

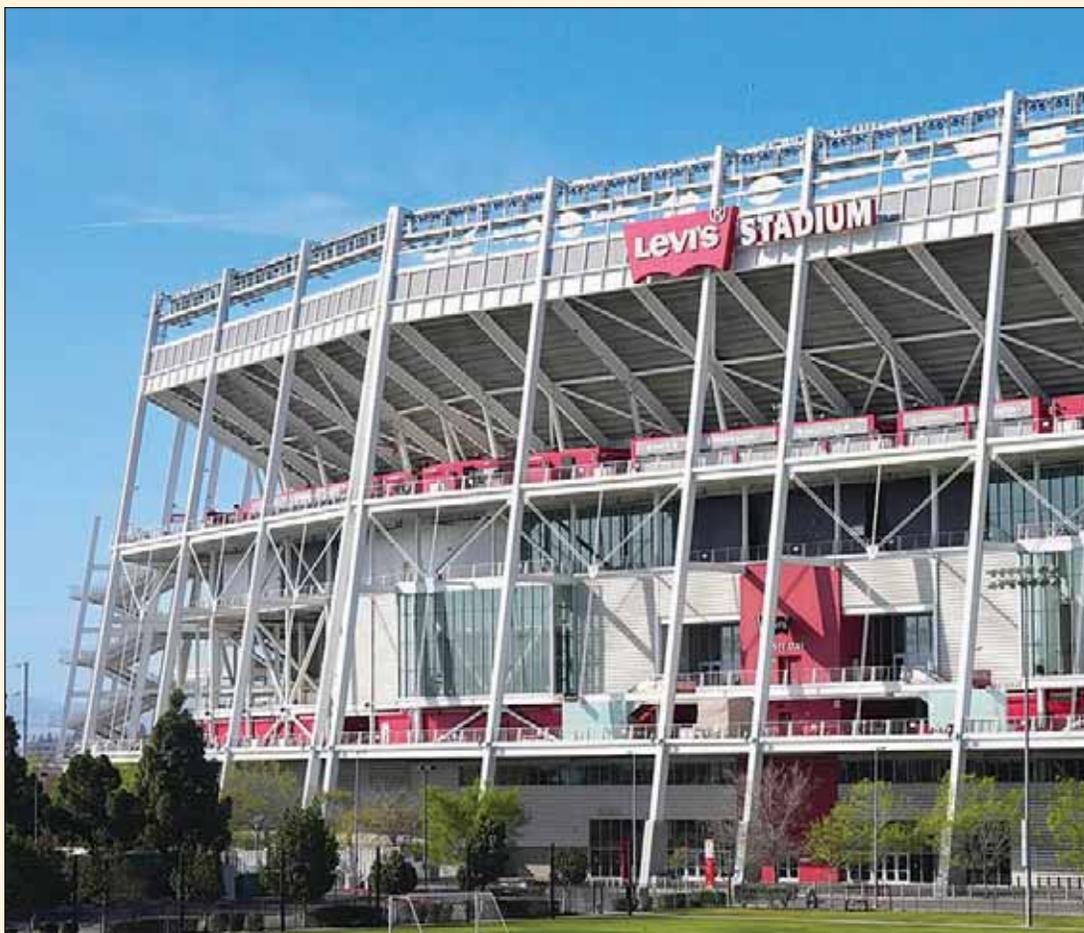
The Almanac

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

JUNE 27, 2025 | VOL. 60 NO. 42



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Courtesy city of Santa Clara

Taking a stake

The San Francisco 49ers have some new minority stakeholders and they are local residents. Atherton and Portola Valley residents spent millions to be among the ownership group. See story, Page 6.

Charter city hopes fizzle in Atherton

Move would not waive housing requirements

By Arden Margulis

The town of Atherton will continue to look at becoming a charter city, but with less hope than when the endeavor first surfaced.

Atherton originally sought to explore becoming a charter city after a group of residents, the Atherton Housing Coalition, suggested it could help exempt the town from some zoning and land use rules.

It was especially of interest in light of a court ruling in Southern California that exempted charter cities from Senate Bill 9, a state law that allows property owners to split their lots and build up to two new homes. However, after a town subcommittee explored the issue, some councilmembers have doubts about any benefits.

Charter cities are exempt from issues that are “municipal affairs” but are still subject to laws of statewide importance.

A staff report from City Manager George Rodericks said that in the SB9 case, the court implied that the Legislature could rewrite the bill to apply to charter cities. In other cases, courts have ruled laws to increase affordable housing can apply to charter cities as they address the statewide housing crisis and the lack of affordable housing.

Even if becoming a charter city could help Atherton avoid some housing requirements, some councilmembers are likely to be skeptical.

“I feel Atherton has an obligation to participate with the greater region in providing affordable housing,” said councilmember Bill Widmer. “Many of us are parents and our children can’t live in the town. They have high-paying jobs yet they can’t afford to move into the area.”

Atherton is among the nation’s priciest cities with a median home

See **ATHERTON CHARTER**, page 17

Local family starts memorial fund for Dylan Taylor

The Riekes Center accepts all with help of donations

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The death of Dylan Taylor, a well-known youth athletics coach in Menlo Park and Atherton, inspired a local family to start a memorial fund in his name. The Fishback family, friends to the Taylors, is collaborating with the Riekes Center in Menlo Park to start a fund that will support sports, mentorship and art for local youth.

Over \$12,000 have been raised since his funeral, according to Beth Fishback.

Taylor died on May 7 after a fatal collision with a GreenWaste

truck on Middlefield Road while riding a bicycle. He worked as a paraeducator for the Menlo Park City and Las Lomas school districts and coached local youth in flag football, track and field, and basketball. Taylor also worked as the freshman football coach for Menlo-Atherton High School.

“We decided that Riekes would be a good place to set up a fund for him to be remembered because his joy and his passions were coaching kids’ sports,” said Fishback.

As a former student at Summit Prep, Taylor used to go to the Riekes Center for its sports programs. He continued to

be involved at the center until as recently as a year ago, said Caroline McNally, interim executive director and board chair of the Riekes Center.

“The alignment with what the Riekes Center stands for and its role in the community aligned very well with the kind of person Dylan was, so it just seemed to be a natural fit (to start the fund),” McNally added.

The Riekes Center is a space that welcomes anyone to pursue their interests in athletics, fitness, art, music and community service. With Taylor’s legacy among the young athletes of Menlo Park and Atherton,

donations made to the fund will support young people who may not have the financial means to participate in sports programs at the Riekes Center.

According to McNally, 33% of people at Riekes are part of its scholarship program.

No one is ever turned away at the Riekes Center, she said. Scholarships and collected donations support the diverse community that participates in its activities. The nonprofit organization aims to be an inclusive environment where everyone is seen as equal.

“It’s important for us that anybody can access the Riekes Center and be a part of it,” she said. “I don’t think there are

many places like this around.”

The Riekes Center is attended by residents of Woodside, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Atherton, blending communities that are otherwise separated by social bubbles and city limits. McNally calls this “real world diversity.”

“There aren’t many places where you can really interact and just be with a lot of different people. It’s about connection and community here,” she added.

To contribute to the Dylan Taylor Fund at the Riekes Center, visit riekes.org/dylan-taylor-fund. ■

Email Staff Writer Jennifer Yoshikoshi at [jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com](mailto: jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com).

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Local News

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Anna Hoch-Kenney

A Tesla drives past a sign announcing the plans to build housing on parking lot #2 in downtown Menlo Park on Jan. 14.

Menlo Park housing proposal advances as opponents seek to block it

Save Downtown Menlo has 66% of required signatures

By Arden Margulis

As Menlo Park prepares to take the next step in selecting a developer for its downtown housing project, opponents say they've already collected 66% of the signatures needed for a ballot measure that could block it. Save Downtown Menlo launched the campaign on June 4 and plans to expand its outreach in the coming weeks. Despite a lawsuit and a

potential ballot measure from the group Save Downtown Menlo, the Menlo Park City Council is continuing with its plan to build housing on some downtown parking lots. On June 3, the council voted to issue a request for proposals to several developers who had responded to an earlier request for qualifications. The proposals will require developers to provide more detailed plans for building affordable housing and replacement parking on

three downtown lots.

The City Council asked six of the seven groups that submitted a request for qualifications to come back with a more detailed plan. The Pacific Companies and West Development Partners' joint proposal was the only one excluded from the next phase.

The City Council specifically included Eden Housing even though it was the only developer

See **BALLOT MEASURE**, page 10

State budget change leads to increased deficit in Menlo Park

City doesn't expect full reimbursement for VLF taxes

By Arden Margulis

The city of Menlo Park faces a greater deficit after the state of California appears set to pass its updated budget without fully reimbursing the city for in-lieu Vehicle Licensing Fees for the first time since a complicated budget compromise was set up 20 years ago.

While San Mateo County was worried the state would not reimburse the county and affected cities last year, the appropriation

was added to the state's budget at the last minute. City staff do not believe that will be the case this year, and the City Council had to decide how to move forward at the June 24 council meeting.

The city will now have a \$1.8 million deficit in fiscal year 2025-26 due to the decision by the state.

"We're probably all feeling that it's a little sobering that we have flipped from a surplus to a deficit and now a deeper deficit with the VLF shortfall," Vice Mayor Betsy Nash said at the meeting.

Due to this shortfall, the city's already underfunded capital improvement project fund will lose an additional \$1 million, which could delay some projects. If the state refuses to reimburse VLF in the future, the city's deficits could be exacerbated.

The city's budget was also impacted by a tech error that led to medical premium expenses being undercounted by over \$2 million in the 2026 budget.

See **VLF SHORTFALL**, page 9

Menlo Park police set to restore parking enforcement staff

Police Department gets budget boost

By Arden Margulis

The Menlo Park Police Department will add two full-time parking enforcement employees and a records analyst as part of the city's proposed 2025-26 fiscal year budget, which the Menlo Park City Council approved Tuesday, June 24.

The police department is the only city department slated for service-level enhancements in the upcoming fiscal year. The additions come at a total cost of \$611,850 in the next fiscal year, with a recurring annual cost of \$382,000.

