

The Almanac

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

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025 | VOL. 61 NO. 3



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Chris Stevens-Yu

Shooting for the sky

From laughter on city streets to mysteries hiding in plain sight, this year's photo contest winners showcase life's extraordinary angles. Flip to page 16 to see more, including "Roller King of Venice," crowned Best in Show in the 2025 Annual Photo Contest.

Authorities detain teen suspected of threatening Menlo-Atherton

Secure campus ordered for 4 schools

By Arden Margulis

A juvenile whose social media posts triggered secure campus orders at four local schools was being held in a medical facility for psychiatric treatment, according to police. On Sept. 10, Menlo-Atherton High School learned a former student posted "concerning content" that threatened violence in a social media post, causing secure campus orders at Menlo-Atherton, Carlmont High School in Belmont, the lower campus of Laurel Elementary School and Encinal Elementary School.

While the threat was specifically regarding Menlo-Atherton, police originally did not know whether the threat was targeting

Carlmont or Menlo-Atherton. Carlmont issued a secure campus order at the request of the Belmont Police Department as a precaution until police confirmed the threat was regarding Menlo-Atherton, Belmont police Lt. Pete Lotti said.

Two Menlo Park City School District campuses were also put on a secure campus order around 1 p.m. out of an "abundance of caution" due to their proximity to Menlo-Atherton, according to school officials. The order lasted until 2 p.m.

The Atherton Police Department detained the individual the same day the threats were made. While they have not been arrested, the individual is being held at a medical facility due to psychiatric

issues, according to Atherton police Cmdr. Dan Larsen.

The individual's status as of The Almanac's print deadline on Wednesday is unknown.

While Menlo-Atherton was on a secure campus order for more than an hour, Principal Karl Losekoot told the school community that there was no threat to the safety of students or staff.

"At no point was there ever an active threat or dangerous situation on campus. Once the individual was located and Atherton PD was able to investigate the threat directly, we lifted the secure campus alert," Losekoot said in an email to community members.

During a secure campus order,

See **JUVENILE**, page 12

Buck's founder turns filmmaker with Netflix documentary

'In Waves and War' to premiere on Netflix on Nov. 3

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Can one psychedelic compound heal severe cases of addiction, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety in just one weekend? "In Waves and War" is a new documentary that shares the story of three Navy SEAL veterans who heal from decades of war trauma with one psychedelic treatment — ibogaine and 5-MeO-DMT.

"In Waves and War," soon to be released on Netflix on Nov. 3, depicts the transformation of veterans, who suffered years of mental anguish from battlefield trauma and follows them through the psychedelic journey that ultimately, "gives them hope and perspective about what they've been through," said co-director Jon Shenk.

The idea for the film came from the mind of Jamis MacNiven, owner of Buck's Restaurant in Woodside, who pitched the movie to Hollywood nearly five years ago. Buck's has been the site for early stage meetings among today's Silicon Valley tech giants such as eBay, Tesla and Paypal — and now, a documentary.

MacNiven, an executive producer of the film, went to the University of California, Berkeley, in the 1960s and '70s during the psychedelic era. His first and only time using ibogaine was in college.

"Ibogaine has been likened to a trip to hell, and you have a life review where these images of your whole life pass in front of you over a 12- to 20-hour period, and you can re-edit that film of your life and come to grips with a lot of the horrors," MacNiven said.

Ibogaine comes from the bark of the iboga plant, native to central Africa. 5-MeO-DMT is secreted by the glands of the Colorado River toad. The combination of both results in a psychedelic effect that allows individuals to see their life in retrospect.

Some in the medical community urge caution with these powerful drugs. In 2021, Dutch researchers concluded that the potential for serious cardiac side effects made further study of the drug difficult. Subsequently, researchers have called for clinical trials to better understand the risks and rewards of using ibogaine to relieve trauma. Ibogaine is currently a Schedule I controlled substance in the United States and not approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration.

After taking the drug in 1970, MacNiven began searching for other users of ibogaine, a substance that he explained "had a profound effect" on him. Without the Internet and lack of articles on the drug, MacNiven had no luck finding others with the same experience.

It wasn't until the last 10 years that he finally met Dr. Martin Polanco, a mental health specialist using psychedelics to treat addiction in Mexico. He told MacNiven that he believed ibogaine could do more than treat addiction. In 2018, The Mission Within was created. It is a therapy program that provides supervised psychedelic therapy to veterans with a goal to prevent suicide.

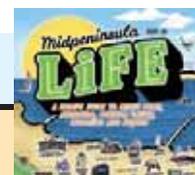
The 2024 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report found that there were

See **DOCUMENTARY**, page 12

INSIDE

MIDPENINSULA LIFE 2025

ARTSCENE 22 | FOOD & DRINK 25



We Are Buying

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Kyle Amundsen
After attending Art Center College of Design Kyle pursued a career in design and advertising that lead him to work at John Moran Auctioneers for 15 years. It was here he became fascinated with American & California Impressionist art, fine jewelry and diamonds. For the last 15 years Kyle has owned a company in Pasadena brokering estate jewelry, fine art, buying and selling diamonds & cutting diamonds.

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Hana Goble
Hana attended Gemological Institute of America after graduating from UC Riverside and has been passionate about antique jewelry for over a decade. Her deep interest in the history and craftsmanship of fine jewelry led her to work as a traveling buyer for a prominent estate jeweler, specializing in old-cut diamonds and signed pieces. She especially enjoys researching hallmarks and uncovering the history behind jewelry she encounters.

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Alan Bedwell
Alan grew up working in the family jewelry business in London. That store is still located in the prestigious Gray Antique Market today. It was here that Alan learned the trade of fine English and American silver, signed European vintage jewelry and Swiss watches. For the last 18 years Alan has been living in New York City and owns a business curating special pieces for stores all across the country.

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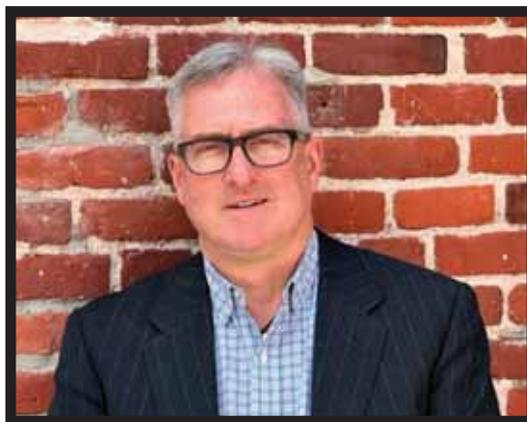
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Local News

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Arden Margulis

Celebrity hairstylist Vicki Casciola, left, and her business partner, Brandon Liberati, right, pose at the opening of their salon. They stand alongside Bravo reality star Mercedes "MJ" Javid and an unnamed attendee at the salon's grand opening in Menlo Park on Sept. 11.

Celebrity hair stylists bring star power with new Peninsula salon

'Menlo Park is the new L.A.'

By Arden Margulis

While Los Angeles is often seen as the destination for celebrity encounters and luxury haircuts, that experience has now arrived in Menlo Park.

Celebrity hairstylists Brandon Liberati and Vicki Casciola opened Starship Salon in Menlo Park on Sept. 12, bringing a mix of Hollywood glamour and a

welcoming, community-driven approach.

"If you watch Bravo, you know my work," Liberati said. He has worked on nearly every franchise on the network, starred on the Bravo series "Newlyweds" and appeared on "Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen" and RuPaul's "Drag U." His client roster includes Lady Gaga, Khloe Kardashian and Sarah Jessica Parker.

Casciola, who specializes in extensions, describes herself as the "Hair Gypsy" referring to her global career. "I travel literally around the world to make people look good and feel better, whether it is haircut, color or extensions," she said. The pair met years ago, collaborating around the country before deciding to put down roots in

See **SALON**, page 13

Fewer splash in Menlo Park pools despite new investments

Financial struggles continue

By Arden Margulis

Menlo Park's public pools attracted fewer swimmers this year amid the financial struggles of the city's pool operator.

A staff report presented to the City Council on Sept. 9 shows that summer attendance at Burgess Pool fell nearly 12% compared to 2024, while Belle Haven Pool visits declined about 3%. Together, the two facilities drew thousands fewer visitors

than the previous year, even as the city continues to invest heavily in maintaining and advertising them.

The downturn comes more than a year after the city celebrated the reopening of Belle Haven Pool as part of the new Belle Haven Community Campus. At the time, officials touted the project as a long-overdue equity investment for the neighborhood, which historically had less access to recreation amenities than central

Menlo Park.

This summer, the city helped Team Sheeper, the pools' contracted operator, with greater marketing efforts. Although not contractually obligated, the city funded a mailer to residents advertising the Belle Haven and Burgess pools and offering a one-time use coupon. Menlo Park did not pay for the costs associated with the coupon.

The decline in usage

See **POOLS**, page 12



Seeger Gray

A cyclist and a truck go over a speed hump that extends into the bike lane on Middle Avenue in Menlo Park on Sept. 16.

Menlo Park bike-lane changes spark safety concerns from parents

New speed bumps, tables on Middle Avenue face pushback

By Arden Margulis

Menlo Park installed speed humps and tables as part of the Middle Avenue Complete Streets project to improve pedestrian and biking safety. Now some cyclists are frustrated that the traffic-calming measures extend into the bike lanes making their route less safe.

"I understand the need to slow down cars, but I'm surprised that the bumps extend to the bike lanes ... Please consider removing the speed bumps in the bike lanes on Middle Avenue, as my daughters ride their bikes to get to school and I worry it's unsafe for them," Menlo Park resident Thuy Nguyen wrote in an email to the City Council.

The city installed three speed tables and two speed humps. Speed tables are raised crosswalks, and speed humps are gentler than speed bumps, which typically force drivers to slow nearly to a stop.

The city extended the speed humps into the bike lanes to prevent drivers from swerving into them to avoid the hump, said Menlo Park spokesperson Kendra Calvert. Vehicle lanes are 10 feet wide in each direction. In addition, the bike lanes are 5 feet wide and there is a 4.5-foot buffer between vehicles and bikes.

For the speed tables, city staff said raised crosswalks must

extend to the sidewalk to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"Speed bumps in bike lanes pose a serious risk to all cyclists, but especially to children on bikes and scooters, who are less aware of road dangers and more vulnerable to accidents. These bumps could easily cause falls and serious injuries," Las Lomitas parent Christine Arnould wrote in an email to the City Council.

She suggested the city should instead install a barrier between the bike and vehicle lanes.

The humps and tables have tapered edges to allow for a smoother ride and avoid discomfort, according to Calvert. So far, the city says it has observed slower and safer use of the avenue.

Although the speed humps and tables are already in place, work on the complete streets project will continue. New striping and flashing beacons at some crosswalks are scheduled for installation in October.

The city budgeted the project, which includes resurfacing the street and improvements to drainage and utility infrastructure, at \$1,857,400, with \$1.1 million funded by a grant from the San Mateo County Transportation Authority. ■

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

Author chronicles journey of mountain lion cubs

Community came together for voiceless

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The celebrated rescue of three mountain lion cubs in Portola Valley has now been chronicled in a newly published book titled, "Orphaned" by children's book author Rochelle Perucca. All proceeds from book sales will be donated to the Phoenix and Birmingham zoos, where the cubs now reside; over \$2,000 has been raised.

