company was able to bring more of the team to the 2024 New Works Festival, where the material proved to be a favorite with audiences again.

"This piece is truly a celebration of the power of love, the power of being seen for who you are," Sardelli said, "and that's true for every single character in the piece."

"I think it's really bold in this moment for Theatreworks, having just come through such a phenomenal fundraising journey, to take the risk to center this boldly trans artist and boldly trans show, in a time when that type of inclusion can put an arts organization at risk," Shakina said.

"Right after the last election there was a question of, just, 'What's happening? What now?' Shakina texted and said, 'I'm so glad we're coming to TheatreWorks,' and, basically, I felt this immense pride that our artists feel safe and seen and protected, and our community is safe and loving," Sardelli said. "That is not the case everywhere."

The musical's cast includes Lauren Marcus as Mona, Stephanie Gibson as Sissy, Hayley Lovgren as Stella May and Ashley Cowl as Edna Louise, all of whom also performed in the 2024 staged reading, along with Judith Miller as Loretta and Ellie Van Amerongen as Joe, in addition to Shakina.

Shakina grew up in Southern California but "ideologically identifies with the Bay Area," she

said with a laugh. In addition to her connection to TheatreWorks, she has some personal ties locally as well. Her mom moved up to the South Bay, and her elder brother is a Stanford alum and physician who lives on the Peninsula with his wife, a former local school board member, and their two kids.

"One of the things that is the coolest is that my niece and nephew got to see me do a concert, then a workshop and now a world premiere," she said of her family being able to witness the evolution of the new show from the ground up.

This summer, she's also happy to have her beloved pup, the husky-shepherd mix Luna, along for the ride.

"She's the best," she said. "In all the years I've traveled for TV and theater projects, she's always stayed home with my partner. This is the first time she's come with me on a job."

The team is excited to welcome both longtime "5 & Dime" fans and newcomers to the show.

"If you are a fan of the original, you're gonna be obsessed with this musical, but we did take creative liberties," Shakina said. "We contemporized things in a way that makes them more accurate and relevant and appropriate." And for those new to the story, she said, "You're going to fall in love with these women — and James Dean." ■

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

"Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean,"
June 18-July 13, Mountain View
Center for the Performing Arts,
500 Castro St., Mountain View;
\$34-\$115; theatreworks.org.

Worth a Look



Courtesy Big Hassle Media

Oh He Dead plays June 13 at The Guild Theatre.

Oh He Dead

This D.C.-based band has a sound that's very much alive with soul, R&B and some retro rock'n'roll grooves, led by the striking vocals of CJ Johnson, whose sound can be velvety and a little gritty, sweet and a little salty all at once. On their latest album, 2024's "Ugly," the band melds bluesy guitar, kicky beats and even a touch of fuzzy psychedelic distortion, taking listeners on an epic journey through acoustic ballads, bittersweet musings and rousing numbers that tell of loss, love and life.

June 13, 8 p.m., at The Guild, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; \$38-\$87; guildtheatre.com.

Second Saturday gallery receptions

Galleries in Menlo Park open their doors this Saturday to celebrate the openings of new shows for the month of June. Portola Art Gallery, based at the Allied Arts Guild, kicks off the day with an afternoon reception showcasing Larry Calof's wildlife and landscape photography in the show "Nature's Wonders: Our National and State Parks." Then two downtown galleries are hosting evening receptions. The Main Gallery highlights mixed-media works by one of the gallery's co-founders Katinka Hartmetz, whose colorful abstract paintings and collages incorporate items such as vintage photos and found objects. Gallery House's two featured artists are Asia Morgenthaler, who takes inspiration from natural forms in ceramics thrown on the wheel or hand-built, and glazed in earthy tones, and Jin Kim, whose colorful and energetic contemporary paintings explore a personal emotional journey.

All receptions take place June 14, with staggered hours: 1-4 p.m. at Portola Art Gallery, Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park; portolaartgallery.com; 5-8 p.m. at The Main Gallery, 883 Santa Cruz Ave., Suite 1, Menlo Park; themaingallery.org; 6-8 p.m. at Gallery House, 826 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park; galleryhouse.art.

'Dawn Patrol'

While surfing might not be a common family pastime around these parts, the bond that can be forged between parent and child spending time having fun together reaches beyond any particular activity. Author and illustrator Rob Sayegh celebrates that bond with "Dawn Patrol: A Father Daughter Surfing Story," a picture book that tells of a dad and his daughter who go surfing together, and the special moments — and important little life lessons — that they share in getting to the beach at dawn to ride some waves. Sayegh is on hand to share the new book with readers.

June 15, 10:30 a.m., at Linden Tree Books, 265 State St., Los Altos; lindentreebooks.com.