In spring 2020, the department cut 20% of its sworn and professional staff in anticipation of decreased revenue from the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Chief of Police David Norris. The two previous parking enforcement positions were among those eliminated.

"Since 2020, we have been doing parking enforcement on a 'per-complaint' basis, operating without dedicated personnel. As the community continued to bounce back from the pandemic and parking downtown became more like it was before COVID, the need for daytime attention to parking has returned," Norris said via email.

Changes won't be immediate until parking enforcement goes before the City Council.

"I think it's best to see (the parking enforcement officers) as providing optionality for a renewed or different approach to parking enforcement downtown. There still needs to be a policy discussion about what the approach to parking enforcement downtown will be. The plan is that there will not be a change until there's a policy discussion and direction provided by the city council," Mayor Drew Combs said.

The parking enforcement officers will be focused on daytime parking enforcement including on Menlo Park's busy downtown parking lots, according to Norris. All downtown lots have a parking time limit of three hours.

While the parking enforce-



Arden Margulis

Downtown Menlo Park has free parking for up to three hours each day.

ment officers were cut in 2020, enforcement of the overnight parking ordinance has continued. Overnight parking enforcement is conducted by two part-time parking enforcement officers.

Parking enforcement officers are non-sworn staff, meaning they do not carry weapons or hold peace officer authority. Other non-sworn positions include code enforcement officers, community service officers, dispatchers and management staff.

The new parking enforcement positions are expected to cost \$200,000 annually. The department also plans to hire a records staff member at \$100,000 and launch a pilot mobile CCTV program at \$75,000. Half the cost of the CCTV program will be covered by the city's bayfront mitigation fund, a special revenue source. The remaining costs will come from the general fund.

In addition, the department will receive \$230,000 for reorganization of office space for professional police staff in the records unit.

The department remains seven sworn officers below its pre-pandemic staffing level. The proposed budget does not include funding for additional sworn positions. ■

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Silicon Valley investors buy share of 49ers

Portola Valley, Atherton families involved

By Arden Margulis

Vinod Khosla is part of a group of executives with Atherton and Portola Valley connections who purchased a non-controlling stake in the San Francisco 49ers in May at the largest valuation in NFL history.

Although the valuation and terms of the sale were not publicly reported, Sports Business Journal reported that the football franchise was valued at \$8.6 billion, the highest in NFL history, as part of the sale. The value could actually be higher if a controlling stake was sold.

While the reason for the sale was not publicly reported, it comes at a “high-profile time”

for the franchise, according to a press release from the 49ers. In 2026, Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara will host both Super Bowl LX and six FIFA World Cup matches.

After making it to the Super Bowl during the 2023 season, the team had a “disastrous” 2024 season and finished last in the NFC West division.

Portola Valley resident Neal Khosla and his father Vinod Khosla purchased a combined 3.1% of the NFL franchise. Based on the franchise’s valuation, the purchase price of the Khosla family’s share was \$266.6 million. Neal Khosla is the founder and CEO of Palo Alto-based health care company Curai Health. Vinod Khosla

has a net worth of \$8.4 billion, according to Forbes. He is most well known for co-founding Sun Microsystems with his classmates from Stanford University. After it was sold, he founded venture capital firm Khosla Ventures in Menlo Park.

Atherton resident Byron Deeter and his wife, Allison Deeter, purchased 2.1% of the franchise. Based on the reported valuation, it cost \$180.6 million. Byron Deeter is a partner at San Francisco-based venture capital and private equity firm Bessemer Venture Partners. The pair both serve on the board of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Foundation.

Atherton resident Will Griffith and his wife, Calla Griffith, purchased the smallest stake of 1%

at a cost of about \$86 million. Will Griffith is a partner at San Francisco-based investment company ICONIQ. The couple purchased an Atherton home for \$20 million in 2020, according to The Real Deal.

While the families purchased a combined 6.2% of the franchise, 49ers CEO Jed York still owns an estimated 91% of the franchise, valued at \$7.83 billion.

“Together with my family and our partners, we are deeply committed to investing in the future of this organization, enhancing the fan experience and supporting the region we’re proud to call home,” York said in a press release. ■

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San Mateo County Board votes to remove Corpus, who plans to appeal

Move follows formal recommendation for removal

By Arden Margulis

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted on June 24 to remove embattled San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus from office over several alleged acts of misconduct.

County Chief Probation Officer John Keene on Tuesday presented a formal recommendation to the board to move forward with removal, following

a meeting where Keene met with Corpus and her legal counsel on June 11. Corpus was given a chance to respond to the board’s notice of intent to remove her from office.

Keene’s recommendation and the notice of intent have not been made public due to Corpus’ objections.

Corpus has five days to appeal the board’s decision, which would essentially remove her from office with cause under Measure A, a

voter-approved county charter amendment passed in March. The board cites three reasons for removal under Measure A: violation of any law related to the performance of a Sheriff’s duties, flagrant or repeated neglect of a Sheriff’s duties and obstruction of any investigation into the conduct of a Sheriff.

“This is a very regrettable chapter in the history of San Mateo County and the taxpayers are paying a very heavy price,”

Supervisor Jackie Speier said at the special meeting.

If Corpus appeals, an evidentiary hearing will be held before one of three potential hearing officers suggested by the county. Corpus will also have the option to choose whether the hearing will be open to the public.

Corpus has repeatedly denied the allegations against her and refused calls to resign.

Her attorneys said the removal process and investigations have been “fatally flawed” and accused supervisors Noelia Corzo and Ray Mueller of being biased for comments made publicly about Corpus.

Corpus plans to “exhaust all appeals,” said Thomas Mazzucco, one of the sheriff’s attorneys. “We will take it as far as we need to take it.”

The hearing officer has the right to issue subpoenas, consider evidence and hear live testimony, according to the county. The officer can force Corpus to testify.

The three potential hearing officers are Carol Vendrillo, David Hart and James Emerson.

The hearing could take place in as little as four months, according to the county. Following the

See **CORPUS**, page 16



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Banderas Unidas takes to streets

Youthful group adds voices to protest movement

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Young activists have come together to start their own humanitarian and activist group. On June 20, over 30 people calling themselves Banderas Unidas gathered at Courthouse Square in Redwood City in protest of recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids and the Trump administration.

The group was involved in organizing the Sequoia Union High School District walkout that brought out hundreds of students to downtown Redwood City in February. On June 20 protesters marched, stopping to hold up signs and wave flags at the intersection on Jefferson Avenue and El Camino Real.

Inez, one of the organizers, is a 17-year-old student from Woodside High School. She calls Banderas Unidas a “ragtag team of students” that aims to plan peaceful protests in the community.

During Trump’s first administration, beginning in 2017, Inez was too young to organize a protest. “Now that I’m older, I can actually make my voice be heard. I have arms. I have legs. I can go outside and protest,” she said.

The small group was joined by a few outsiders who saw the flier for the protest on social media. All involved showed up on their



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Protesters marching with Banderas Unidas hold signs at Jefferson Avenue and El Camino Real in Redwood City on June 20.

own, ready to join the march.

Redwood City resident Holly Christensen said she has been participating in a protest every week. She’s gone to the Hands Off! Protest in Boston and the No Kings protests in the Peninsula. Christensen is driven to fight for diversity, equity and inclusion, transgender rights, immigration and democracy.

She was looking to fulfill her duty to protest for the week and saw on Action Together West’s website that Banderas Unidas would be in Redwood City.

“We need young people to get more and more involved. They’re the next generation,”

said Christensen. “I’m an older generation and I won’t be here forever, but they have many more years ahead of them.”

Banderas Unidas also is working on providing resources to those in need while standing up for justice. The group has set up a GoFundMe page to raise money that can be used to serve the community and continue to protest at events to help others.

Visit gofund.me/ca517114 for more information on the fundraiser and @bbanderasunidas on Instagram for updates. ■

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

Creek authority backs off floodwall plan

Agency officials cite Menlo Park mayor’s opposition as they revise plans to bolster protection near San Francisquito Creek

By Gennady Sheyner

The regional agency charged with improving flood control around the San Francisquito Creek is backing off a proposal to install floodwalls along the volatile creek after Menlo Park residents and the city’s mayor publicly came out against the contentious feature.

The floodwalls were a key feature of the flood-control project that the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority was considering last month as part of its decades-long effort to protect the cities of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Menlo Park from major floods. An analysis that was commissioned by the creek authority and recently completed by the consulting firm WRA included floodwalls as a feature in all four of the alternatives that it presented as part of its analysis.



Magali Gauthier

Michael and Kendra Haken watch a city crew on the Pope-Chaucer Bridge clear debris from San Francisquito Creek around 11 a.m. on Jan. 9, 2023.

But in hearing a presentation on the alternatives last month, the floodwalls proposal received pushback from Menlo Park Mayor Drew Combs Combs, who serves on the creek authority board of directors. He noted

prior opposition to floodwalls from his constituents and characterized the revival of this option as “history repeating itself.”

See **FLOODING**, page 16

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



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Hundreds mark Juneteenth in East Palo Alto

Event commemorates end of slavery, development of community

By Lisa Moreno

Eugene Jackson pointed out to a crowd of hundreds in East Palo Alto's Bell Street Park on June 21, naming youth he knew and families sitting in lawn chairs in the grass.

"It's the blending of music, people — you see your elders and you learn where your culture came from," Jackson said.

Like residents across American, Jackson was celebrating Juneteenth, a holiday that commemorates the day that Union General Gordon Granger and his troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to proclaim the end of slavery. But for residents in East Palo Alto, the day

has special resonance. It's also a time to reflect on the multi-generational communities and advocacy in a city established by Black and Latino activists.

The city of East Palo Alto and local nonprofit Live and Peace hosted their annual Juneteenth celebration at Bell Street Park, drawing hundreds who spent the day dancing, supporting local businesses and watching live performances.