The story of the cubs goes back to mid-January, when a dead mountain lion was found in Portola Valley near Portola Road and Willowbrook Drive. From this moment, residents were on their toes about the possibility of the lion being the mother of three cubs captured in a security camera footage weeks before. In late January, all three cubs were spotted in a cul-de-sac on Grove Drive, where local residents worked together to keep them safe until wildlife officials arrived.

The cubs were taken to the Oakland Zoo before they were transported to their forever homes in Arizona and Alabama months later.

Early on, in the series of events, town historian Nancy Lund

proposed on PV Forum, the town's private social media platform, that someone should write a book about the mountain lion cubs. Perucca, who had previously published two children's books, reached out to Lund with an interest in writing the book.

"(This project) was made for me," said Perucca. "My heart opened. I really like being a voice for the wild, for all the beings that can't speak, trying to say, 'Please, respect me, honor me. Let's coexist.'"

Perucca, a former Rocky Mountain National Park ranger, said she was right on top of the story as it was all unraveling. She spent the months after the cubs' rescue speaking to 15 Portola Valley residents about their experiences with mountain lions, learning about what happened to the cubs and researching everything there is to know about the apex predator.

While Perucca was glad to be able to share the story through her book, she also learned about the harsh reality that mountain lions face against human development and traffic.

"It's really heartbreaking how we damage and hurt and harm



Courtesy Joanne Klebe

Rochelle Perucca, author of "Orphaned," a book about how the town of Portola Valley found and rescued three mountain lion cubs.

wildlife, and it's their home. We're imprisoning them and taking away their survival mechanisms," said Perucca.

She writes in her book, "However, these wild creatures, once so elusive, are becoming increasingly visible and more vulnerable."

"I think humans are afraid of their own vulnerability, let alone realizing that some deer or turkey is vulnerable," Perucca said. "I fear that some people today want control, and nature isn't meant to be controlled or changed by us."

Mountain lion mortality has increased with the growth of human development. The most common cause of death is by vehicle collisions, wildfires, rat poison and permitted killings after accusations of preying on livestock and pets, according to the Center of Biological Diversity.

On California roads, nearly 100 mountain lions and more than 48,000 deer are killed annually, according to a report by the University of California, Davis.

When it comes to coexistence, Perucca said she wants, "people to pause and be still and listen and when they feel the care that is instinctual, that they will move forward to help in whatever way they can as an individual."

The people of Portola Valley were commended by the Oakland Zoo for doing exactly that, "modeling community action of conservation and coexistence," said Oakland Zoo spokesperson Isabel Linares to The Almanac in March.

"It was a moment when our town was coming together as human beings and looking after another species in our environment and I thought it was a very special, important thing in time," said Lund.

In March, locals donated \$75,000 to the Oakland Zoo to support its conservation programs. Nine months later, the community is still continuing to support the cubs, hundreds of miles away from Portola Valley.

"What's really important is how this community came together with so much financial support, emotional support and care," said Perucca. "This is a very special, unique town."

On Sunday, Sept. 28 at 2 p.m., Perucca will be hosting an author talk on "Orphaned" at the Portola Valley Library. On October 26 at 1 p.m., a book launch will be held at The Sequoias in Portola Valley. ■

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Established 1965

The Almanac

Serving Menlo Park,
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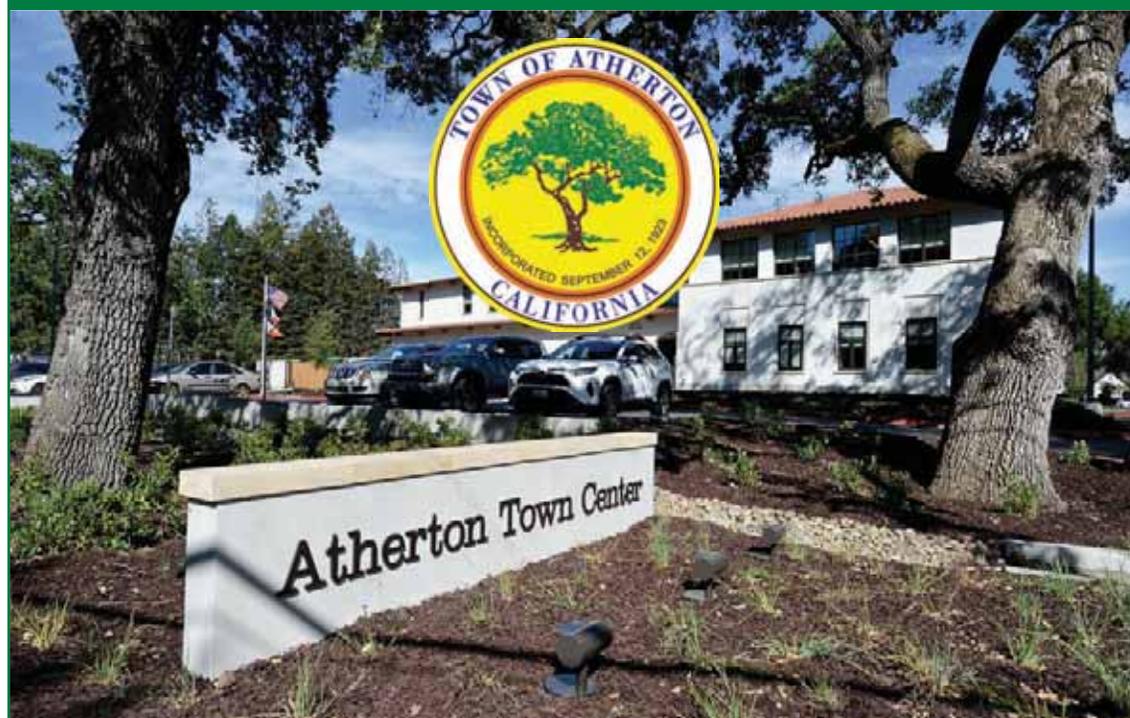


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East Palo Alto prepares to open its first dog park

City studies show longstanding need for updated park facilities

By Lisa Moreno

The East Palo Alto City Council moved forward on Sept. 16 with plans to create the city's first dog park at Martin Luther King Junior Park and improve local park lighting, camera and technology systems at other parks.

In a unanimous vote, the council allowed city staff to begin contracting out the work that is set to conclude in the summer of 2026, according to city documents.

Over the next year, the city plans to create a pilot dog park and install athletic field lighting at Daisy Lane park, implement updated audio visual systems at the Cooley Landing Educational Center and install scoreboards at Jack Farrell and MLK Jr. parks. It also plans to install new lighting and camera systems in Bell Street, Jack Farrell, MLK Jr. and Joel Davis parks.

"It's super exciting to see," Vice Mayor Mark Dinan said Tuesday evening. "I know the scoreboards in particular have been a sore point for a lot of the sports teams in East Palo Alto for over a decade."

Some improvements, like the pilot dog park and scoreboards, may be implemented quicker than the other items, but the timeline depends on when the work is contracted, Jessie Maran, project manager with a local consultant company, said Tuesday.

"We understand that this is a fast track effort, and we'll figure out the strategy that will get those priority improvements in place," she said.

The improvements come after the city council listed parks, recreation and community facilities as part of its 2025-26 priority list and allocated money to the items in June. Dinan was particularly interested in park improvements, pushing the city to create a dog

park and study the creation of a parks and recreation department during its priority setting meetings in the spring.

The new priority coincides with longstanding city efforts to improve local parks.

"With Council's recent decision, several projects that were requested during the 2023 Parks Master Plan process were given the green light to move forward," according to city documents. "Many of these projects pertain to the safety of our residents through new or improved lighting and added amenities that allow for greater use of our parks."

Staff cited community safety concerns and greater desires for amenities that have caused some residents to "avoid visiting their local parks," according to the 2023 report.

"If parks could be clean and well maintained and if the bathroom facilities could be open, clean and safe, that would be amazing!" wrote one resident in a 2023 park survey.

Other locals listed desires for more trees, walkable paths, public art and events, picnic tables and gyms.

East Palo Alto resident José Sánchez, who was walking his dog Eros at Martin Luther King Junior Park on Tuesday afternoon, said he can't wait for the new dog park to open. Over the years, he said he has seen people in East Palo Alto get more comfortable goign out and walking their dogs.

"I think that's what we need here in East Palo Alto," Sánchez said.

Staff used community feedback to envision a renovated MLK Jr. Park in 2023 with a dedicated baseball field, track, an amphitheater and performance space, outdoor fitness zones and a dog park among other amenities.

Previous plans to create the dog

park could help streamline the current effort, which will serve as a pilot, allowing city staff to monitor feedback and study its popularity.

Outside of Tuesday's park discussion, the city also moved forward plans to work with Sycamore Real Estate Investment, which is owned by Laurene Powell Jobs, to build a multi-use field with football, soccer and baseball striping, backstops and an encompassing eight-lane track.

Private donors have offered to pay over \$30 million to construct the athletic park on six acres of land adjacent to a proposed civic center at 2535 Pulgas Avenue.

City staff will continue to update the city council on its recent park improvements as it secures contracts. n

Visual Journalist Seeger Gray contributed to this report.

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

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



How Much Do Interest Rates Affect Real Estate?

Dear Monica: How much do interest rates affect residential real estate? **Janine G.**

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Contact me at monica@monicacorman.com: Office: 650-465-5971, COMPASS. WSJ Nationally Ranked. Real Trends Bay Area Top 100 Agents

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Offered by "Mothers Against Murder - MAM" in collaboration with the East Palo Alto Police Department for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer.

On September 7, 2019, officers responded to the 1800 block of E. Bayshore Road in East Palo Alto, where Victor Gomez-Rios was shot and killed while sitting in his vehicle. Through the investigation, detectives have identified Juan Carlos Solis as the suspect in this murder. Mothers Against Murder (MAM) (www.mothersagainstmurder.org), a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, based in the Bay Area Peninsula, in partnership with the East Palo Alto Police Department, is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to Solis' arrest and conviction.

Murder Suspect



JUAN CARLOS SOLIS
(Photograph from 2019)

Anyone with information is encouraged to call or text the East Palo Alto Police Department's anonymous tip line at (650) 409-6792 or by email at epa@tipnow.org; or our non-emergency line at (650) 321-1112.



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Providing compassionate support to help the silently grieving families of murder victims



Seeger Gray

East Palo Alto resident José Sánchez walks his dog, Eros, at Martin Luther King Junior Park in East Palo Alto on Sept. 16.

New Korean grocery store to open in East Palo Alto

Residents call for employment opportunities at Mega Mart

By Lisa Moreno

Mega Mart, a Korean grocery store chain, plans to open its largest Bay Area location at 1775 East Bayshore Road in East Palo Alto on Sept. 25, according to city staff, replacing a Target that closed over a year ago.

The 50,000 sq. ft. location is set to offer authentic Korean groceries, Korean beauty goods, a bakery, a takeout spot with hot food, dining space and a coffee bar, according to the grocery store's social media page.

About 100 staff would oversee daily operations and the store plans to hire approximately 150 employees total, including a trained security guard to monitor the store's interior, exterior and surrounding areas, according to the property application.

Locals expressed interest in more community engagement with Mega Mart staff to ensure the store prioritizes East Palo Alto residents in the hiring process.