Food & Drink



By Adrienne Mitchel
Photo by Tâm Vũ

Six years ago, Alberta Liao crafted a vegan tuna sandwich for her mother and grandmother's Cupertino summer camp. That tuna spread is now available in stores nationwide, among an assortment of Liao's other plant-based seafood products.

Along with her mother Miranda Tsao and grandmother Cheng Chan Ho, Liao founded Jinka in 2020, inspired by their vegetarian diets and combined interest in sustainability. Crafting vegan versions of calamari, crab poppers, shrimp, sashimi and three flavors of tuna spread from their San Mateo commercial kitchen,

the three generations of women aim to create seafood alternatives that are tasty, healthy and environmentally friendly.

"Our mission is really just to create a really nice alternative that doesn't compromise our own health, as well as compromise the oceans and Earth," Liao said.

Liao, who grew up in Cupertino, had been working in real estate development in Taiwan when she came back to the Bay Area in 2019 to help with Hui Gong Summer Camp. Tsao and Ho founded their camp a decade ago, and it aims to facilitate self-growth by teaching children different aspects of life. That summer's topic was sustainability.

"When I was a kid, I used to love eating tuna sandwiches. But

'Our mission is ... to create a really nice alternative that doesn't compromise our own health, as well as compromise the oceans and Earth.'

ALBERTA LIAO, JINKA FOUNDER

then you grow up (and) you learn about the unsustainable practices surrounding how they fish and all the bycatch products," Liao said. "And so I was like, 'Well, how can we make that into a more sustainable snack?'"

She and her grandma developed

a plant-based tuna sandwich recipe and brought it to the campers. The kids loved it, and the parents were even asking for the recipe, Liao said.

At the time, Liao was looking to leave her job in Taiwan, so she decided to start a plant-based food business. Her mother had experience in electronic manufacturing, and her grandmother had previously owned a noodle factory in Taiwan.

"The three of us are like a triangle together," Tsao said of their compatible skill sets. "So we have lots of fun."

Jinka's plant-based tuna (\$8.99) was the first product to hit the market, stocked at Rainbow Grocery Cooperative in San Francisco. Made of olive-canola

Jinka, Instagram: @myjinka.

and soy oil, soy and wheat protein, soy and wheat flour, corn starch, algal oil and seasonings, a quarter cup of Jinka's plant-based tuna has 14 grams of protein, 2 grams of fiber, omega-3s and omega-6s. Compared to regular tuna, Jinka's has nearly the same amount of protein and omega-3s and -6s, Liao said.

"We use algal oil that we source organically, directly from the source, which is algae, which is where fish actually get their omega-3s and -6s," she said.

Unlike traditional tuna, Jinka's also has fiber, which comes from soy and wheat protein, and no cholesterol. Liao continued



Top: From left, Cheng Chan Ho, Alberta Liao and Miranda Tsao, owners of Jinka, laugh together in their home kitchen in Millbrae. Above left to right: Jinka's plant-based crab poppers, smoked salmon and calamari. Jinka's plant-based crab poppers with marinara sauce.



Above: Alberta Liao, left, and her mother Miranda Tsao use Jinka's plant-based seafood to make appetizers at their home kitchen in Millbrae. **Below:** Cheng Chan Ho places garnishes on top of Jinka's plant-based smoked salmon.

to experiment in the kitchen, expanding the tuna line to include a lemon-dill version and spicy varieties of plant-based tuna.

After hearing customer feedback asking for soy-free plant-based seafood options, Liao created plant-based calamari (\$9.99), which is gluten-free, soy-free and nut-free and made with yam powder, modified tapioca starch, white chia seeds, pea protein and algal oil. The calamari makes great finger food at parties, Tsao said.

Besides the calamari, Tsao's top Jinka pick is the sashimi.

"I've been vegetarian for 40 years so I never really had tasted sashimi, but I hear so many people say, 'Oh, the sashimi is like real sashimi,'" she said. "Every time when I eat the sashimi, I feel clean, I feel happiness and energy."

For Ho, who is 89 years old and has been vegetarian for more than 60 years, her favorite is the crab cake because of its nostalgia. Ho grew up in Taiwan with 11 siblings, and her mother was a chef who would make all kinds of food, including fish cakes. Every time Ho eats Jinka crab cakes, she thinks about her mother, she said.

The name Jinka is derived from the Mandarin word for healthy, jian kang. Health was one factor that contributed to Liao becoming

vegetarian a year ago. She had always been allergic to crab, but over the years she developed allergies to other seafood, including shrimp, mussels and salmon.

"After becoming vegetarian, I felt a lot lighter and a lot healthier," she said.

Tsao became vegetarian at 17, a decision that spurred from "a love and respect for animals," she said.

"Staying vegetarian all these years is not about perfection, but about consistency and care," she added. "It's one small way we try to live with compassion and intention every day. And honestly, it's been a joyful journey learning to cook, exploring new ingredients and thinking (about) how food can bring people together around the values that matter."