Local DJs kicked off the event at the park that was lined with gleaming lowrider cars posted up on their hydraulics, mid-bounce. The music radiated throughout the neighborhood streets and drew in residents ready to dance. Some of the

attendees moved into the city in the '50s. Others, not old enough to stand, held their parents' hands as they danced.

Jackson, a restorative justice director at Live in Peace, organized the event that he hoped could cater to younger generations and older ones through a mix of music and activities.

While he was disappointed that the County of San Mateo decided to host another Juneteenth celebration in the city at the same time, he was grateful for the attendance that picked up in the afternoon.

Families brought their own blankets and chairs and settled underneath tree shade. Other visitors shopped at booths by local vendors who sold custom clothing, jewelry and snacks.

Local nonprofits and organizations such as the East Palo Alto Archive and Cañada College also tabled at the event.

Youth dancers with East Palo Alto studio Step it up Dance performed at the front of the crowd, wearing matching black T-shirts and camo pants, and attendees danced along with them.

Alex Woods, who grew up in Menlo Park, said the celebration



Courtesy Eugene Jackson

East Palo Alto residents attend Juneteenth event on June 21.

was a time to exhibit unity.

"We have to show our youth that we all have things in common," he said. "We have to show them that we can come together and coexist."

Growing up, he said, he saw first-hand how division in the city could negatively affect youth, but the Juneteenth celebration was a display of togetherness.

"I love it out here," Woods said looking over the crowd.

As the celebration went on, kids played in the park, others danced up on stage during the music performances and some peeked underneath the lowrider cars, lifted up on their back wheels.

Attendees ran up to loved ones, nearly knocking them

over in an embrace, and some local officials, including Mayor Martha Barragan and council member Ruben Abrica, helped table and greeted guests.

Dorsey Nunn, who has spent decades advocating for criminal justice reform, also tabled at the event in aims of gathering support for legislation that could abolish involuntary servitude in jails.

His family moved to East Palo Alto in 1955, in a time when there weren't many Black families, he said, but he watched as the city quickly developed and more Black families moved in.

"It's good to be around my people," he said, motioning toward the crowd. ■

Email Staff Writer Lisa Moreno at lmoreno@almanacnews.com.

Employment

MULTIPLE POSITIONS

Robinhood Markets, Inc. has openings in Menlo Park, CA for the following positions. Telecommuting permitted. Background checks req. See bnfits at <https://careers.robinhood.com/benefits>. Email resume w/ job title & code to rhijobs@robinhood.com. Principal Software Engineer (9512284): Build, test, & release prodct-facing features w/ stringent correctness & scalability reqmts. Salary Rnge: \$278,000 - \$376,050 /yr. Web Engineer (9358789): Create high-quality, performt prdcts tht levrng technlogis like React, TypeScript, & CSS-in-JS. Salary Rnge: \$182,437 - \$212,750/yr. Database Site Reliability Engineer (9226066): Combine sftwr & systms knwldge to engineer high-vol dstrbtd systms in a reliable, scalable, & fault-tolrnt manner. Salary Range: \$187,000 - \$253,000/yr. Quality Assurance Senior Associate (9300157): Prfrm QA rviews of the wrk prfrmd by AML Invstgtrs, prmrly on cases invlvg cryptocurncy. Salary Rnge: \$73,000-\$98,900/yr. Senior Business Systems Analyst, Finance (9368680): Serve as an Oracle SME for sprng busns processes and devlp strong rltshps w/ busns process ownrs. Salary Rnge: \$168,397 - \$189,750/yr. Staff Software Engineer (9368689): Plan, desgn, & lead new devlpmnt toward a scible, rliable, & prfrmnt pltrfm for ingesting, processing, & delivering data to intrnl srvc. Salary Rnge: \$217,000 - \$293,250/yr.

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Mainstay Italian restaurant closes after over 30 years

Last day was earlier this month

By Arden Margulis

Ristorante Carpaccio closed its doors permanently on Sunday, June 22, after operating in Menlo Park for over 36 years. In the restaurant's final days, it was nearly completely booked as locals ate there one last time.

The Italian restaurant opened in 1988. Three months after opening, it was bought by rental car operator Aaron Ferer. His wife, Sandra Ferer, was involved in the day-to-day operations. Aaron Ferer has owned the restaurant ever since. Carpaccio has been a regular winner of The Almanac's Readers' Choice Italian restaurant since it opened.

In an email to this publication, Sandra Ferer said it was a difficult decision to close the restaurant.

Known for its namesake beef carpaccio, the restaurant is located at 1120 Crane St. in downtown Menlo Park.

In a 2023 interview, Sandra



Courtesy Christina Schmidhofer Photography

Ristorante Carpaccio was able to survive the pandemic by offering outdoor dining on Ryan Lane.

said much of the front of house staff had been at the restaurant for over 15 years.

"They know our customers and they're absolute professionals... I don't know that we'll ever go back to pre-COVID dining, so we just have to find the solution now, and the best way to deliver to our customers and potential customers, and attract

people to Menlo Park. We need to bring people into Menlo Park to see what's here," she said at the time.

One local family started a GoFundMe to support Carpaccio's 14 staff members.

"My family and I have been happy guests of Carpaccio for as

See **CARPACCIO**, page 16

Stanford pauses gender-affirming surgeries for youth

Hospital system is latest to respond to White House actions

By Gennady Sheyner

Responding to White House directives, Stanford Medicine this month stopped offering gender-related surgical procedures to patients under the age of 19, the hospital system confirmed to this publication.

The pause on gender-related surgeries for youth, which was first reported by the San Francisco Chronicle, comes at a time when the Trump Administration has been steadily removing protections from LGBTQ residents. Recent White House actions include a ban on transgender troops in the military and an executive order specifying that it is the United State policy to recognize male

and female as the only two sexes.

The executive order on gender-affirming care states that it is the policy of the United States that it will “not fund, sponsor, promote, assist, or support the so-called ‘transition’ of a child from one sex to another, and it will rigorously enforce all laws that prohibit or limit these destructive and life-altering procedures.” It directs the heads of all federal departments and agencies that provide research or education grants to medical schools and hospitals to “take appropriate steps to ensure that institutions receiving Federal research or education grants end the chemical and surgical mutilation of children.”

The term gender-affirming care refers to an array

of services, including medical, surgical and mental health treatment, for transgender and nonbinary people, according to a guidance document from the federal Office of Population Affairs, which is within Health and Human Services. In addition to surgery, it includes treatment options such as hormone therapy and puberty blockers.

“A safe and affirming healthcare environment is critical in fostering better outcomes for transgender, nonbinary, and other gender expansive children and adolescents,” states the document, which the Trump administration disavowed but restored to the federal website after a court order. “Medical and psychosocial gender affirming healthcare practices have been

demonstrated to yield lower rates of adverse mental health outcomes, build self-esteem, and improve overall quality of life for transgender and gender diverse youth.”

Since the White House released its executive order on gender-affirming care in January, numerous hospitals across the nation have halted the procedures. Denver Health in Colorado and VCU Health in Virginia both stopped offering gender-affirming surgeries to those under 19 years old after the executive orders, according to NBC News. This month, Stanford became the latest health system to join the trend.

It issued the following statement:

“After careful review of the

latest actions and directives from the federal government and following consultations with clinical leadership, including our multidisciplinary LGBTQ+ program and its providers, Stanford Medicine paused providing gender-related surgical procedures as part of our comprehensive range of medical services for LGBTQ+ patients under the age of 19, effective June 2, 2025.

“We took this step to protect both our providers and patients. This was not a decision we made lightly, especially knowing how deeply this impacts the individuals and families who depend on our essential care and support. Even as circumstances change, we remain committed to providing high quality, thorough and compassionate medical services for every member of our community.” ■

Email Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@almanacnews.com.

VLF SHORTFALL

continued from page 5

City staff plan to revisit budget adjustments during a mid-year review in February 2026, at which point further changes could be made based on updated financial information and conditions. The city will also need to fund an anti-displacement strategy the city has been planning as part of its environmental justice element.

Since the state-level develop-

ments happened the same day as the council meeting, city staff did not have time to update forecasts with the impact. Even without the VLF shortfall, Menlo Park’s Emergency Contingency Reserve will be fully drained by fiscal year 2029-30 and its Economic Stabilization Reserve will no longer be fully funded the same year. ■

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Fourth of July in Menlo Park

Menlo Park will host its annual Fourth of July celebration from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Burgess Park.

The event kicks off with a community parade at 11 a.m., on Friday, July 4, beginning at 600 Alma St. near the library; participants are encouraged to decorate bikes, wagons, and strollers in red, white and blue. Following the parade, attendees can enjoy a community picnic with lawn games, food trucks and complimentary dessert tokens while supplies last. The event will also feature two free performances by Circus Bella at noon and 2 p.m., with acrobats, jugglers, aerialists, clowns and live music.

People can register in advance for prize drawings. Attendees are encouraged to walk, bike or take public transit, as parking may be limited. The event is free and open to the public

Shuttle service reduced

The city of Menlo Park will reduce its free weekday shuttle service on the M1 crosstown shuttle from four outbound and inbound runs to three outbound and inbound runs. The crosstown shuttle goes from Sharon Heights Shopping Center to the Belle Haven Community Campus, stopping at 18 other stops in between.

The exact times of various stops are also changing. The changes go into effect on July 1. The new schedule can be viewed at menlopark.gov/shuttle.

Portola Valley concert set

The next concert in the Portola Valley Summer Concert Series is on July 10 with blues artist Chris Cain at 5:30 p.m.

Cain is blues guitarist that has toured all around the globe, according to PV Palooza.

More information can be viewed at pvpalooza.com/pv-summer-concert-series.

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BALLOT MEASURE

continued from page 5

to say it could not finance construction of replacement parking. Mayor Drew Combs advocated for including Eden so as to not punish a developer that could be providing an honest assessment.

“The mayor expressed a reasonable fear that this developer was the only one being honest, and if they proceed with the other developers, they may later also say that they can’t pay for the replacement parking,” Alex Beltramo, a Save Downtown Menlo organizer, said after the meeting.