"I haven't seen anything in the community," former city council member Larry Moody during



Lisa Moreno

Shoppers walk into East Palo Alto's Target in 2024 after the announcement that the store would close.

public comment period of a Planning Commission meeting on Sept. 8. "It's one thing to have a billboard outside of the retail center, but nothing in the community hubs, faith community, where people gather, talking about recruitment for opportunities of employment. That's very concerning to me."

The store has already hired about 100 people but it is unclear how many are East Palo Alto residents, said a representative with Mega Mart at the Monday meeting. It hired the group

through online job postings with a poster outside of the store listing the link.

"I know we have been hiring mostly locally. I did mention the online job openings but our team has been in the store and then if anyone came by with the application, we did an interview on site," the representative said. "They have been hiring that way too."

Planning commissioners expressed interest in Mega Mart broadening its reach to include more East Palo Alto residents,

which the representative agreed to do.

The closure of East Palo Alto's Target closure, as well as a CVS pharmacy inside the store, marked a significant loss in the community, leaving residents concerned about where to access basic necessities and prescriptions in the city.

More than seven years ago, the Target was the first to open in the city and its CVS was the only local commercial pharmacy — its closure left only one other in East Palo Alto.

Residents called for more transparency regarding the closure of the store, which Target representatives attributed to "underperformance."

Some public speakers and city staff expressed concerns about Mega Mart's loss prevention tactics, especially surrounding alcohol, but the store representative said it would not lock up its goods because of its unique layout.

"Staff actually took a tour of Mega Mart about a week or so ago and the way they've established the store is that it really is funneled toward the interior of

the store so it's not easy to take the alcohol and run out, so they have given it some thought," said East Palo Alto Planning Division Manager Elena Lee.

The store does not plan to use traditional aisles but a maze-style layout that goes in one direction, according to the Mega Mart representative.

"With respect to Target and Target leaving East Palo Alto, there were issues with loss prevention but apparently those were not the only issues. Target was looking for a way to get out period, not just exiting this market but several markets," said Commissioner Robert Sherrard.

Mega Mart currently operates two stores in California in Fremont and Sunnyvale and is in the process of opening two more locations in Dublin and La Miranda, according to East Palo Alto Planning Commission documents.

The store plans to operate the East Palo Alto location seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. ■

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

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County greenlights first-ever broad union labor agreement

Governs aspects of public works employment

By Miranda de Moraes

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors recently approved its first broad labor agreement with unions for public works projects in the county. Many local union workers offered enthusiastic support for the resolution at the board's regular meeting Sept. 8.

The agreement will kick in on July 1, 2026, and apply to all projects awarded over a five-year period that meet specific monetary thresholds, as outlined in

the contract. San Mateo County has over 100 affiliate unions and more than 90,000 members, according to Board President David Canepa.

The County and Building and Construction Trades Council landed on this Project Labor Agreement, which was sponsored by Canepa and Supervisor Noelia Corzo, to support the use of skilled labor, peacefully settle disputes, improve project safety and quality and stabilize wages and working conditions.

Project Labor Agreements can

provide "pathways into the middle class for veterans, women, people of color and others traditionally left behind by the construction industry," Canepa said.

Corzo is especially enthusiastic about the "uniformity" associated with this "pre-hire collective bargaining agreement," which, she believes, will yield "predictability" and "cost effectiveness."

"It means that we won't have to negotiate one-off PLAs for each project or building," she said. "Those who build our civic infrastructure will be taken care

of, so their families can continue to live with dignity."

Apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, as well as the hiring of military veterans, are other features of the agreement. Employees of a non-union contractor will not be obligated to join a union or pay dues as a condition of employment.

Projects awarded on or after July 1 with an estimated bid amount of \$3 million or more would apply. That required amount will drop steadily, by at least \$500,000, over the course of the four years

to follow, allowing for projects with an estimated bid as low as \$1 million or more to come in summer 2029. The California Construction Cost Index will help to dictate annual threshold adjustments from there.

Past Project Labor Agreements the county has used include the Maple Street Correctional Center and Cordilleras Mental Health Facility. ■

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Liccardo legislation seeks oversight to troop deployment

Silicon Valley congressman joins effort to demand more information on deployments

By Gennady Sheyner

Responding to recent moves by the White House to deploy National Guard troops in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., U.S. Rep. Sam Liccardo is leading an effort in Congress to require the president to submit a detailed report whenever such deployments occur.

Liccardo has been a persistent critic of President Donald Trump's decision in June to deploy troops to Los Angeles in the aftermath of protests over immigration raids. The White House asserted at the time that the troops were intended to address "numerous incidents of violence and disorder" in response to immigration enforcement.

Just hours after the National Guard arrived in Los Angeles on June 8, Liccardo led a delegation of activists, local officials and state elected leaders publicly denouncing the move in front of Palo Alto City Hall.

Liccardo argued at the event that the use of the military for domestic law enforcement "puts the nation on the precipice of authoritarian rule" and characterized the White House move as "reckless militarization." Earlier this month, a federal judge concurred with the view and concluded that the deployment of troops to Los Angeles violated the Posse Comitatus Act, a 19th century law that prohibits the use of the military for domestic peacekeeping purposes.

Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Calif., who has also strongly opposed

the White House actions, is leading the effort to increase oversight for deployments of National Guard troops for events that are not related to natural disasters. Dubbed the SUN Act, the bill would require the White House to provide a legal basis and clearly state objectives for troop deployments; to detail the interactions between civilians and members of the National Guard; and certify that the deployment did not interfere with the National Guard's ability to assist with natural disaster response.

Liccardo, whose district includes Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Mountain View, is spearheading companion legislation in the House of Representatives, according to a statement from his office.

Liccardo said in the statement

that even despite the court ruling, about 300 National Guard troops remain in Los Angeles. Trump had also deployed the National Guard to Washington, D.C. and has announced plans to do the same in Memphis.

The former mayor of San José noted that he had never called on the National Guard to fight crime, opting to rely on the city's experts — its police force — to work with the community to lower the homicide rate.

"As President Trump deploys troops to LA, DC, and other US cities, he wastes taxpayer dollars, undermines the critical work of local police departments, and assaults our constitutional order," Liccardo said. "Americans deserve to know how their money is being spent. The SUN Act shines a light on

what these deployments mean for our communities and wallets, and I'm proud to work with Senator Padilla to advance this legislation.

"If there's nothing to hide, let the light in."

Padilla's legislation is cosponsored by U.S. Sens. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., Dick Durbin, D-Ill., Adam Schiff, D-Calif., and Chris Van Hollen, D-Md. ■

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CA passes ICE mask ban in closing days of legislative session

Senate Bill 627 moves ahead despite opposition from Republicans, police unions

By CalMatters

After a summer characterized by masked federal agents detaining immigrants in Los Angeles, the California Legislature passed two measures on Sept. 11 that seek to force law enforcement officers to identify themselves.

Senate Bills 627 and 805 were among the most controversial to pass in the final days of this year's legislative session. They would ban local, out-of-state and federal law enforcement officers from wearing face coverings, as well as require officers to be readily identifiable, respectively.

State Sen. Scott Wiener, a San Francisco Democrat and lead author of SB 627: "As we go through this horrific era of mass deportation and a Supreme Court that allows

this authoritarian regime to do whatever the heck it wants to do — including straight-up racial profiling of Latino people — California should lead and put a stop to the secret police."

The measures passed along party lines, with Republicans in opposition. Police unions also oppose the proposed mask ban.

GOP Sen. Tony Strickland of Huntington Beach, in a statement: "This is a reckless anti-law enforcement proposal that puts law enforcement officers and their families at real risk, undermining the safety of the men and women who bravely protect our communities."

Though today should be the last day of session, lawmakers are expected to extend their work through Saturday to give final votes to some last-minute deals they struck this week. Those

that pass will head to Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk for his signature or veto, and those that don't are dead for the year.

Other proposals awaiting Newsom's decision, include:

- **Regulate companion bots:** SB 243 would put tighter regulations on online chatbots powered by artificial intelligence to limit their risks on young users.
- **Higher car dealer fees:** SB 791 would raise the cap car dealers can charge to process documents from \$85 to \$260.
- **Wage boost for incarcerated firefighters:** AB 247 would increase the minimum wage for incarcerated firefighters fighting active wildfires to \$7.25 an hour.
- **Abortion pill protections:** AB 260 would help protect California pharmacists,

doctors and hospitals from penalties for dispensing the abortion pill mifepristone to out-of-state patients, and remove the names of patients and providers from abortion medication prescriptions.

- **Kill mute swans:** AB 764 would make it easier for hunters and landowners to kill the invasive species.
- **Ban plastic glitter:** AB 823 would enforce a first-in-the-nation ban on the sale of personal care products that contain plastic glitter or plastic microbeads.
- **Save the bees:** AB 1042 would create a health program for managed honey bees that would provide grants to beekeepers, farmers and others for projects and research supporting the struggling population. ■

CRIME BRIEFS

Atherton burglary

At approximately 9 p.m. on Sept. 13, an individual allegedly broke into a home on Holbrook Lane by smashing a rear glass door to burglarize the residence. The crime was not reported until Sept. 15. It is still under investigation. The Atherton Police Department is asking residents in the area to check security cameras and report any leads to the department at (650) 688-6500. The police department also reminded residents to take precautions to prevent burglaries.

Menlo Park shoplifting

Taj Abrams, 20, was arrested at the intersection of Merrill Street and Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park on Sept. 15 for allegedly shoplifting over \$950 of goods from a business. He was charged with felony grand theft, felony second degree burglary of a commercial business and misdemeanor obstruction or resisting a peace officer.

He was arraigned on Sept. 16.

—Arden Margulis



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DOCUMENTARY

continued from page 1

over 6,400 veteran suicides in 2022 with an average of 17.6 veteran dying by suicide per day.

The Mission Within was funded by local business leaders, MacNiven, Roxy Rapp, Bill Draper, and Jim Warren, working with Polanco and U.S. Navy SEAL veteran Marcus Capone and his wife Amber, who are featured in the film. The Capones had become strong advocates for ibogaine therapy, said MacNiven.

The film takes the audience through the experiences of the veterans, who have witnessed death in combat, battled injuries and struggled with survivors' guilt. The veterans' stories dive deep into personal histories and showcase their traumatic memories of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. The film also brings the audience into the mind of the veterans as they

undergo the ibogaine treatment through animations.

"These guys take a pledge to each other when they join the military, not to ever leave a soldier behind," said Shenk. "And in a way, they're still doing that. Even though they're now retired, they're still committed to staying with each other and helping each other through the wounds that go beyond the battlefield and now within their everyday lives."

The future of psychedelic therapy

The success of ibogaine therapy through programs such as The Mission Within has inspired Texas lawmakers to pass laws that fund psychedelic research. In June, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law a bill that invests \$50 million into research on ibogaine as a treatment for neurological disorders and opioid addiction.

"No other government agencies have done anything like

that," said MacNiven.

There is also ongoing research done by the Stanford Brain Stimulation Lab on the use of ibogaine to treat traumatic brain injuries in military veterans. The lab, featured in the film, captured the before and after of 30 veterans in their research, majority of whom were struggling with PTSD and suicidal ideation.

Stanford researchers found life changing results in their studies. Results showed that participants who had initially had an average disability rating of 30 on the assessment scale, indicating moderate disability, had improved to a rating of 5 just one month after the ibogaine treatment, displaying no disability.

Results also showed that "treatment participants experienced 88% average reductions of in PTSD symptoms, 87% in depression symptoms and 81% in anxiety symptoms."