Liao continues to experiment in the kitchen to develop new seafood products ("Our kitchen is like her laboratory," Tsao said), and she hopes their products will be more common in restaurants and schools. Jinka products are currently served at vegan restaurant Twelvemonth in Burlingame and will soon be on the menu at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Liao said.

Jinka products can also be purchased online or at grocery stores nationwide, including locally at Piazza's Fine Foods and Mollie Stone's Markets. Liao hopes to expand Jinka internationally and will be attending the Enugu International Food Expo in Germany to showcase plant-based seafood for new markets. ■

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



NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

TOWN OF ATHERTON
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Notice: The Town of Atherton (Town) hereby gives notice that it will accept bids for construction of the following public work:

2025 CRACK SEAL AND SLURRY SEAL PROJECT Project Number: 56092

- 1. Scope of Work:** Performing of crack sealing and Type II micro-surfacing per Town specifications on the listed streets, which includes notifications, traffic control, prep work, micro-surface seal installation, compaction, sweeping, and re-stripping/pavement markings (as needed) with a 1-year guarantee.
- 2. Plans & Specifications:** Plans & Specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton's website at: <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/bids.aspx> at no cost. Additional information is contained in Town of Atherton Standard Specifications, which are available at: <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/285>. Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town's website.
No Planholders list will be made be available.
- 3. Project Schedule:** The work shall be completed within **Thirty (30)** working days from the First Day of Construction as defined in the Notice to Proceed.
- 4. Bid Submission:** SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, California 94027, until **1:30 p.m.** Pacific Standard Time **July 1, 2025**, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. All proposals must be submitted not later than the date and time prescribed. The Bidder is wholly responsible to ensure its Bid is submitted on the date and at the time and place designated for the opening of bids. Any Bid received after the time and date specified shall not be considered. Any Bid may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled time for opening bids.
- 5. Engineer's Estimate** for the project is: **\$425,000.**
- 6. Bid Requirements:** Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for **2025 CRACK SEAL AND SLURRY SEAL PROJECT, Project No: 56092**", along with date and time of bid opening. Bidders shall refer to the **Bid Requirements** section of the project Plans and Specifications for additional information and requirements.
- 7. Required Contractor's License:** Bidder must possess a current **California Class "A" General Engineering, or "C-12" Earthwork and Paving, or "C-32" Parking and Highway Improvement or any specialty required** contractor's license issued by the State of California, at the time the Bid is submitted. The Contractor and all subcontractors shall be licensed by the State of California in the class appropriate for the work contemplated. Failure of Contractor or his/her subcontractors to possess such current license at the time of bidding may be deemed sufficient cause for rejection of the bid.
- 8. Portion of Work to be Performed by the Contractor:** The General Contractor shall perform, with his own organization, work of a value amounting to not less than 50% of the total contract, excluding specialty items as may be indicated on the bid schedule.
- 9. Department of Industrial Relations Registration:** A Contractor or Subcontractor shall not be qualified to bid on, be listed in a bid proposal, subject to the requirements of Public Contract Code 4104, or engage in the performance of any contract for public work, as that term is defined in Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1 of the Labor Code, unless currently registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to Labor Code Section 1725.5. (<http://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html>)
- 10. Reservation of Rights:** The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids; to make any awards or any rejections in what it alone considers to be in the best interest of the Town and waive any informalities or irregularities in the bids. If there is a reason to believe that collusion exists among any bidders, none of the bids of the participants in such collusion will be considered and the Town may likewise elect to reject all bids received
- 11. Substitution of Securities:** The successful bidder may substitute securities for retention monies withheld to ensure performance of the contract, in accordance with California Public Contract Code, Section 22300.
- 12. Prevailing Wage Rates:** Bidders are hereby notified that provisions of California Labor Code regarding prevailing wages and apprentices are applicable to the work to be performed under this contract. Pursuant to Section 1773 et seq. the general prevailing wage rates have been determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations and appear in the California Prevailing Wage Rates. Copies are on file at the office of the City Engineer and are available to interested parties upon request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of the wage rates at the job site
- 13. Bid Preparation Cost:** Bidders are solely responsible for the cost of plan and specification printing and preparing their Bids.
- 14. Town Contact:** Questions regarding the project should be directed to Robert Ovadia, PE, by written Requests for Information (RFI) to: Public Works Department, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027, no later than eight (8) business days before bid opening. RFIs may be emailed to jmirsaidi@interwestgrp.com.

Dig into food news. Follow the Peninsula Foodist on Instagram @peninsulafoodist and subscribe to the newsletter at PaloAltoOnline.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.



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PORTOLA VALLEY 3130 Alpine Rd, Portola Valley, CA 94028

SAN CARLOS 810 Laurel St, San Carlos, CA 94070