The City Council told staff to request developers provide further details on how they plan to fund replacement parking. City staff will present a request for proposals to the City Council for approval later this summer.

A backup plan

With headwinds facing the downtown parking lot project, some are encouraging the City Council to pursue a backup in case the project does not pencil out.

Save Downtown Menlo has suggested the civic center as an alternative space for housing. However, when Menlo Park previously considered using green

space for housing, residents attempted to force that to a vote as well. Save Downtown Menlo suggests using the civic center parking lot or buildings so as not to reduce green space.

The City Council held a study session on March 4 to consider whether to explore other sites as an alternative to the downtown parking lots. The City Council decided to wait until after it got RFQ responses to revisit looking at other sites. The city council has yet to address alternatives.

“I urge you to take a pragmatic approach: In addition to pursuing your current plan of leveraging the downtown lots, please advance a parallel ‘Plan B’ to explore housing at the Civic Center... The lack of alternative options puts the city at greater risk of another significant builder’s remedy issue, similar to what has transpired at the former Sunset Property,” Menlo Park resident and former planning commissioner Ben Eiref said in an email to the City Council.

In the event that the city’s housing element is deemed non-compliant, which could happen if the city does not make progress toward meeting its affordable housing goals, the builder’s remedy allows developers to bypass city rules as long as the development in 20% low-income

housing or 100% moderate-income housing.

Menlo Park already explored the civic center as a potential option for housing as part of its housing element.

“The city’s analysis was not haphazard (and) was not flawed,” Councilmember Jeff Schmidt said about reviewing the civic center as an option for housing during the March study session. “We didn’t leave out some big hidden Narnia-like land that we should have considered.”

Ballot initiative

As of June 24, Save Downtown Menlo had collected 1,400 signatures for its ballot measure on the Menlo Park downtown parking lots, according to Beltramo, one of the proponents of the initiative.

The ballot measure would require a vote by residents before the City Council could change the use of the downtown parking lots. Save Downtown Menlo hopes to block the Menlo Park City Council’s controversial plan to build affordable housing on some downtown parking lots.

While Save Downtown Menlo is required to collect 2,104 valid signatures, Save Downtown Menlo hopes to “far exceed” the requirements. Some signatures

are often disqualified after the San Mateo County Elections Office receives the signatures from the city of Menlo Park.

Only registered voters in incorporated Menlo Park can sign the ballot initiative. The collector of the signature must also say under penalty of perjury that all requirements have been met.

Once signatures are submitted, the county must review a random sample of 500 signatures or 3% of the total, whichever is greater. It then uses the percentage of valid signatures in the sample to estimate the total number of valid signatures submitted. If the estimated number is at least 110% of the threshold, the petition qualifies. If it is less than 95% of the required number, the petition fails. If the estimate falls between 95% and 110%, the county must verify every signature.

Save Downtown Menlo started collecting signatures on June 4 at Draeger’s Market in Menlo Park. Save Downtown Menlo plans to start collecting signatures at Sharon Heights Shopping Center in west Menlo Park. People can also sign the petition in several downtown businesses. ■

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

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Matthew J. Ludeman, 62, a Palo Alto resident who enjoyed a career in DNA research and who loved Greek philosophy, Shakespeare and Giants games, died on June 8, 2025.

Robert Harrington, 84, a Palo Alto resident who worked at Pacific Telephone, Transamerica Title and at Dean Witter, who was deeply involved in community projects and who was passionate about expanding the city’s fiber utility, died on June 8, 2025.

Beth Grossman, 63, a New York resident who attended Stanford Law School, worked as a human rights lawyer and was involved with the Democratic Volunteer Center in California, died on June 14, 2025.

Joyce M. Leonard, 93, a Palo Alto resident who was an educator and environmentalist and who had spent 15 years working for the Sempervirens Fund, died on May 21, 2025.

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

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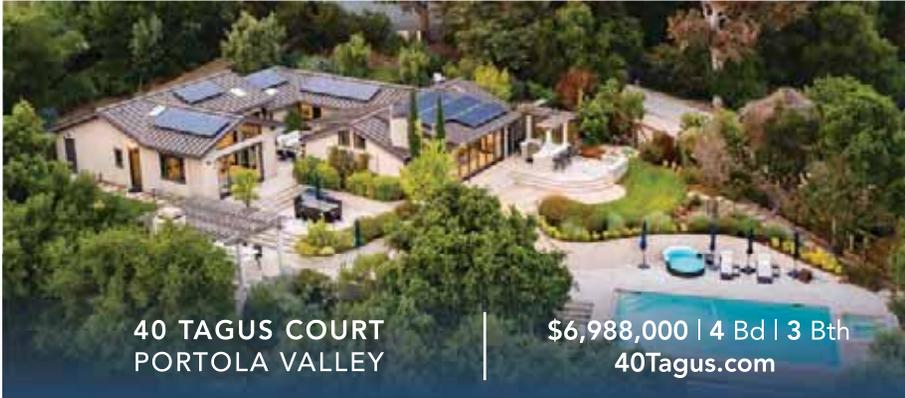




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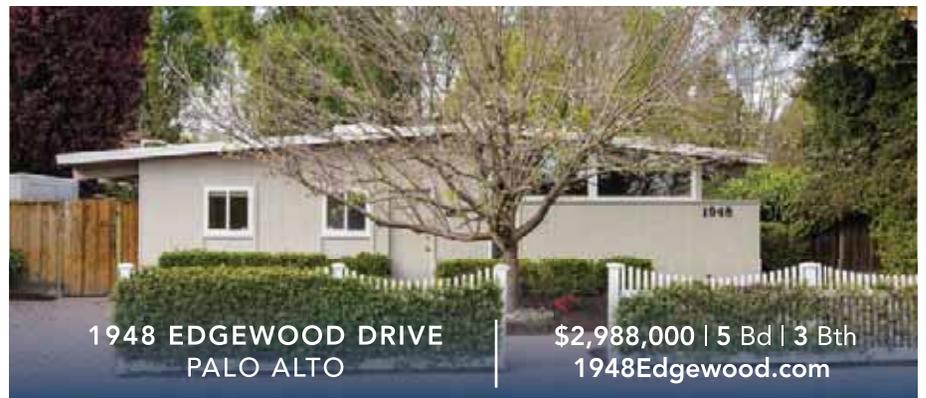
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DeLeon Realty will never accept commission from both sides of any transaction. We will also provide and fully compensate a qualified agent to represent any unrepresented buyers on DeLeon listings at no cost to the buyer OR the seller.

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FLOODING

continued from page 7

“When I see floodwalls being proposed by the JPA, history is repeating itself even though the community has been very clear,” Combs said.

Combs also blamed Palo Alto residents at the creek authority’s May 28 meeting for delaying the project, claiming that the property owners on the Palo Alto side have been “very difficult to deal with as it relates to what the JPA is trying to achieve with this project.” He also took issue with Palo Alto residents who support widening the channel on the San Mateo County side of the creek, which includes Menlo Park, but not on the Santa Clara County side, which includes Palo Alto.

“If we’re talking about the issue of possible floodwalls on the street, the exposure on Woodland is much greater than Palo Alto Avenue,” Combs said, noting that a floodwall on Woodland would involve a lane reduction.

Combs is far from the only resident concerned about the floodwalls. Earlier this month, nearly 60 residents tuned into a webinar hosted by the creek authority to hear about the plans. Several

asked about the proposed design of the floodwalls, while some expressed opposition.

Jim Wiley, who lives in the Willows neighborhood in Menlo Park, suggested that the floodwalls would cause “immense and irreversible damage to the environment across the creek” while doing very little to remove residents from the burden of having to purchase flood insurance to comply with FEMA regulations.

“There simply isn’t enough return on investment to justify that kind of expenditure, especially when so few homeowners would see relief from flood insurance premiums,” Wiley wrote in a letter that was read out loud at the June 5 community meeting.

The effort to bolster flood protection kicked off in earnest after a devastating February 1998 storm, which remains the largest on record. The creek authority, which consists of elected officials from Palo Alto, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Valley Water and the San Mateo County Flooding and Sea Level Resiliency District, has been evaluating ways to lower the risk ever since. It completed its first major project in 2019, when it reconstructed levees and

widened the channel in the vulnerable downstream area near U.S. 101, which includes sections of East Palo Alto.

Its second big project, known as Reach 2, isn’t flowing quite as smoothly. The area got drenched on Dec. 31, 2022, and the San Francisquito Creek overtopped to a greater degree than the creek authority’s hydrological models suggested it would. Given the discrepancy the agency paused its prior plans and commissioned a new study with a fresh set of recommended alternatives.

Other unexpected issues have also muddied the process, as Valley Water flirted earlier this year with the idea of leaving the partnership, a move that would deprive the creek authority of its largest funding partner. And the May 28 meeting exposed another tension, as Combs said that Palo Alto property owners have been “some of the most obstinate individuals to deal with.” Palo Alto City Council member Greer Stone then acknowledged the “charged emotions on all sides” and said he hopes board members “won’t point fingers at any individuals or communities and find a way to work together.”

This week, creek authority

Executive Director Margaret Bruce issued a report that greatly scales back the agency’s ambitions when it comes to floodwalls. Noting Combs’ opposition to floodwalls, Bruce said that staff will split the Reach 2 projects into phases. The initial phase would focus on widening the channel in various segments of the creek, removing constructions and replacing an existing wooden floodwall on Woodland Avenue in East Palo Alto.

Bruce also indicated that the authority would explore as part of the first phase other “non-floodwall options” that were not vetted in the recent analysis, including a large bypass tunnel and permanent “passive floodwalls” that “remain unobtrusive until activated by rising water levels,” according to the WRA analysis.

“Once floodwaters approach, these walls either automatically deploy or rely on the natural forces of hydrodynamics to function effectively,” the analysis states.

The first phase will also involve developing a cost-sharing framework for the Reach 2 projects, which aims to protect the cities from creek flow of 7,200 cubic feet per second, the equivalent

of the 1998 flood. The project would protect 2,953 parcels in Palo Alto, 1,252 in East Palo Alto and 857 in Menlo Park.