MacNiven described ibogaine as a "powerful tool."

"Ibogaine has the ability to completely eliminate the addictive response. Heroin addicts that have been using heroin for 20 to 30 years can take ibogaine



Courtesy Actual Films

U.S. Navy SEAL veterans, Marcus Capone and DJ Shipley comfort Matty Roberts as he undergoes the 5-Meo-DMT treatment.

one time and never use (heroin) again," he said.

MacNiven attributes his creativity to his ibogaine and other psychedelic experiences. His artistic abilities and whimsical sense is strongly reflected in the treasure trove that is Buck's Restaurant.

"I felt like my ability to see the world expanded and led to a lot of creativity that I've been able to bring forward in my life," he said.

With ibogaine's significant effect on various mental health conditions, MacNiven and

Shenk both believe that the rise of psychedelics as a form of treatment will continue to progress and grow, especially with the upcoming release of the film.

"Psychedelics are experiencing somewhat of a renaissance in the way Americans think about them," said Shenk. "There's a lot of hope and indication that psychedelics will continue to play a more important role in mental health treatment." ■

Email Staff Writer

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Terry L. Griffith

August 17, 1943 – August 9, 2025

Terry Griffith passed away on August 9 after a prolonged illness. He was a resident of Menlo Park for 45 years.

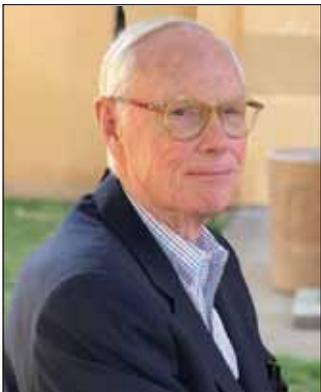
Terry was born to Joseph and Mary Griffith in Covington, KY, and was raised in Cincinnati, OH. After graduating from high school, where he excelled in football and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, he enlisted in the Air Force, where he served tours of duty in Thailand and at the Strategic Air Command in Nebraska. Following his military duty, he completed Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Business Administration.

Terry was an accomplished businessman. He was recruited from a public accounting firm in Cincinnati to join Picker X-ray in South San Francisco as Controller. He held several senior corporate financial positions, including at GE Financial, software developer SDI, and Fox & Carskadon Financial in Menlo Park, CA, before venturing out as a business owner. He owned F.A.R. Performance Automotive in Mountain View, and later owned AAMCO Transmission & Total Car Care shops in Mountain View and Campbell. He enjoyed fly fishing and was a member of the San Francisco Peninsula Fly Fishers. In his earlier years he was also a licensed private pilot, and a recreational sailor and skier. He was fond of animals, and they were naturally drawn to him.

Family was the center of Terry's life. He was a dedicated Little League coach for his son and loved nothing more than being with his grandchildren, who were his neighbors for a time in Menlo Park, and also in Reno, where he relocated in 2020 to enjoy their growing up.

Terry is survived by his son, Matt (Erin), grandchildren Olivia and Liam, and wife, Christine. As Chris says, they were "...married for 53 years, but not long enough."

A private memorial service will be held in Menlo Park, where he and his wife raised their son, going to Stanford sporting events, and enjoying enduring friendships. A friends and neighbors celebration of Terry's life will be held on Saturday, September 27, from 3-5 p.m. at 356 Hedge Road, Menlo Park.



PAID OBITUARY

POOLS

continued from page 5

complicates an already tense debate over aquatics funding. Menlo Park pays to operate and maintain both pools, while its private partner staffs lifeguards and runs programming. The arrangement has been fraught in recent years as the operator has asked for more city support, citing rising labor, insurance and maintenance costs.

Payments from users and subcontractors are supposed to fund the operations and provide revenue to the city through a revenue share. Team Sheeper says due to increased expenses with the new Belle Haven pool and less users than expected, it has been put in a

tough financial position and lost nearly \$200,000 year-to-date from its Menlo Park operations as of the end of August.

Scholarships for swim lessons, funded by the Beyond Barriers Athletic Foundation, rose 66% this summer. That boost helped expand access for low-income families but did not offset the broader trend of declining pool traffic.

If the city does not make a "do-or-die" decision by increasing funding for the operator or cutting hours, Team Sheeper says it will leave the city. The city council directed city staff to finalize a plan to provide additional funding to keep Team Sheeper afloat. ■

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

JUVENILE

continued from page 1

school instruction continues but classroom doors are locked and people must stay inside the classrooms.

The school received an anonymous tip on Sept. 10 through its See Something, Say Something tip line that reported an individual was making a threat against Menlo-Atherton.

Following the tip, Atherton police officers secured Menlo-Atherton's perimeter while law enforcement located the individual. The secure campus order issued by the school was lifted at approximately 2 p.m.

The suspect is currently a student at an unidentified local school. The Belmont Police Department did not say if they are a student at Carlmont.

The Atherton Police Department was still actively investigating the incident as of Sept. 12. ■

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

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SALON

continued from page 5

Menlo Park.

“Me and Brandon started our journey about 10 or 15 years ago. Because we worked so much together, he was bringing me out here for extensions ... and Brandon was like, ‘We could make this permanent. This is like a business that everybody wants,’” Casciola said.

The opening event on Sept. 11 was attended by stars from across the area and the country, including Mercedes “MJ” Javid, who starred in the Bravo hit series “Shahs of Sunset,” Steve Young, former San Francisco 49ers quarterback, and members of the Go-Go’s rock band.

For both stylists, Starship is about more than just hair. “Menlo Park is getting more Michelin-starred restaurants, cute boutiques and there’s a bunch of salons. But what they didn’t have was that ‘third space’ experience, like a place where not only they come in and we make them look good but they want to be there,” Casciola said. “It feels welcoming. It feels calm. It feels like a safe space.”

“Even if you come in here and get a hair wash and a blowout, you leave here feeling better inside and out,” she said.

Liberati echoed that vision. “We’re honored that people come to us, not the other way around,” he said. “When people come to us, they should expect to be taken out of this world, like we’re really doing more than just hair, we are your ship to the stars.”

Though he is now known for his Hollywood clientele, Liberati’s career in California began locally at Juut in Palo Alto. “(Working at Juut) introduced me to a bunch of people from this area, which were from a lot of the startups at the time like Facebook and Google... that’s actually who started taking me to L.A. and then it got me into celebrity hair,” he said.

“The Bay Area prepared me for everything that I would encounter in L.A. I actually feel like people here have the taste but without the attitude. They appreciate good hair but I don’t get the attitude that I get in L.A.,” he added.

Even while building his celebrity roster, Liberati continued returning to the Peninsula one week each month to work with longtime clients from his early career. “Menlo Park is the new L.A.,” he said. “I’m really excited to be here. I love the neighborhood. This is a little gem in the middle of the region. You have great restaurants and great salons.”

Looking ahead, Liberati and Casciola plan to deepen their ties to the community through collaborations with nearby businesses and local charities. For them, Starship is as much about



Arden Margulis

The exterior of Starship Salon in Menlo Park on Sept. 11 before its opening the next day.

celebrating Menlo Park as it is about creating star-quality style.

Appointments can be made on Starship’s website: starship-salon.org. A cut and style session with Liberati costs \$250 however the salon does other services including extensions,

keratin treatments and coloring. Starship’s team currently includes three staff members in addition to Liberati and Casciola, and the salon is hiring more stylists. ■

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

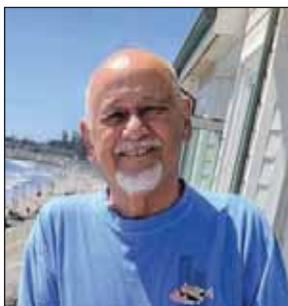
Adrian Enrico Ledda

July 7, 1938 – September 13, 2025

Graveside funeral services for Mr. Adrian Ledda, 87, of Carthage, Texas were held Thursday, September 18, 2025, at Odd Fellows Cemetery. Burial followed under the direction of Hawthorn Funeral Home.

Mr. Adrian Enrico Ledda was born July 4, 1938, in Redwood City, California. He passed this life September 13, 2025, in Tyler, Texas.

Adrian was born to the marriage of Jewel Crowell and Adriano Enrico Ledda, Sr. His father was a Filipino immigrant and met his mother at a military dance. He was raised and schooled in California graduating from Menlo Atherton High School and attended the College of San Mateo.



Mr. Ledda began working in the restaurant industry at the age of 14 on Mother’s Day and began his career in management at 18. He would come to own and operate his own restaurants Adrian’s, and Stagecoach and a liquor store, Brown Jug.

Adrian married Rita Jane Herring on Easter Sunday April 14, 1974, and they celebrated 51 years of marriage recently. He and Rita were members of the First Christian Church of Carthage and attend the First Methodist of Carthage and St. Matthews Episcopal Church in San Mateo, CA.

Adrian loved sports of any kind, cooking and serving his food to family and friends. He was a lover of all animals and spent many joyful years training German Shepherd dogs to the highest levels of tracking, obedience and protection in a sport now called, International Working Dog Trials. He competed at regional and national championships with six dogs all from his kennel, Vom Haus Ledda German Shepherd Dogs.

Adrian is preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Marian Crecilius, Virginia and John Bloom and Sandy Herron.

Mr. Ledda is survived by his loving wife Rita Ledda of Carthage; daughter, Stacey McGowen of Willow Glen, CA; son, David Ledda of San Jose, CA; sister Bobbie Keller and husband Bob of Sunnyvale, CA; granddaughter, Nicole and her children, Grace and Hunter; grandchildren, Cole and Amber and their mother, Amanda; numerous other relatives and a host of friends.

An online guestbook may be signed at: www.hawthornfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY



Patrick Dancer

October 29, 1997 – September 9, 2025

Patrick Dancer, 27, of Woodside, California, died on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, following a motorcycle accident on Highway 280, at 5pm, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Born on October 29, 1997, in Redwood City, Patrick spent most of his life in Woodside, where he was known for his adventurous spirit and his love of the outdoors. He was a true thrill-seeker who embraced life fully, whether exploring new places or pursuing new challenges. He was an avid outdoor sportsman: water skiing, wakeboarding, snowboarding, mountain biking, skateboarding, golf, camping, and more. His other love was cars and motorcycles, and he greatly enjoyed going to car meets and motorcycle rides through the Santa Cruz Mountains or days at the track.

Patrick had a deep love for animals of all kinds — dogs, cats, rabbits, horses, birds, and chickens — finding joy and companionship in their presence. Friends and loved ones remember him for his great sense of humor, kindness, and generosity, qualities that drew people to him and left a lasting impression on everyone he met.

Patrick attended Woodside Elementary from Pre-K through 8th grade. His friends from Woodside Elementary stayed lifelong friends. Patrick also attended Serra High School and graduated from Lydian Academy High School. After high school he attended college at University of Florida in Gainesville. For the past four years he had been working at Compass Real Estate, alongside his father.

Patrick is survived by his loving parents, Kathi and Scott Dancer of Woodside; his sister, Nicole Dancer of Schilde, Belgium; his grandmothers Marge Dancer of Granite Bay and Heidi Poppenberg of Redwood City; aunts, uncles and cousins Kerstin and Mark Spangner with their sons Erik and Filip, and Krista and Eric Mack with their daughters Tilly and Cassidy. He was preceded in death by his beloved grandfathers Karl Poppenberg (Opa) and Pat Dancer (Grandpa) and also his loving aunt Sandra Dancer who passed recently on June 30. His cherished dog “Jimble” will be lovingly cared for by Patrick’s mother and father. He will also be deeply missed by his extended family and many friends.

On Monday, September 22, there will be a viewing at Skylawn Memorial in the Pacific Chapel from 4pm to 7pm, 888 Life Mark Road, Half Moon Bay. www.skylawnmemorialpark.com/obituaries/patrick-dancer/obituary

On Tuesday, September 23, at 11am, services will be held at Woodside Village Church, 3154 Woodside Road, Woodside, to honor Patrick’s life.

A procession to the burial will follow the church service via Cañada Road alongside the reservoir. The burial will be at Skylawn Memorial at 2pm.

Following will be a reception at The Mountain Terrace, 17285 Skyline Blvd, Woodside at 3pm to celebrate Patrick’s life.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to The American Heart Association in his memory. www.heart.org



PAID OBITUARY



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Shooting for the sky

Photo contest winners capture joys, mysteries of everyday life

By The Six Fifty staff

To capture their magic moments, this year's shooting stars ventured far and wide.

This year's winning entry in the portrait category came from a village in Ghana, to where the photographer journeyed to bury his grandmother. The top wildlife entry came from the "Monkey City" of Thailand, where we watch a group of Rhesus macaques gently welcome a tiny and fragile new member to their midst.

The photos in this year's contest skillfully capture both motion and emotion. You can feel in the frantic stare of a Kyrgyz horse the tightly focused frenzy of the Nomadic games. You can

also envision the roller king of Venice Beach leaping toward the sky moments before his triumph is forever captured by the photographer beneath him.

Some images can be found closer to home.

There is the understated bliss of mother turning 50 and the mysterious ray of light that beams out through a crack on Market Street. Equally enigmatic is the maze of water channels that a young photographer spotted during a trip to Santa Monica this year and then proceeded to illuminate in a stark and eerie black-and-white composition. These photos challenge us with questions and make us work for answers.

And much like in year's past, they also reflect the spirit of the moment – the feelings of wanderlust, hope and wonder experienced by Peninsula residents. We were pleased to receive 1,228 submissions this year from 256 photographers who live, work or study in the 650 area code, capturing a breadth of styles, subjects, sights and sensations. We were proud to announce earlier the adult and youth winners in six categories, continuing a tradition that we established more than two decades ago.

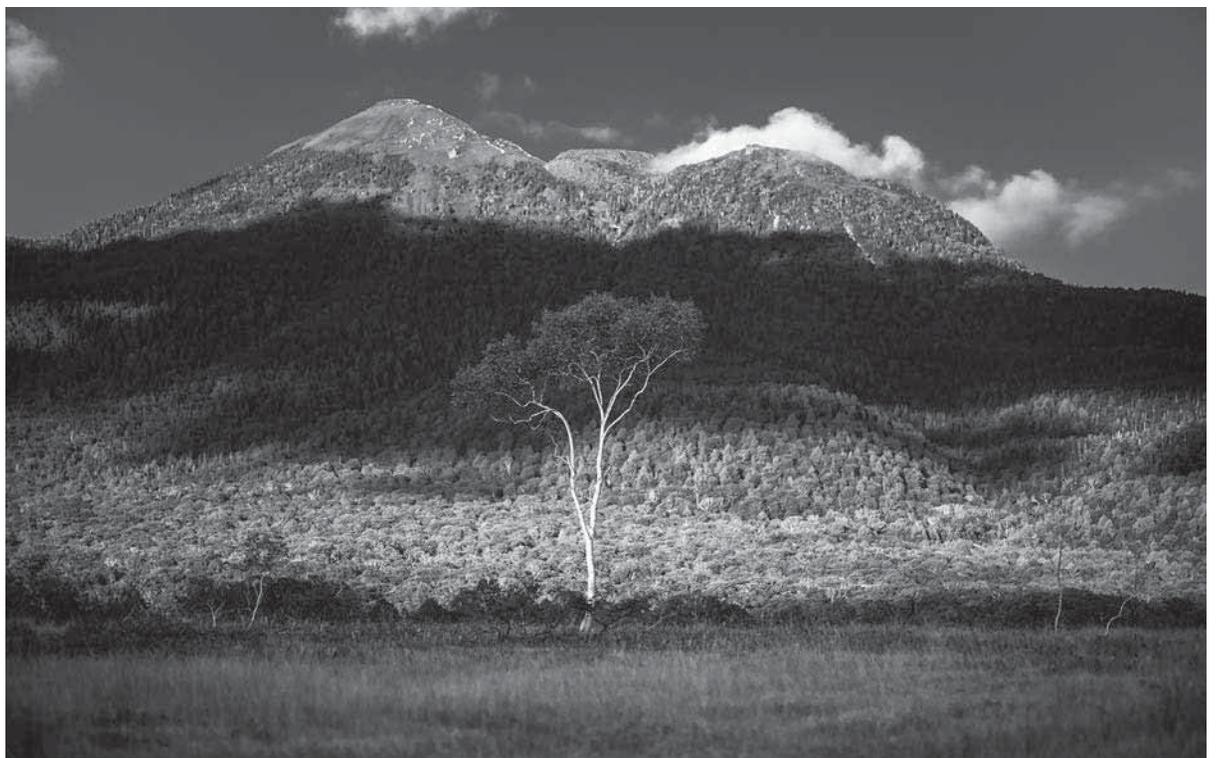
All the winning entries are now exhibited at the Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road. The exhibition will continue until Dec. 7. ■

Landscapes

Adult winner: "Solitary Light" Yusake Naraki



"I had been walking since before dawn through Oze, a vast high-elevation wetland, and by late day I was completely exhausted. Then I saw this lone birch, illuminated by the low evening sun, and photographed it like a portrait using a classic Nikon 85mm f/1.4 lens."



Judge's comments

"This stark and beautiful black-and-white photograph stands out for its clear composition and strong contrast. In the foreground, a lone birch tree's trunk and branches are bathed in sunlight, symbolizing strength and solitude. Behind it, mountains rise, their rugged edges softened by drifting clouds. A shadow stretches from the tree toward the mountains, subtly connecting the two.

The tree's fading leaves blend into the shadow, linking light and dark. The black-and-white format enhances the contrast, drawing attention to textures, shapes and the balance of light and space. The image feels thoughtfully composed, offering a calm, reflective moment for the viewer."

— Donna J. Wan

Youth Winner: "The Window" Josh Cohen



"I took this photo while backpacking in Point Reyes, and the contrast between the foggy trail and dark foreground was super interesting and mysterious."



Judge's comments

"I love the use of framing and leading lines in this photo. Looking out at a path winding through the fog from the darkness of the deeper forest conveys a sense of eeriness, but also a hint of hope and direction."

— Anna Hoch-Kenney

Portraits



Adult Winner:
“Solace The Cards”
Moses Kinnah



“This photo was taken during a trip to bury my grandmother in Shama, Ghana. My grandmother’s lineage led us back to the ancestral village of Krobo, Shama, Ghana, where I had the honor of taking portraits of various people living there. The portrait of this young woman provided myself and hopefully other viewers a feeling of strength, empathy, hope, and resilience.”

Youth Winner:
“Seen and Unseen”
Jeremy (Kae) Huang



“I used a sheer fabric, broken mirror, and acrylic sheets over a portrait light to create this photo. I was experimenting with broken mirrors and colors as a light source. It’s a really great photo in my opinion because it really creates the question: what is going on? What is her emotion? It makes the viewer expand and create their own meanings of the photo.”



Judge’s comments

“The subject’s facial expression is complex — her eyes hint that she is on the brink of either breaking into a full smile, or running out of patience with everything. The sweat glistening on her chin and the scars on her cheekbones (seemingly intentionally placed?) reveal hints of her life. The head wrap and the one earring seem to allude to the iconic painting ‘Girl with a Pearl Earring.’” — *Anna Hoch-Kenney*

Judge’s comments

“Photographs often work best when there is a ‘point of focus’ that, with help of light, lines (real and imagined) and composition, the viewer’s eye is drawn to. In this case it is literally the subject’s brightly lit eye, looking directly at the viewer. This image, with its powerful mood, begs for interpretation. The expression of the subject, their very direct stare, the obscuring aspect of the fabric, the disjointedness created by the glass and the overall darkness with the isolation of the model create a wonderful mystery, leaving questions unanswered only to be guessed at or assumed.” — *Neal Menschel*

Wildlife

Adult Winner:
“The youngest member of the family”

Mark Kay

“Lopburi, Thailand, is nicknamed Monkey city because the Rhesus Macaques have literally taken over the city. Watching their behavior and comparing to what we do as humans was fascinating. Shot with a Sony A7RV and 70-200mm/2.8 GM OSS II lens at f3.2.”



Youth Winner:
“Hope”

Reece Fang

“This photo was taken during a trip to Indonesia, into the monkey forest. I took the photo from bottom up, enlarging the amount of dread, and risen hope in the photo.”

Judge’s comments

“This photograph, even without its obvious anthropomorphic theme, is all about character and gesture. The hands on the baby monkey and an outstretched arm to one of the adults, the angle of the head of the monkey closest to the juvenile, the look on the face of the relatively tiny and fragile-looking monkey — all of it reflects on the caring and empathy of the group. The emotion is tender, warm-hearted and thoughtful. This is also a great example of the photographer’s timing, hitting the shutter as all of those gestures come together at once!” — *Neal Menschel*

Judge’s comments

“This striking photograph captures a monkey looking upward, its face conveying a mix of awe and uncertainty. The object of its attention is unseen, with a vague reflection in its eyes adding to the mystery. This uncertainty sparks curiosity about what lies just outside the frame. The monkey’s expression draws us in, making us feel connected to its emotion, whether it’s fascination or unease. By focusing on this singular moment, the image offers a simple yet powerful portrayal of a fleeting experience that feels both personal and universal.” — *Donna J. Wan*

Moments

Adult winner:
“Roller King of Venice”
 (BEST IN SHOW)

Chris Stevens-Yu

“I met Joshua last summer in Venice Beach and knew I wanted to photograph him as he had that special quality to him. I photographed from the ground as he jumped and then moved out of the way as fast as I could.”



Judge’s comments

“This photo is striking in so many ways — the motion it captures, the body language of the skater, the heights of what they must be feeling in the air. This photo is the definition of the decisive moment, but it also shows an athlete’s character and personality while playing — perhaps unknowingly — with the optical illusion of the skater soaring above the trees in the background.”

— Anna Hoch-Kenney

Youth Winner:
“Wish”

Archer Viola

“I captured this photograph of my mother at her 50th birthday celebration. I used my personal monochrome style and high contrast to further amplify her emotion and details.”



Judge’s comments

“What a beautiful, intimate moment! In this photograph, I see a woman taking an intentional moment to contemplate all the complex feelings that accompany getting older, acknowledging the passing of time and smiling with those thoughts as she prepares to celebrate with her loved ones. It’s truly touching. The light of the candles and the sparkles on her sash create beautiful and celebratory contrast against the slightly underexposed image.”

— Anna Hoch-Kenney

Abstract



Adult winner:
“Renovation”
Cole Leahy

“The geometric structure of this scene, captured outdoors at night on Market Street, called out to me. I enjoy the

ambiguity of the image, which some viewers may see as an indoor scene with daylight streaming in from outside.”