Bruce wrote that the scope of future phases in the Reach 2 project would be determined after the creek authority completes the necessary feasibility studies to evaluate further improvements. It would, however, involve replacing the Pope-Chaucer bridge, a 1940s structure that floods during major storms.

Meanwhile, Palo Alto is moving ahead with replacement of Newell Road bridge, a project that is widely viewed a necessary prerequisite to the Reach 2 work. Located downstream of the Pope-Chaucer, the Newell Road bridge will be widened and designed to accommodate the greater flow that the Reach 2 projects would generate. The City Council approved a contract for the Newell project last week and the city expects to complete it by 2027.

If things go to plan, that is also the year when the creek authority would start constructing the projects in the first phase of Reach 2. ■

Email Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@almanacnews.com.

CORPUS

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hearing, the officer has 45 days to issue an advisory opinion. The board would then vote again on whether to remove her, a decision that requires a four-fifths vote.

Corpus made history in 2022 when she became the first woman and the first Latina elected as sheriff of San Mateo County,

defeating long-time incumbent Carlos Bolanos. Her tenure began with a pledge to reform the department, increase transparency and rebuild public trust.

However, her leadership has faced growing scrutiny in recent months amid allegations of workplace misconduct, retaliation and interference in internal investigations. Public calls for accountability intensified

earlier this year when multiple anonymous complaints reportedly emerged from within the Sheriff’s Office.

Corpus has denied the allegations and refused to heed calls for her to step down. In response, the Board of Supervisors initiated a third-party investigation and, in late May, adopted formal

removal procedures following the passage of Measure A. The Board voted unanimously in early June to move toward potentially removing her from office by adopting a “Notice of Intent to Remove” her for cause.

Corpus has filed a lawsuit against San Mateo County, alleging that the removal process

was politically motivated and violated her due process rights.

The June 24 vote marked the first use of the board’s new powers under Measure A. ■

Bay City News contributed to this story.

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

CARPACCIO

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long as I can remember. We started the GofundMe to support the incredible staff that has been so good to us and so many friends and neighbors over almost four decades, to help them as they transition into the next chapter,” Julie Brady, who started the

GoFundMe with Kelly Griggs and Chris Spencer after learning on June 19 of the restaurant impending closure, said.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the restaurant started outdoor dining on Ryan Lane, which helped the restaurant operate when indoor dining was restricted. It kept outdoor dining until the Menlo Park

City Council reopened the street earlier this year.

The City Council recently made downtown revitalization a priority, in hopes of attracting patrons to downtown businesses and addressing storefront vacancies. ■

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



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=OtfMBoB6uie1LLmPbod5YfUeKV3EB.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.

/s/ Sergio Ramirez
Sergio Ramirez
General Manager

Dated: May 28, 2025

STANFORD JAZZ FESTIVAL 2025

JUN 22 - AUG 1

JOEL ROSS
JUL 24
AT DINKELSPIEL
AUDITORIUM

JUN 27 FRED HERSCH
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 20 YILIAN CAÑIZARES
JUL 26 LIZZ WRIGHT
JUL 27 PAUL CORNISH
JUL 29 GEORGE CABLES
JUL 31 TAYLOR EIGSTI

FULL LINE-UP AT STANFORDJAZZ.ORG
TICKETS GO ON SALE APRIL 4, 2025

Schedule and artists subject to change without notice.

ATHERTON CHARTER

continued from page 1

price of \$8.9 million in 2024.

Other councilmembers framed the potential change as an issue of local control.

“We have seen the state of California exercise authority based on certain high falutin’ goals that don’t relate to the local needs and concerns and character of the jurisdictions that are impacted. I’m not just talking about housing... we’re a unique community and we need to have as much control over

our community as we can,” said councilmember Rick DeGolia, a member of the charter city subcommittee.

There are other areas where Atherton could get more control besides housing; in particular, Atherton would be able to use more types of taxes and could have a lower threshold to pass certain taxes.

The main benefit councilmember Stacy Holland, the other member of the charter subcommittee, sees is increasing the town’s ability to tax. But even then, she emphasized

that it does not give the city “carte blanche” to tax residents. While a parcel tax requires a two-thirds majority of residents to approve, a real estate transfer tax would only require a simple majority of residents.

“If we snapped our fingers right now and became a charter city, there would be no difference,” Holland said. “It would change nothing about what we need to do for housing and housing is why the public requested we look into becoming a charter city.

“In some ways, I view this as

an earthquake preparedness kit: we’d be happy if we have it and need it but it might never get used,” she said. “I keep going back and forth on whether this is worth it.”

While councilmembers discussed the ability to tax, none advocated for proposing a tax. The town previously considered becoming a charter city in 2012 and again in 2015 in order to gain the ability to levy a real estate transfer tax to plug a hole in the town’s budget but did not pursue it after opposition from residents.

Councilmember Diana

Hawkins-Manuelian said becoming a charter city is a waste of time and money. DeGolia countered that a narrowly tailored charter would not be resource intensive.

DeGolia was the only councilmember who was outright supportive of becoming a charter city. While most had doubts on becoming a charter city, Lewis, Holland and Widmer supported allowing the subcommittee to draft a charter for the council to review. Hawkins-Manuelian was opposed to the subcommittee continuing. ■

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 REOVABLE 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.clearrecon-corp.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)

VERTIGO STUDIOS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-300660 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) VERTIGO STUDIOS , located at 601 Devon Drive, Hillsborough, CA, 94010. Registered owner(s): TBV LLC 601 Devon Drive, Hillsborough, CA, 94010 State of Incorporation/Organization: Delaware This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/19/2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 19, 2025. (ALM Jun 27, Jul 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

CRIKEY STUDIO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: 300854 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) CRIKEY STUDIO , located at 701 2nd Ave, Unit 7, San Mateo, CA 94401. Registered owner(s): CRIKEY, LLC 701 2nd Ave, Unit 7 San Mateo, CA 94401 State of Incorporation/Organization: CA This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 10, 2025. (ALM Jun 27, Jul 4, 11 and 18, 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)

NINA'S HOME BAKERY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-300754 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) NINA'S HOME BAKERY , located at 890 Green Ave, San Bruno CA 94066. Registered owner(s): VERONICA CRAWFORD JONES 890 Green Ave San Bruno, CA 94066 This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/15/2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 30, 2025. (ALM Jun 27, Jul 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

MSD MOBILE BLOOD DRAW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-300835 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) MSD MOBILE BLOOD DRAW , located at 420 LOMOND DR., PACIFICA, CA 94044. Registered owner(s): MSD MOBILE BLOOD DRAW, LLC 420 LOMOND DR. PACIFICA, CA 94044 State of Incorporation/Organization: CA This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 09, 2025. (ALM Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 2025)

LEADER RESTORATION FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-300805 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) LEADER RESTORATION , located at 303 Twin Dolphin Dr., 6th Floor, Redwood City, CA 94065. Mailing Address: 1805 Little Orchard Street Unit 106 San Jose, CA 95125 Registered owner(s): LEADER REMODELING INC 1805 Little Orchard Street Unit 106 San Jose, CA 95125 State of Incorporation/Organization: CA This business is conducted by: a Corporation. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/04/2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 04, 2025. (ALM Jun 27, Jul 4, 11 and 18, 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)

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)

KING KATSU LAND FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-300904 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) KING KATSU LAND , located at 2085 Gellert Blvd #6, Daly City, CA 94015. Mailing Address: 115 Sutton Ave South San Francisco, CA 94080. Registered owner(s): MOONSTAR ENTERPRISE CORPORATION 115 Sutton Ave South San Francisco, CA 94080 State of Incorporation/Organization: California This business is conducted by: a Corporation. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 05/12/2025 .

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 18, 2025. (ALM Jun 27, Jul 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO Case No.: 25-CIV-04003 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Kylie Anne Szymanski filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: KYLIE ANNE SZYMANSKI to KATYA KYLIE ANNE SZYMANSKI THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: July 28, 2025, 9:00 AM, M/C of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA, 94063. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: ALMANAC Date: 6/20/2025 Hon. Stephanie G. Garratt JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (ALM Jun 27, Jul 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO Case No.: 25-CIV-04232 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Charles Kevin Heisler filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: CHARLES KEVIN HEISLER to KEVIN HEISLER THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: August 12, 2025, 9:00am, Southern Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: ALMANAC Date: June 10th, 2025 Stephanie Garratt JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (ALM Jun 20, 27, Jul 4 and 11, 2025)

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

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

A festive Fourth

From fireworks and parades to a circus and a drone show, here's how to celebrate Independence Day in Silicon Valley

By Julia Brown

Silicon Valley residents seeking a professional fireworks show close to home this Fourth of July will have fewer options to choose from. Redwood City is replacing its traditional fireworks show at the Port of Redwood City with a drone show, and Foster City has canceled its fireworks display this year due to construction of the city's community center.

But that still leaves Shoreline Amphitheatre's annual fireworks extravaganza with the San Francisco Symphony (with special guest ukulele virtuoso Taimane), plus fireworks displays in Cupertino and at California's Great America, which will be visible from Mission College's festivities nearby. There's also Palo Alto's chili cook-off, circus performances in Menlo Park and parades, live music and family fun aplenty planned around the region.

Mountain View Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular

The theme of this year's concert and fireworks show at Shoreline Amphitheatre is "From the North Shore to Shoreline," with featured soloist and ukulele virtuoso Taimane joining the San Francisco Symphony and conductor Edwin Outwater.

July 4, 7 p.m., at Shoreline Amphitheatre, One Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View. Tickets are \$29.50-\$206. livenation.com.

Shoreline Lake Fireworks Viewing and BBQ

Catch the Shoreline Amphitheatre show from a pedalboat, kayak, canoe or stand-up paddleboard on Shoreline Lake (rowboat spots are full). Watercraft rental reservations have been opened early, and

hours will be extended for the Boathouse and American Bistro, which will stay open until 10:30 p.m. The American Bistro will serve a barbecue dinner from 6-8 p.m., which is included for those with watercraft reservations.

July 4, 8:30-10:15 p.m. (dinner 6-8 p.m.), at the Boathouse and American Bistro, 3160 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View.

Reservations are \$135-\$335 per vessel. Reserve at tinyurl.com/ShorelineLake4th

Los Altos Glorious 4th Independence Day Celebration

Head to Shoup Park for live music, games, activities and food available for purchase. Free bike valet service will be provided.

July 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Shoup Park, 400 University Ave., Los Altos. tinyurl.com/LosAltos4th2025

Los Altos First Fridays

Ten to 15 bands will play simultaneously throughout downtown Los Altos starting at 6 p.m. under the July theme "Happy Birthday America." Musicians include Clarinet Peeps, Top Shelf Big Band, Jazz Before Midnight and more.

July 4, 9 p.m., in downtown Los Altos. losaltosfirstfriday.fun/entertainment.

Los Altos Hills 4th of July Parade

Los Altos Hills hosts its 14th annual parade down Fremont Road, concluding at Gardner Bullis School with refreshments. The Los Altos Hills Horseman's Association will include six to eight horses in the back of the parade.

July 4, 9-11 a.m., starting at Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills. tinyurl.com/LAH4thParade2025.



Devin Roberts

Visitors taste different varieties of chili at the 2024 Palo Alto Chili Cook Off and Summer Festival.

Palo Alto Palo Alto Chili Cook Off and Summer Festival

Enjoy free chili tasting plus food trucks, live music, games and kids' activities such as crafts and inflatables at the city of Palo Alto's annual Fourth of July celebration. The cook-off includes a corporate division and an open division, with cash prizes of up to \$1,000. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs, picnic blankets and reusable water bottles. Parking is limited, so walking or biking is advised.

July 4, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Mitchell Park, 600 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto. tinyurl.com/PaloAltoChili2025.

Woodside Woodside Junior Rodeo

The 73rd annual rodeo features rodeo events such as barrel racing and pole-bending, plus pony rides, a petting zoo, a mechanical bull, vendors and a barbecue. A pre-rodeo dinner dance takes place July 3, with tickets sold at the door.

July 3, 6 p.m. pre-rodeo dinner; tickets will be sold at the door. Rodeo is July 4, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for children under 18 and free for kids under 5. Both the dinner and rodeo take place at Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County, 521 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside. mpsmc.org/rodeo.

Menlo Park 4th of July Community Parade, Picnic and Circus

The city of Menlo Park has a full slate of activities planned for July 4. Meet at the Arrillaga Family Gymnasium parking lot (600 Alma St.) at 10:45 a.m. for photo opportunities and a parade lineup, with the parade starting at 11 a.m. Participants are encouraged to decorate their bike or wagon for the parade down Alma Street to a picnic and circus at Burgess Park.

After the parade, Circus Bella Company will host two all-ages, 60-minute circus performances. (See story on page 21.) The community picnic will be held at 1 p.m., with food trucks on-site starting at 11:30 a.m.

Complimentary dessert will be provided while supplies last. July 4, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Burgess Park, 501 Laurel St., Menlo Park (parade starts at the Arrillaga Family Gymnasium parking lot, 600 Alma St.) tinyurl.com/MPFourth2025

Redwood City Independence Day Parade, Festival and Drone Show

The traditional fireworks display at the Port of Redwood City is being replaced with a drone light show this year. Before the 9:30 p.m. show, come out for a full day of activities, including a pancake breakfast with the Redwood City Fire Department; a classic car show; a parade with floats and bands celebrating California's 175th anniversary; a Fourth of July festival featuring family activities, arts and crafts booths, food and drink vendors and live entertainment; and Concert at the Port with live music and food.

All events take place on July 4.

See **FOURTH OF JULY**, page 20

LEAVE THE FIREWORKS TO THE PROFESSIONALS

**MENLO PARK FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT IS A**



NO FIREWORKS ZONE!

**WE SERVE THE CITY OF MENLO PARK, CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO,
TOWN OF ATHERTON, AND PARTS OF UNINCORPORATED
SAN MATEO COUNTY!**

'Bone Flute: A Woman Speaks' keeps the voice of Los Altos writer Irene Adler alive

Posthumous poetry collection was recently released by local publisher Paloma Press

By Karla Kane

In her poem "Bone Flute," the late Los Altos writer Irene Adler reflects on an ancient instrument and the human who crafted it millennia ago.

"Someone learned to make it sing / Thirty thousand years along, it still makes / music of breath in a hollowed bone," the poem notes.

Though she died in 2023, Irene Adler's words will live on, thanks in part to the posthumous publication of a collection of her poetry, titled after that poem: "Bone Flute: A Woman Speaks."

"Even after one is gone, their words, and their music, is still in the world. It's like she was singing to us through these poems," Angela Narciso Torres — Irene Adler's friend, fellow poet and editor of the collection — said of the titular piece. "It gave me goosebumps when we found it."

"Bone Flute" was released on April 29 of this year, by Paloma Press, a San Mateo and Morgan Hill-based publisher co-founded by former Poet Laureate of San Mateo County Aileen Cassinetto. Paloma Press is the first Southeast Asian press founded on the Peninsula, Cassinetto said, and aims to support a diverse and inclusive literary landscape. Narciso Torres approached her to see if Paloma Press might be a good fit for Irene Adler's collection and Cassinetto quickly agreed.

"It moved me because the relationships and friendships that sustained Irene Adler's writing life did not die with her. Here's

her friend still campaigning to have her voice out in the world," Cassinetto said. "By publishing this book, we recognize the craft and the creative vision that it reflects."

Irene Adler was a prolific writer.

"I would guess that in the last 10 years of her life she woke up just about every morning with poems in her head and rushed to write them down by computer or even by notepad," Alan Adler, her husband of 61 years, said. "She tended to write about things that happened to her or people she knew," including her own difficult childhood with an abusive father, and the unexpected death of a grandchild in 2012.

Alan Adler is the inventor of, among other things, the aerodynamic toys of the Aerobie brand, and the AeroPress coffee device, and the couple's longtime partnership proved fruitful and supportive.

"I enjoyed a very creative life and I was thrilled that Irene did too. We were cheerleaders for each other, I think," he said.

Like Narciso Torres, Alan Adler is especially fond of the titular poem in the collection, in part because of his and Irene Adler's connection with music.

"I made flutes for years and Irene was helpful to me because she had better ears than I do,



Courtesy Paloma Press
The cover of "Bone Flute: A Woman Speaks."

and she would help me refine the timbre of the flutes," he recalled.

Her poetry is "very lyrical. She draws a lot of imagery from nature ... she was also not just a very good describer, an image maker, but also she was very fluent," said Narciso Torres. "She did have a very good ear for what made a line sound musical." A pianist and music lover, her

work is "driven by sound almost as much as image," she added.

Cassinetto, who is also the co-editor of an upcoming companion to the first National Nature Assessment, a report recently gutted by the Trump administration, shares Irene Adler's love and deep concern for the natural world, naming the poem "Spring At Filoli," inspired by the local estate, as one of her favorites. Several of Irene Adler's nature poems, including "Spring at Filoli," are included in the online gallery "The Nature of Our Times."

"She used poetry to make sense of the world throughout her life," Narciso Torres said. "She often reflected on her philosophy of life, and often meditated on death and what that would be like, what we're here for and what our purpose is; how to live a life meaningfully."

Narciso Torres recalled Irene Adler as a generous friend who

was "endlessly curious about the world and other people." They met at a workshop through Stanford Continuing Studies, led by poet Nan Cohen (who wrote the foreword to "Bone Flute"). They bonded over their shared interest in poetry, took more classes together and eventually forged a two-decade friendship that included frequent sharing of poems. Narciso Torres went on to become an editor at RHINO Poetry, and was delighted to see Irene Adler's poem "White Hyacinths" (also included in the book) published in RHINO's journal in 2017.

After Irene Adler's death, Alan Adler reached out to Narciso Torres about the possibility of curating a collection, sending her around 2,000 of his wife's poems. The prospect of sorting through them "was a daunting task, to say the least," Narciso Torres said. Irene Adler was in some ways like a mother figure to her, and she grieved her loss deeply.

"Going into the poems was really emotionally challenging for me," she said, but, with the help of her son Timothy Torres and fellow poets and editors Naoko Fujimoto and Gail Goepfert, she eventually selected the 100 poems included in the book, organized in reverse chronological order and representing the years 1999-2003.

"In the absence of Irene I was responsible to represent her body of work as best I could," she said. "Obviously I'm not her, but I've known her for 23 years so I felt I had a good sense of what she might consider a publishable

poem. I kind of knew what she would feel proud of."

For many years, Adler taught English as a second language (ESL) through Palo Alto Adult School, following a stint teaching high school English.

"She had an encyclopedic knowledge of English language, grammar ... the best-read person I've ever known," Alan Adler said. She was also a philanthropist, supporting cancer research, and after her death, Alan Adler endowed a chair in her name at Stanford Medicine. Royalties from "Bone Flute," Alan Adler noted in a press release, will also go to cancer research at Stanford.

On July 2, Adler's legacy will be honored at an event at Books Inc. Palo Alto, featuring Narciso Torres along with Cohen, Robin Ekiss, Peter Kline and Cintia Santana, all of whom knew Irene Adler as a poetry student.

As for how the late author herself would feel about the publication of her work, her husband said she'd be thrilled.

"It came out really beautiful, and Angela did a wonderful job with editing it," Alan Adler said. "I think Irene would love it." ■

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

More information is available at palomapress.org/bone-flute. An event honoring the legacy of Irene Adler will be held on July 2, 7 p.m., at Books Inc. Palo Alto, 855, El Camino Real #74, Palo Alto; booksinc.net.

FOURTH OF JULY

continued from page 18

Parade begins at 10 a.m. at Brewster Avenue and Winslow Street, Redwood City. Pancake breakfast 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Fire Station 9, 755 Marshall St., Redwood City. Breakfast is \$10. The festival runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City. Drone show at 9:30 p.m. at the Port of Redwood City, 675 Seaport Blvd., Redwood City. parade.org.