Judge’s comments

“This photograph has a strong composition, with light and windows drawing the viewer’s eye to the center. The building’s illuminated facade adds a subtle, spooky character to the scene. Though under renovation, the covered windows and obscured structure create mystery, leaving us to wonder what lies behind the plastic sheeting.

The eerie glow and uncertainty give the image a haunting, cinematic feel. The limited palette enhances the stark atmosphere, emphasizing contrast and form. More than just documenting a space in transition, the photograph transforms it into something unsettling and poetic.”

— Donna J. Wan



Youth Winner:
“River Routes”
John Fan

“I took this photo on Feb. 14, on a short trip to Santa Monica. I was walking down the beach when I saw a drain outlet with

really interesting textures and shapes left behind by the combination of seawater and the water from the drain. I was inspired by abstract drone photos and decided to edit the photograph in black and white to really showcase the water lines.”

Judge’s comments

“Abstracts, as this one, often leave questions and are open to multiple interpretations, depending on the viewer. The patterns and the texture in this image are compositionally balanced and offer the viewer multiple openings for exploration in a search for meaning — or is it simply a wonderfully graphic image? This photograph works very well either way. At first glance it reminds me of a nighttime cityscape taken from a jet as it approaches an urban runway/airport. On closer examination one realizes they are photographic highlights, but of what? The mystery continues.”

— Neal Menschel

Travel

**Adult Winner:
"The Tempest"**

Bill Newsome

"Horse wrestling competition (Er Enish in the Kyrgyz tongue), one of the popular Nomad games on the central Asian steppe, in which the skill of the horses is just as important as the riders. The emotive force of the photograph is intensely captured in the eyes of the horses, both of whom seem to be staring directly at the camera from 50 feet away. The crucifix composition (horses vertical, boys horizontal) is set off by the lovely backdrop of Song Kul lake and surrounding mountains."



**Youth Winner:
"A picture within"**

"Sometimes, all it takes is a shift in perspective to uncover hidden beauty. What seems like an ordinary wall reveals an entire secret world when viewed through the right frame. Behind this small window, a quiet alleyway unfolds—a timeless scene tucked away behind the plain boring wall."



Judge's comments

"This photograph captures a perfect moment in time, with two wrestlers mid-action at the center, their energy drawing immediate attention. Surrounding them, horses gaze directly at the camera, adding a surprising, humorous touch. The composition is balanced, guiding the viewer through textures, expressions and movement. The mix of timing and alignment is rare, making this moment feel both unplanned and perfectly arranged. It's an instant that can never be repeated, showcasing a rare harmony of elements that make the image unique and memorable."

— Donna J. Wan

Judge's comments

"The famous street photographer Elliott Erwitt shares photographic advice with one word, "Notice!" We often walk down colorful, exotic streets, lift our camera (or smartphone) and snap a photo to share our amazement of the colors and old architecture, thinking that those two things will be enough to awe the friend and viewer. That is how we fall into lazy cliches.

The photographer here avoided that by looking at the scene and working at recording it in a more personal way. Framing the view with the beautiful, brightly colored and weathered door/window frame, the photographer took the ordinary, predictable visual recording of the street scene and turned it into a much more interesting view of the street. Nice color and composition, unusual view and a great sense of place presented in a refreshing manner."

— Neal Menschel

Honorable mentions

ADULT

- Landscapes:** "Fire Skys," Richard Rosenthal
- Portraits:** "Girl Power," Chris Stevens-Yu
- Wildlife:** "Cranes on a Snowy Morning," Sue Borg
- Moments:** "Pause," Cole Leahy
- Abstract:** "Frozen in Time," Julia Hallee
- Travel:** "Traveling through the Tunnel of Lights," Renee Clark

YOUTH

- Landscapes:** "Dusk," Reece Feng
- Portraits:** "A Difficult Story," John Fan
- Wildlife:** "Almost There!," Elliot Chai
- Moments:** "Cinderello," Zoe Wacker
- Abstract:** "Pathway of Possibilities," Mikaela Li
- Travel:** "Watching from the Wall," Ben Fair

SEE MORE ONLINE

All of the winning photos, plus additional ones chosen for exhibition, have been posted at AlmanacNews.com/the-650-explore-the-peninsula.

Peninsula Photo Contest Judges

Neal Menschel

Covering third-world politics, development and environmental issues, Neal Menschel has photographed seven U.S. presidents and numerous world leaders. He served as a staff photographer for the Anchorage Daily News and director of photography for the Christian Science Monitor. He also freelanced for The New York Times, Newsweek, MIT, Tufts, People, Geo, Front Line, Yankee, corporate clients and other publications. Additionally, Menschel instructed documentary photography at Boston University, directed photography for the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies and taught at Stanford University.

Donna J. Wan

Donna J. Wan is a fine-art photographer living in the Bay Area. She earned her BA and MBA from Stanford University and MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. Her work has been exhibited internationally, including at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Museum of Photographic Arts; New Mexico Museum of Art; and Museum for Sepulkralkultur, Germany. Awards include Critical Mass Top 50, The CENTER Project Launch and Gallerist's Choice, Lucie Foundation/APA

Scholarship and the Kolga International Award. Her work has been featured in The New York Times Style Magazine, WIRED.com, PDN, Feature Shoot and the San Francisco Chronicle. She has also lectured at UCLA and UC Berkeley. She is represented by Rick Wester Fine Art in New York.

Anna Hoch-Kenney

Anna Hoch-Kenney is a documentary-style photographer based in Pacifica, California. She most recently worked as the staff photojournalist for Embarcadero Media Foundation (The Almanac, Mountain View Voice, Palo Alto Weekly and Redwood City Pulse), where she covered everything from City Council meetings to human interest features. Prior to that, she worked for the Coastside News Group, serving communities along California's San Mateo County coast. Anna also works as a freelance photographer, documenting weddings, family milestones and everyday moments. Her work has appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle, SF Gate and El Tecolote. She is currently pursuing her master's degree at the Stanford Graduate School of Journalism.

Peninsula Photo Contest Acknowledgements

The Peninsula Photo Contest is hosted by the Palo Alto Weekly, Palo Alto Online and The Six Fifty. Thank you to our Peninsula Photo Contest partner, Palo Alto Art Center, and to the judges, without whom this contest would not be possible.

The Best in Show winner was awarded \$500; adult winners were awarded \$200 each; and youth winners were awarded \$100 each. First-place winners received memberships at the Palo Alto Art Center.





779 HOLLY OAK DRIVE PALO ALTO



BRIGHT AND INVITING EICHLER GEM

Bright and fresh, this classic Eichler sits on a tree-lined street and showcases the timeless design elements that define the genre. Signature features are everywhere you turn, from the welcoming open-air atrium that offers a versatile space to relax or entertain to interior details like paneled ceilings, radiant heated floors, globe light fixtures, and expansive walls of glass that create a warm, inviting feel rooted in mid-century style. The open floorplan features a living room with fireplace, a dining area, and a chef-worthy kitchen with high-end appliances from Wolf, Sub-Zero, and Fisher & Paykel. Four bedrooms include a spacious primary suite, the backyard provides a tranquil setting ideal for outdoor enjoyment, and the carpeted garage adds flexible space for a gym or home office. Conveniently located near parks, Midtown shopping, Caltrain, and 101, this home is also served by acclaimed schools including Palo Verde Elementary, JLS Middle, and Gunn High (buyer to verify eligibility).

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Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team

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OPEN HOUSE

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

5OakForest.com

Listed at \$5,188,000

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Marching on

By Karla Kane

When playwright Lauren Gunderson was in middle school, a production of “Little Women” provided her one of her first acting opportunities.

“I played Jo March, of course,” she said with a laugh. “It just meant so much to me.” Since its publication more than a century ago, Louisa May Alcott’s semiautobiographical novel “Little Women” has become a coming-of-age classic and a source of numerous adaptations, from graphic novels to major motion pictures. Now, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley is presenting Gunderson’s own new stage version of the American Civil War-era tale.

TheatreWorks co-commissioned “Louisa May Alcott’s Little Women,” along with Northlight Theatre (Skokie, Illinois), City Theatre Company (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) and People’s Light (Malvern, Pennsylvania), and the show has been undergoing a rolling world premiere. When commissioning it, the theater companies were seeking “a version that felt like what they love about the book, which happened to align with what I loved,” Gunderson told this news organization.

“Little Women,” she said, remains evergreen and popular in part because of its representations of womanhood in different forms, and its portrayal of “ferocious sisterhood.”

“If you haven’t read it in a while, you might think it’s sort of a sweet, gentle, domestic story,” Gunderson said. “The truth is, these sisters are vivacious; they are rebellious; they are loving to each other but not always kind; they are spicy as hell.”

Of course the show features the March sisters — sensible Meg; daring Jo; shy Beth; and sassy Amy — and some of their other nearest and dearests. But Gunderson’s new play, as the title suggests, also introduces audiences to their creator, Alcott herself, on whom Jo was modeled. In TheatreWorks’ production, Elissa Beth Stebbins plays the dual role of Jo and Alcott.



“I always love things that give us a peek into the creative process. And so to get to know both Louisa and Jo, and the connection between the two of them, the ‘whys’ behind the creativity, the reasons she wrote it, and who she was as a person, that, to me, is just, it’s an added gift,” Stebbins said. “You get the story, and you get more.”

Stebbins has been a fan of “Little Women” since childhood, growing up in the South Bay watching the 1990s film version starring Winona Ryder. Coming from a large family herself, she will draw on that experience when portraying Alcott and her fictional counterpart.

“The story is wide; she gets to change, and the people around her get to change, and they get to learn and be complicated and make mistakes,” Stebbins said of Jo. “And the family dynamics are so beautiful.”

When taking on such a well-known character, “I can’t think about the way that people might come in with things they want, or how they’ve imagined her,” Stebbins said. “I just try as much as I can to bring my humanity to it, and that’s what’s going to ground it — not anyone else’s interpretation, not anyone else’s expectation, but, ‘What do I have in me that’s true in the same way that the character is true?’”

While as a writer Gunderson naturally relates to Jo, she said all the characters resonate. As a mother of two, she now sometimes sees herself in Marmee, the March family matriarch, in



Courtesy Tracy Martin

Above: Elissa Beth Stebbins plays dual roles as heroine Jo March and as Jo’s creator, author Louisa May Alcott, in “Louisa May Alcott’s Little Women.” Left: Lauren Gunderson has been one of the nation’s most-produced playwrights of the last decade, according to American Theatre magazine.

ways in which she never did in her younger days. She said she’s deeply enjoyed every previous adaptation she’s encountered, and when it came to creating her own, “I really wanted it to be spicy, and moving, and I wanted it to be romantic and enchanting. It needed to be all those things to feel like it was worthy of adapting again,” she said. She also wanted to highlight the text itself, by including not just dialogue from the book but some internal exposition as well.

“We get access to this interiority that Louisa May Alcott writes so beautifully and, frankly, humorously and sarcastically,” she said. “I really wanted to honor the literary quality that you would miss if you weren’t reading the book. There is a great responsibility to tell it accurately but also uniquely.”

The chemistry in a company is essential to any show, but perhaps especially to a close-knit family story like “Little Women,” and Stebbins, who works with TheatreWorks frequently, including in a production of Gunderson and Margot Melcon’s “Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley” last year, said she was looking forward to reuniting with some cast members and working

with others for the first time. The rest of the cast includes Emily Ota, Lauren Hart, Sharon Shao, Cathleen Riddley, Max Tachis and George Psarras, with TheatreWorks’ Artistic Director Giovanna Sardelli at the helm as director.