Chalk Full of Fun

Courthouse Square will be transformed into a canvas for 21 professional chalk artists to showcase their work July 3-4. This year's event theme is "Celebrate California!" in honor of the state's 175th anniversary of statehood. There are also 100 spaces available for preregistration for attendees

who want to get in on the chalk artistry; chalking supplies, shade umbrellas and refreshments provided. All skill levels welcome; children 12 and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

July 3-4, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., at Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City. rwcparade.org/chalk-full-of-fun.

An Old-Fashioned Fourth

The San Mateo County History Museum hosts holiday crafts from the 1880s, including pinwheels, banners and paper flags. At 1 p.m., the museum will play summertime films from the archives, including a 1915 baseball game in which the "Single Men" of Santa Clara University played against Redwood City's "Married Men."

July 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., (films at 1 p.m.) at the San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City.

\$2-\$3, free admission for kids 5 and under. historysmc.org.

Foster City

Foster City Fourth of July Celebration

While Foster City's annual fireworks show is not being held this year, Leo J. Ryan Park will still host a day of entertainment, activities and food. Festivities kick off with the Foster City Rotary Club pancake breakfast from 8:30 to 11 a.m., followed by the family and dog parade (11:05 a.m.), an opening ceremony with the national anthem (11:15 a.m.) and an afternoon featuring event vendors, family games, a kids' play zone, food trucks and live music from Nathan Owens (Motown, noon-1:30 p.m.) and Township (country, 2:30-4 p.m.). July 4, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Leo J. Ryan Park, Foster City. Pancake

breakfast is \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids 12 and under; mimosas are an additional \$10 each. fostercity.org/parksrec/page/2025-fourth-july-celebration-0.

Sau Mateo

4th of July in the Park 2025

Celebrate the holiday with a concert featuring Club 90 (dance music) at Central Park's Fitzgerald Field. There will also be a raising of the flag and performance of the national anthem, plus family-friendly activities, crafts and games. July 4, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., (flag raising is at 11:45 a.m., concert starts at noon) at Central Park (Fitzgerald Field), 50 E. 5th Ave., San Mateo. cityofsanmateo.org/3239/4th-of-july.

Millbrae

Beats, Brews & Vines

The city of Millbrae's summer concert series kicks off July 4 at

Millbrae Central Park with A Cut Above performing classic rock hits from noon to 1:30 p.m., followed by Pure Ecstasy (soul, Motown, R&B and jazz) from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The afternoon will also include food trucks, free carnival games for kids and a beer garden. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair and your dancing shoes. July 4, noon-3:30 p.m., at Millbrae Central Park, 477 Lincoln Circle, Millbrae. ci.millbrae.ca.us/354/Beats-Brews-Vines. ■

Email The Six Fifty Editor Julia Brown at jbrown@embarcaderomedia.org.

Visit almanacnews.com/arts-culture to find more Fourth of July events and other fun things to do.

Festival celebrates roots of jazz and its many branches

Stanford Jazz Festival launches a summer of jazz and its evolving fusion with other musical styles

By Heather Zimmerman

The Stanford Jazz Festival has always been a wide-ranging event, blending a summer of educational experiences for young people with six weeks of performances for the public, in which top jazz artists serve as both instructors and performers.

The 2025 festival celebrates, now more than ever, the many facets of jazz and the numerous genres it complements and influences — as the festival website puts it, “jazz’s rich roots and its global connections.”

“In our curation, we want to feature artists that are internationally known but that are also in the jazz tradition ... we have that luxury of really staying close to jazz at the core of what we do. We have a lot of artists that are very much of the genre, that speak right to it. And then we also really want to honor what is new, what is up-and-coming and that also the belief that jazz is, at its core, inclusive of a global tradition,” said Stanford Jazz Workshop Executive Director Cory Combs in an interview with this publication.

The festival had an early kick-off on June 22 with a sold-out “Indian Jazz Journey,” an annual show that has become a festival

fixture featuring saxophonist George Brooks and vocalist Mahesh Kale.

The official opening weekend features the return of pianist Fred Hersch (June 27) with a blend of lyrical, improvisational styles and more; post-bop trumpeter Jeremy Pelt (June 28) and vocalist Tiffany Austin paying tribute to legendary singer Sarah Vaughan (June 29).

“We want to bring in artists that are bringing a respect and a reverence to jazz, but also merging it with other styles, like Cuban music, Brazilian, blues, and so we have a number of artists that are coming at it from that direction: John Santos and Yilian Cañizares, for example, are two wonderful fusion artists. Anat Cohen, who’s a clarinetist, is playing a wonderful set of Brazilian influenced music, but she could also be considered a traditional jazz artist in a lot of ways too,” Combs said.

The schedule offers national name headliner shows, including, in addition to Hersch and Pelt, guitarist John Pizzarelli, vocalist Lizz Wright and pianist Taylor Eigsti.

Two-time Grammy Award winner Eigsti has particularly close ties to the Peninsula, where he grew up, and to the festival. He began as a camper and now

returns each year to teach and perform.

Combs noted that the schedule boasts a wide range of artists.

“The area is so rich and deep that we can bring in artists that are developing that kind of national/international reputation. That’s Tiffany Austin, for example. We have Caili O’Doherty, who is doing this beautiful suite in memory of her mother, so she wrote this whole suite of music that’s quite personal. This is going to be one of the first times where that music is going to be heard. We have this great show with Kenneth Peplowski, who’s a saxophonist who’s doing a tribute to the music of Charlie Parker. That’s that loving that mid-era jazz, bebop sound to hear Ken do these arrangements of Charlie Parker’s music, that’s gonna be awesome.

“We have some unique shows along the side with Sam Reider, who is performing with an ensemble called Spaghetti. He brings this unique mix of original music and Americana and folk music, and he plays accordion,” Combs said.

There’s also signature festival events such as Early Bird Jazz for Kids with Dr. Dave Hart and the Zookeepers, while blues guitarist Chris Cain will make his first appearance at Ruth Davies Blues



Courtesy Eva Kapanadze

Trumpeter Jeremy Pelt and his quintet performs June 28 as part of the Stanford Jazz Festival’s opening weekend.

Night. There’s also a show that represents a program showcasing the festival’s unique educational and performance elements. The June 21 Rising Stars concert features the Stanford Jazz Workshop Mentor Fellows. This is an auditioned group of rising professional musicians who teach but also perform together over two summers as an ensemble.

“Every night is going to bring something unique, exciting.

They’re all virtuosic level,” Combs said. ■

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

The Stanford Jazz Festival takes place through Aug. 1 at various venues on the Stanford University campus. stanfordjazz.org.

Circus Bella brings ‘Hoopla!’ to Menlo Park this July 4

Expect dazzling feats, music, comedy and colorful chaos at free park performances

By Karla Kane

Ever been tempted to run away and join the circus? For Circus Bella co-founder and director Abigail Munn, it’s been a near-lifelong vocation.

“It’s the hardest job you’ll ever have, but it’s the most rewarding,” she said. “I’m so lucky to get up every day and have a circus.”

A San Francisco-based circus troupe, Circus Bella was founded in 2008. This summer, the company is again bringing free shows to parks around the Bay Area and beyond. Locals can catch this year’s show, “Hoopla!”, at two performances in Menlo Park’s Burgess Park on July 4.

“We have a live band at all our shows. It’s energetic and it’s joyful and it’s bright colors,” Munn said. Circus Bella prides itself on mixing classic circus arts and traditions with modern sensibilities. “We have a very diverse company,” she said. “If you think of a circus in 2025, that’s what we are.”

Munn is also on the board of the American Circus Alliance (an

advocacy and service organization dedicated to circus production and performance). She has been enamored with circus life since she was a child growing up in San Francisco and her parents signed her up for a class with the iconic Pickle Family Circus.

“I walked in and was like, ‘This is what I want to do!’” she recalled. She worked for years as a trapeze artist and dancer and now serves as Circus Bella’s ringmaster, emceeding the proceedings.

The company of “Hoopla!” also includes aerialist Veronica Blair, aerial hoop artist Dwoira Galilea, strongman Toni Cannon, contortionist Elise Hing, diablo juggling specialist Willem McGowan, rola bola (balance board) specialist Ori Quesada and Jack Weinstock, who studied foot juggling at the Hebei Wuqiao School of Acrobatic Arts in China. Audiences will also meet Tristan Cunningham, who’s back at the circus after working in television acting and whose clown character brings humorous hijinks to the show.

“She’s so funny,” Munn said. “The whole premise is, she’s trying to join the circus and she’s having a hard time of it.”

The Circus Bella All-Star Band plays original music composed by the late bandleader Rob Reich, who died in May. The season’s performances will be dedicated to Reich.

“We can’t think of a more fitting tribute than continuing to play his music and share his spirit with our audiences,” Circus Bella’s website states.

Live music has always been an essential part of the show, Munn said. “We’re all working together. The musicians are really following what’s going on and how we’re moving,” she said. The band’s lineup includes Katy Stephen on keyboard, Jonathan Seiberlich on tuba, Michael Pinkham on percussion, Kasey Knudsen on saxophone, Christina Walton on violin and Ian Carey on trumpet.

The company offers ticketed big-top shows in San Francisco during the winter, and the free summer park performances,



Courtesy Emil Alex

The Circus Bella company performs in various Bay Area cities throughout the summer. Two July 4 shows in Menlo Park will be their first in that city.

which run for about an hour, have an energy all their own.

“It’s a little louder; it’s kind of a little wilder; it’s a little more of a happening,” Munn said. This summer will be Circus Bella’s first time performing in Menlo Park.

“We are so excited — this is something we’ve been trying to work on for the last couple of years,” she said. “Just grab the

child inside you or the child next to you and come to the circus.” ■

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

“Hoopla!”, July 4, noon and 2 p.m., Burgess Park, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park; free; circusbella.org/circusintheparks.