Gunderson, according to American Theatre magazine, has been one of the nation’s most-produced playwrights in the past decade (Mountain View’s Pear Theatre will stage her “Ada and the Engine,” about Ada Lovelace, in November). She’s recently relocated to the United Kingdom for the next few years but was long based in San Francisco and looks forward to continuing her relationship with TheatreWorks.

“TheatreWorks is one of my Bay Area homes and champions, so I’m ever excited and ever grateful to work there,” she said.

Her plays often involve interesting and strong characters from literature or history, and said she hopes audiences leave her plays feeling like they’ve learned something and wanting to learn more, making “Little Women” a fitting addition to her body of work.

“I love theater that sort of does two things. One, time travel. We get to go across centuries ... I love

TheatreWorks stages world premiere of Lauren Gunderson’s new adaptation of “Little Women,” which honors the enduring story of the March sisters — and its author

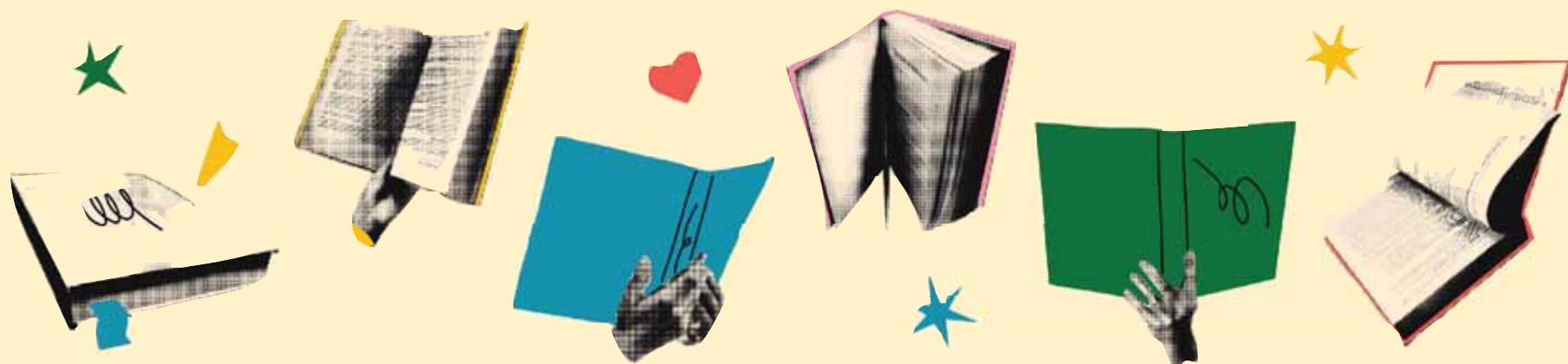
theater that transports,” she said. “I also love theater that centers women in complexity. That’s part of why I love this story. Every sister is so different from each other but you see them in each other as well.” ■

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

“Louisa May Alcott’s Little Women,” Sept. 24-Oct. 10, at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View; \$49-\$89; theatreworks.org.

CORRECTION

In the story “A season for fans” in the Sept. 12 issue, the caption for the Code:ART festival incorrectly listed the dates for when the festival’s exhibits will be on display. Code:ART’s urban intervention exhibits will be on display Oct. 16-18 and the 3D projections at Palo Alto City Hall will be on display Oct. 16-25. The Almanac regrets the error.



A miracle on El Camino

Kepler's Books celebrates its 70th anniversary and a still-evolving legacy

By Heather Zimmerman

In its 70 years, countless books have passed through the doors of Peninsula institution Kepler's Books and so has roughly the same number of political leaders, scientists, artists and cultural luminaries — and for some of these now big names, the store was instrumental in their start.

Founder Roy Kepler, an anti-war activist, opened a small bookstore bearing his name at 935 El Camino Real on May 14, 1955. The store helped support the pacifist movement, and proved pioneering in other ways, as it was one of the first to sell paperbacks, making books more affordable, especially to the students drawn to the store.

Now that once small store is celebrating its 70th anniversary and a multifaceted, still-evolving legacy.

"It feels like a miracle in today's day and age, to be celebrating such a key milestone anniversary of this endangered species called independent bookstores," said Kepler's Community Engagement Officer and board member Praveen Madan.

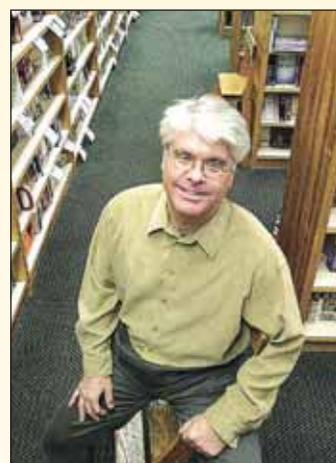
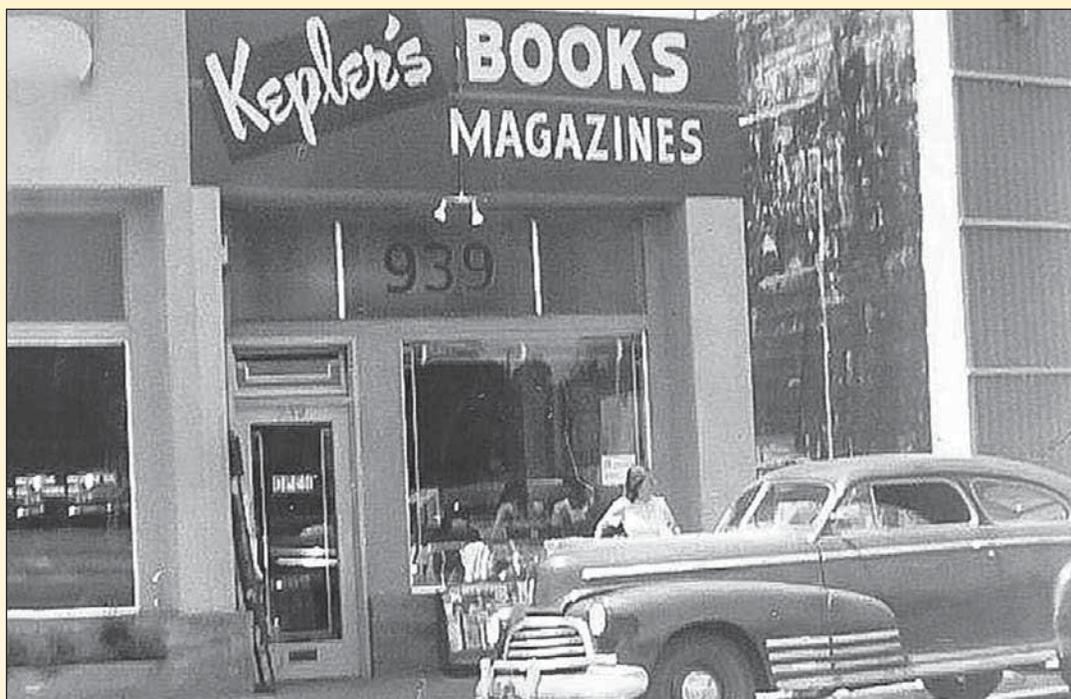
By the time Roy Kepler moved the store to 825 El Camino Real in 1959, it was growing into a cultural hub.

Kepler's attracted young musicians like future Grateful Dead frontman Jerry Garcia and frequent band collaborator Robert Hunter, counterculture novelist Ken Kesey and musician and activist Joan Baez.

The store relocated twice more, but always stayed in Menlo Park. In 1981, Kepler's moved to Victoria Lane shopping center on El Camino, and in 1989, set up shop in its current location at 1010 El Camino, in the Menlo Center.

In 1980, Roy Kepler's son, Clark Kepler, took over management of the store. Roy Kepler died in 1994.

Kepler's marked its 50th



anniversary in spring of 2005, but in late August, the store abruptly shuttered. The store's longstanding cultural clout made the closure national news, with the New York Times reporting on it.

The community rallied and raised funds, and Kepler's reopened in October 2005.

Madan stepped into a leadership role around 2012, following the retirement of Clark Kepler, when the store also transitioned to a hybrid business model, split between a for-profit bookstore and a nonprofit foundation that hosts author events, literary



Above: Crowds gather to purchase books at Kepler's re-opening on Oct. 8, 2005. Courtesy Kainaz Amaria. Left: Clark Kepler, who took over managing the store from his father, Roy, is seen inside Kepler's bookstore in spring 2005, just before the store's 50th anniversary. Photo by Norbert von der Groeben. Top: Kepler's Books' first location was at 939 El Camino Real, next to the Guild Theatre, which was then a movie theater. The store's facade is seen here in a photo dated July 1955, not long after Roy Kepler opened the store on May 14, 1955. Courtesy Kepler's Books.

seminars, book clubs and more.

He said that in recent years, Kepler's has survived some particularly steep hurdles: The ongoing loss of business to online retail and the much-anticipated death of print media, which did not materialize

exactly as expected.

"Books have survived — that alone is a miracle, because very few people could have seen that 10 years ago. And then I think the other part of the miracle is that Kepler's just continues to become even more of this

vibrant space for our community and our ideas and books and bringing people together," Madan said.

The hybrid model was one of the first of its kind, he said, noting that the concept has found a strong footing in the bookselling community.

"There's about 40 bookstores now nationally that are replicating that and copying that in different ways. So the fact that we started something here that's touching and benefiting other bookstores from other communities, is also something we feel really grateful for," he said.

True to the store's roots as a gathering place, Kepler's has also found a way to build a community around its unique hybrid model. This largely online group, Reimagining Bookstores, brings together bookstore owners, authors and publishers, to focus on keeping community bookstores sustainable.

While the hybrid model has worked well, Madan said that a long-term goal for the future of Kepler's will be someday transitioning to 100% nonprofit, to enable paying higher wages to employees.

Kepler's Books will celebrate its 70th anniversary with a block party on Sept. 20, with local food vendors, music from Peninsula rockers Effie Zilch, a photo booth, children's activities and of course, a big cake. Baez will be on hand Oct. 29 for a benefit event that also marks Kepler's anniversary.

For additional photos from Kepler's history, visit almanacnews.com/arts-culture. ■

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

The block party takes place Sept. 20, 2-5 p.m., at Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; free; keplers.org.