Food & Drink

SARA'S KITCHEN OFFERS PERUVIAN SPECIALTIES, ITALIAN PASTAS AND AMERICAN DINER CLASSICS OUT OF A GHOST KITCHEN IN SAN MATEO

MADE WITH LOVE

Sara's Kitchen co-owner Alberto Pastor holds up a Hungry Beast burger (\$16.99) at San Mateo Food Mall. The Hungry Beast burger includes cheese, ham, over-hard egg, string potatoes, lettuce, tomatoes, onion and housemade garlic mayo, kalamata olive mayo, golf sauce, rocoto sauce and huacatay sauce on a toasted brioche bun.

Story by Adrienne Mitchel | Photos by Anna Hoch-Kenney

Editor's note: Quotes from Edith Huamani and Alberto Pastor have been translated from Spanish to English by Tania Navarro.

Edith "Sara" Huamani immigrated to the Bay Area in 2007 on asylum. She had faced abuse in her hometown of Lima, Peru, leaving for a better life. "I came alone, without relatives, without knowing anyone here," she said.

In 2015, Huamani met Alberto Pastor, who had also immigrated by himself to the Bay Area, hoping for more opportunities than those in Tijuana, Mexico. Four years later, they married. The couple, who each have worked in restaurants since their teenage years, took a leap of faith and opened their own business, Sara's Kitchen, in May.



Edith Huamani, co-owner of Sara's Kitchen in San Mateo, holds up a plate of Peruvian lomo saltado (\$21).

Located in the CloudKitchen San Mateo Food Mall, Sara's Kitchen offers a mix of Peruvian favorites, American diner classics and Italian pasta dishes for breakfast, lunch and dinner. All orders come with a complimentary chocolate chip cookie. The business has no connection to American diner Sara's Kitchen in Santa Clara, Pastor said.

Find a variety of loaded smashburgers (\$13.99-\$18.99), including bestselling The Hungry Beast topped with cheese, ham, an over-hard egg, crispy string potatoes, lettuce, tomato, onion and five housemade sauces — garlic mayo, kalamata olive mayo, golf sauce (a creamy and tangy sauce from Latin America), rocoto sauce (Peruvian hot sauce) and huacatay sauce (Peruvian black mint sauce) — on a toasted brioche bun, served with a side of fries. Huamani said the burger is inspired by the enormous burgers sold by Peruvian street food vendors. Recently, she's seen these burgers becoming popular among travel TikTok influencers.

Pastor, whose experience is primarily in Italian restaurants, developed the pasta recipes, including their bestseller fettuccine alfredo, which is served with garlic bread (\$13.50).

"It has herbs and a touch of lime flavor, so when you try it, (it tastes) not only creamy and salty, you taste a little acid," he said, calling the dish "one of a kind."

Hamani's Peruvian specialties (\$12.99-\$24.99) include lomo saltado (steak sauteed with onions, tomatoes and cilantro in a Peruvian sauce and served with fries and steamed rice), tallarin saltado (Peruvian-style chow mein), a lomo saltado burrito, broaster chicken (Peruvian-style chicken with fries, salad and a variety of homemade sauces), salchipapas (sliced beef franks and fries served on a bed of lettuce with homemade sauces) and chaufa (Peruvian-style fried rice).

"The things that we make here are made with love," Huamani said. "On one occasion, we received a call back from a Peruvian food customer...just to say that the food was delicious."

The two-person, takeout-only operation is the result of the couple's 18 years of restaurant experience.

'When we talk about having a business ... we never talk about luxury; we always talk about how (we) would like to ... give away, to do our part'

ALBERTO PASTOR, CO-OWNER OF SARA'S KITCHEN

Huamani started working in the kitchen at 15, cooking traditional Peruvian dishes and seafood at her parents' restaurant in Peru. Since immigrating to the United States, she's worked at fast-food restaurants like Jack in the Box, sit-down restaurants like El Torito and The Cheesecake Factory and local spots like Pinestripes at Hillsdale Shopping Center. She met Pastor through the restaurant industry, when he was helping a company open a restaurant in Daly City, where she was working.

"After we met, I used to come two times a week driving



Co-owner Edith Huamani holds up one of her favorite dishes on the menu, tallarin saltado (\$13), which she explains as a "Peruvian version of chow mein."



Owners Edith Huamani, left, and Alberto Pastor, right, at their restaurant in the San Mateo Food Mall.

from Santa Rosa to Daly City, an almost two-hour drive,” he said. “We started living together, and we are our own team — we had nobody else.”

Pastor started working in the food and beverage industry at 16 out of necessity. He said his family didn’t have money for him to buy lunch, so he took a job at McDonald’s, going to work at 6 a.m. and then staying in class until 9 p.m.

“We have struggled a little bit,” he said. “We have worked a lot, so this is like a dream that hasn’t been finalized.”

The Belmont couple had been saving up money for years, hoping to eventually open their own restaurant. They started selling street tacos around the corner from San Mateo Food Mall, but a nearby business called the cops on them, ending that business venture.

While Sara’s Kitchen has been open for nearly two months, the couple said the restaurant isn’t receiving enough business to be sustainable.

“Our savings are running low at a fast pace,” Pastor said. “We have

been patient, looking for catering events. Now we are in all the apps, and we have delivered flyers to the houses around.”

The catering menu for Sara’s Kitchen is very extensive, Huamani said, and people can reach out for catering requests via phone, text or WhatsApp at 707-623-2152 or by filling out the contact form on their website.

For Huamani and Pastor, Sara’s Kitchen isn’t about making money for themselves — they want to be profitable so they can give jobs to others in need of work and give back to low-income communities.

“When we talk about having a business and going forward, we never talk about luxury; we always talk about how I would like to go to Tijuana, go to a low-income neighborhood and be able to take toys, food...to give away, to do our part,” Pastor said. “And she feels the same but in Peru.”

The couple hopes they can one day expand out of the ghost kitchen and open their own brick-and-mortar restaurant.

“We want to give away all that we have inside, in our hearts,”

Sara’s Kitchen, 66 21st Ave., San Mateo; 707-623-2152, Instagram: @saraskitchen2025. Open Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Huamani said. “We want, we wish and we are putting all our efforts into our business to grow, so that one day, we will have people working and helping us. We want to give what we feel, to make them feel good and comfortable so that they don’t feel fear.” ■

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

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



Alberto Pastor, left, and Edith Huamani, right, put finishing touches on a plate of lomo saltado at Sara’s Kitchen.

BEAR GULCH NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE DUE TO PASS-THROUGH OF WHOLESALE SUPPLIER COST INCREASES

Beginning July 1, 2025, water bills of California Water Service (Cal Water) customers in the Bear Gulch District will reflect updated wholesale water charges by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA), which are incurred by the company. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the state agency that regulates Cal Water’s operations, has determined that expenses for wholesale water supplies are not under the company’s control, and that a pass-through of those costs to customers is just.

On or around June 25, 2025, Cal Water will file Advice Letter 2556 to request authority to *increase* its annual revenue in the Bear Gulch District by \$412,790, or 0.5%, due to these wholesale cost increases. Pending the CPUC’s review of Cal Water’s calculations, the rate changes will be effective on July 1, 2025. With the increase, a typical monthly bill for a Bear Gulch District residential customer with a 5/8” x 3/4” meter and who uses approximately 5,984 gallons (8 ccf) of water per month will increase by \$0.44, or 0.6%.

A copy of Advice Letter 2556 will be available online at www.calwater.com/rates-advice-letters (please select the Bear Gulch District from the drop-down menu), and may also be obtained from the company’s local office by calling (650) 561-9709. You may also contact the company’s headquarters by mailing the Rates Department at 1720 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95112-4598.

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

Responses and Protests

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

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

A response or protest must be made in writing and received by the CPUC’s Water Division by **July 17, 2025**, the end of the comment period. The response or protest should be either emailed to water.division@cpuc.ca.gov or mailed to Tariff Unit, Water Division, 3rd Floor, CPUC, 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102. On the same date the response or protest is sent to the Water Division, it must also be either emailed to cwsrates@calwater.com or mailed to Rates Department, California Water Service, 1720 North First St., San Jose, CA 95112.

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

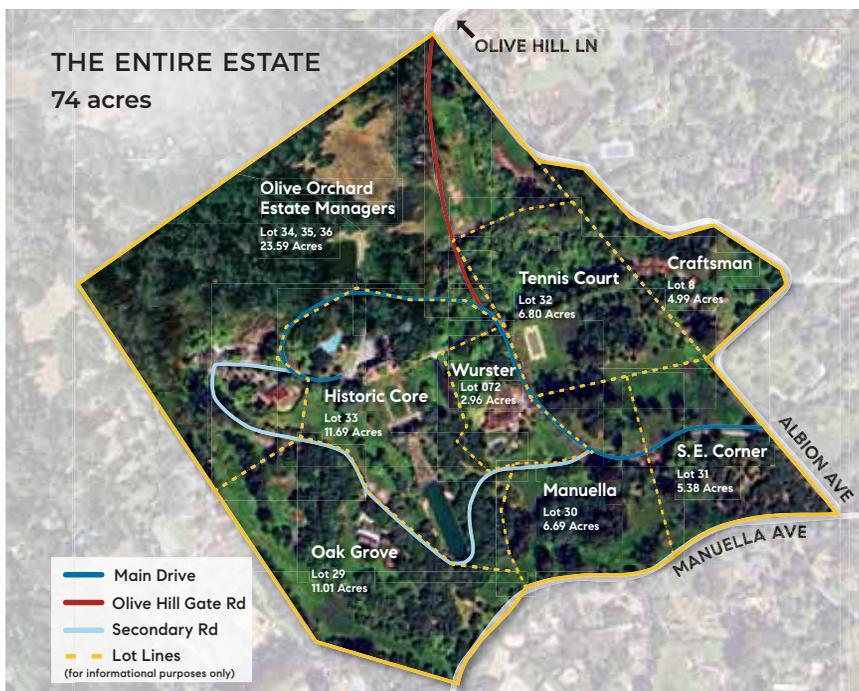
If you have not received a reply to your protest within 10 business days, contact Cal Water at (408) 367-8200 and ask for the Rates Department.

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