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. M-295628

The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):
MAGIC CLEANING SERVICES
1885 E. BAYSHORE RD. SPC #66
E. Palo Alto CA., 94303
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:
10/17/2023

REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):

OLGA LILIA GUTIERREZ
1885 E. Bayshore Rd. SPC #66
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303
ALBA JUDITH SEVILLADESIERRA
1271 Poplar Ave. Apt. #410D
Sunnyvale CA, 94086
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY Co-Partners.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on August 28 2025.
(ALM Sep 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2025)

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No.:

25-290107 A.P.N.: 055-480-320 Property Address.: 515 SANDLEWOOD ST. MENLO PARK CA, 94025 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED MAY 04, 2007. 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. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. The property described heretofore is being sold "as is". The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, tees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor(s): JUAN C. MENDOZA AND ELISABETH DOMINGUEZ Duly Appointed Trustee: Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, & Crane, LLP DEED OF TRUST Recorded on May 18, 2007 at Instrument No 2007-077641 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of SAN MATEO County, California Sale Date: 10/10/2025 Sale Time: 1:00 PM Sale Location: At the Marshall Street entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94061 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$286,688.44 (Estimated) Street Address or other common designation of real property: 515 SANDLEWOOD ST, MENLO PARK, CA 94025. See Legal Description - Exhibit "A" attached here to and made a part hereof. LEGAL DESCRIPTION - EXHIBIT A THE LAND REFERRED TO IS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, CITY OF MENLO PARK, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT 32, AND THE DESIGNATED REMAINDER PARCEL AS SHOWN ON THAT CERTAIN MAP

ENTITLED HAMILTON PARK, CITY OF MENLO PARK, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, WHICH MAP FILED FOR RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF SAN MATEO COUNTY ON MAY 17, 2006 IN BOOK 134 OF MAPS, AT PAGES 24-28. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. 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. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDER(S): 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(S): 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 (866-684-2727) or visit the website <http://www.servicelinkasap.com> using the file number assigned to this case 25-29U107. 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. 1. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend (he scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT(S): Effective January 1, 2021, you may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to California Civil Code Section 2924m. 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 (866-684-2727) or visit the website <http://www.servicelinkasap.com>, using the file number assigned to this case 25-290107 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. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid & Crane, LLP Date: 09/10/2025 By: Marisol Nagata, Esq. Authorized Signatory 13010 Morris

Road, Suite 450 Alpharetta, GA 30004 Phone: 858-997-1304 SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT [HTTP://WWW.SERVICELINKASAP.COM](http://WWW.SERVICELINKASAP.COM). FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (866-684-2727). The above-named trustee may be acting as a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained may be used for that purpose. CA DPF1 Debt Collection License # 1 1461-99; NMLS ID 2591653. To the extent your original obligation was discharged or is subject to an automatic stay of bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code, this notice is for compliance and/or informational purposes only and does not constitute an attempt to collect a debt or to impose personal liability for such obligation. However, a secured party retains rights under its security instrument, including the right to foreclose its lien. A-4852200 09/19/2025, 09/26/2025, 10/03/2025 (ALM Sep 19, 26 and Oct 3, 2025)

AERO AESTHETICS DETAILING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: FBN719429

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) AERO AESTHETICS DETAILING , located at 1250 Aviation Ave / Suite 250-V , San Jose, CA 95110.
Registered owner(s):
AERO AD, LLC
1051 Santa Cruz Ave #1
Menlo Park, CA 94025
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/15/2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 03, 2025.
(ALM Sep 19, 26, Oct 3 and 10, 2025)

CLAY'S HAULING CLAY'S HAULING & JUNK REMOVAL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-301331

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CLAY'S HAULING , 2.) CLAY'S HAULING & JUNK REMOVAL , located at 784 ALTA VISTA DR, PACIFICA, CA 94044.
Registered owner(s):
CLAYTON RUSSELL TALLMAN
784 ALTA VISTA DR
PACIFICA, CA 94044
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/08/2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 11, 2025.
(ALM Aug 29, Sep 5, 12 and 19, 2025)

RONY'S DREAM CONSTRUCTION FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-301496

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) RONY'S DREAM CONSTRUCTION , located at 15 S Broadway Apt. 7, Millbrae, CA 94030, San Mateo County. Mailing Address: 1875 Mission Street STE 103 #308, San Francisco, CA 94103.
Registered owner(s):
RONY WILFREDO RODRIGUEZ
15 S Broadway Apt. 7
Millbrae, CA 94030
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 August 29, 2025.
(ALM Sep 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2025)

CENTURY 21 MASTERS LUXURY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-301137

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CENTURY 21 MASTERS LUXURY , located

at 26305 Jefferson Ave, Suite G&H, Murrieta, CA 92562.
Registered owner(s):
FULL REALTY SERVICES, INC.
26305 Jefferson Ave, Suite G&H
Murrieta, CA 92562
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 17, 2025.
(ALM Aug 29, Sep 5, 12 and 19, 2025)

MAGIC CLEANING SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-301483

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) MAGIC CLEANING SERVICES , located at 1885 E. Bayshore RD. SPC#66, E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
OLGA LILIA GUTIERREZ
1885 E. Bayshore Rd. SPC#66
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
FRANCISCA SILVANA FRANCO
1885 E. Bayshore Rd. SPC #66
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: Copartners.
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 August 28, 2025.
(ALM Sep 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2025)

CAMCO FURNACE CAMCO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-301621

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CAMCO FURNACE , 2.) CAMCO , located at 1017 Bransten Rd, San Carlos, CA 94070.
Registered owner(s):
CONCEPTS & METHODS CO INC
1017 Bransten Rd
San Carlos, CA 94070
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 12/10/1992.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 11, 2025.
(ALM Sep 19, 26, Oct 3 and 10, 2025)

FRANKS AUTO SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-301502

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) FRANKS AUTO SERVICES , located at 701 Harbor Blvd, Belmont, CA 94002.
Registered owner(s):
FAHED FRANKIE EID
701 Harbor Blvd
Belmont, CA 94002
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 29, 2025.
(ALM Sep 12, 19, 26 and Oct 3, 2025)

REDWOOD CITY ART STUDIOS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-301431

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) REDWOOD CITY ART STUDIOS , located at 643 Scott Ave, Redwood City, CA 94063.
Registered owner(s):
RITA MELAMUD
643 Scott Ave
Redwood City, CA 94063
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 August 22, 2025.
(ALM Sep 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2025)

EIRENIKON PRESS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-301470

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) EIRENIKON PRESS, located at 250 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MATTHEW SANFORD HORWITZ
250 Oak Grove Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
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 August 27, 2025.
(ALM Sep 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2025)

TASTEBUDS LECHON FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-301333

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) TASTEBUDS LECHON , located at 169 San Bruno Ave, San Bruno, CA 94066. Mailing Address: 2321 Oakmont Drive San Bruno, CA 94066.
Registered owner(s):
CHON LE INC.
2321 Oakmont Drive
San Bruno, CA 94066
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 11, 2025.
(ALM Aug 29, Sep 5, 12 and 19, 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-06055
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Thomas Greenberg and Julie Sherman filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: SOPHIA BESS GREENBERG TO KYLE MAX GREENBERG
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: 10-15-25, 9:00 AM, Southern Division 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: 08/14/2025
Stephanie Garratt
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Sep 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2025)

The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.

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

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

Food & Drink



This monthly sale is a treasure trove of historic, whimsical and practical cookbooks – all for a very low price

Story by Adrienne Mitchel
Photos by Tâm Vũ

Learn how to cook with bugs, incorporate Coca-Cola into all sorts of dishes and even make an (unofficial) Harry Potter cauldron cake in the pages of cookbooks stocked at a Friends of the Palo Alto Library (FOPAL) book sale.

Each month, about 300 cookbooks are donated to the nonprofit organization, where volunteers sort, price and shelve books with the goal of getting them back into the community. Most cookbooks are \$3-\$8, and profits go toward the Palo Alto City Library, helping to fund programs, new books and e-books.

“Coming here is actually like a hidden gem,” said Amy Rosenberg, a FOPAL

volunteer. “You would think that the community, based on the donations, is a foodie community, is a cooking community...People really don’t know you can come here and get \$60 cookbooks for \$5 or a 1929 refrigerator cookbook or funny gifts.”

Cookbooks are priced between \$2-\$15, with paperback books as low as \$2 and hardbacks as low as \$3, according to Michele Kasper, FOPAL’s cookbook section co-manager.

But beyond the gag gifts, such as cookbooks touting “Creative Cooking with Aluminum Foil” or “The New Joys of Jell-O,” there’s a lot of history to be found in the pages.

FOPAL is currently listing on eBay an American 1954 first edition of “The Alice B. Toklas Cook Book” by Alice B. Toklas for \$99 — a much cheaper rate than other sellers, who are listing it anywhere from \$180-\$1,188, according to Young-Jeh Oh, an eBay high-value lister for FOPAL.

What’s particularly notable about this first edition is the publisher removed Toklas’ recipe for hashish fudge, which calls for “a bunch of canibus sativa” and describes it as “the food of Paradise.” These brownies are even referred to in the 1968 rom-com “I Love You, Alice B. Toklas.”

FOPAL has close to 3,000 books listed on eBay, most of which are priced at \$50



Friends of the Palo Alto Library,
Cubberley Community Center,
4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto;
Instagram: @friendsofthepaloaltolibrary.



Above: Hundreds of cookbooks are available for affordable prices at Friends of the Palo Alto Library’s monthly book sales. Top: A line forms outside of the main room at Friends of the Palo Alto Library for those eagerly awaiting the monthly book sale.

or more. But just like its in-person sales, books are priced at half the standard value.

The most valuable cookbook FOPAL has sold on eBay was a first edition, first printing of “What Mrs. Fisher Knows About Old Southern Cooking” about six years ago. The cookbook was created by a formerly enslaved African American who was emancipated after the Civil War and moved to San Francisco with her husband, who was a picklemaker. Since Abby Fisher could not write, the cookbook was made through dictation.

Its selling price? \$1,300.

But it’s not just the high-value books with a lot of history. Plenty of \$2 books feature Depression-era recipes (including “Kitchen Fun: A Cook Book for Children”) or are stuffed with

See **BOOK SALE**, page 26



Above: Shoppers look through cookbooks at the Friends of the Palo Alto Library book sale. Below: A queue forms outside of the main room at the Friends of the Palo Alto Library, located at the Cubberly Community Center.

BOOK SALE

continued from page 25

handwritten recipes from previous owners. A cookbook from 1863 even discusses how to talk to your maids and staff.

“So many metaphors for what’s going on in the moment and the trends,” Rosenberg said.

And if you’re looking for more modern cookbooks, there’s plenty of those too. The most common books found at FOPAL book sales are from Williams-Sonoma, Ina Garten, Julia Child, Jacques Pépin and Cook’s Illustrated, according to Kasper.

“If a book’s been really, really popular, you can bet that we’re going to get a lot of them in at some point,” Kasper said.

About 40%-50% of cookbooks are sold each month, estimated Kasper. After

two months without being sold, books that are in nice condition go to Palo Alto City Library’s FOPAL stores, located at the Downtown Library, Mitchell Park Library and Rinconada Library.

The books that aren’t up to standard go to the bargain room and have another chance to be sold at a cheaper price. Saturday bargain room sales offer paperbacks for \$1 and hardbacks for \$2. Books not sold on Saturday get carried over to Sunday, when buyers can bring a grocery bag and fill it with as many books as they want for \$5.

Beginning at 4 p.m. on Sunday, nonprofits and teachers can take as many books as they want for free. On Monday from 6-8 p.m., any remaining books are completely free for anyone in the community (there’s even a regular who contacts shipping containers to see if

they have extra room and sends books to Kenya.) If any books remain, they are sent to a paper mill in Oregon to reprocess into paper.

“One time I asked someone, ‘Is the goal to sell books or make money?’ And the answer was ‘Yes.’ That’s why we price them the way we do,” said Susan Light, an eBay high-value lister.

FOPAL started in 1938 and makes about \$700,000 a year before accounting for expenses. Apart from a manager who oversees volunteers, the nonprofit is completely volunteer-run.

“I tell people, ‘There are three reasons to volunteer here,’” Light said. “The first is because you’re helping the community. The second is because you get to meet nice people. And the third is because you get access to all the books there. If you see a book you like, you can

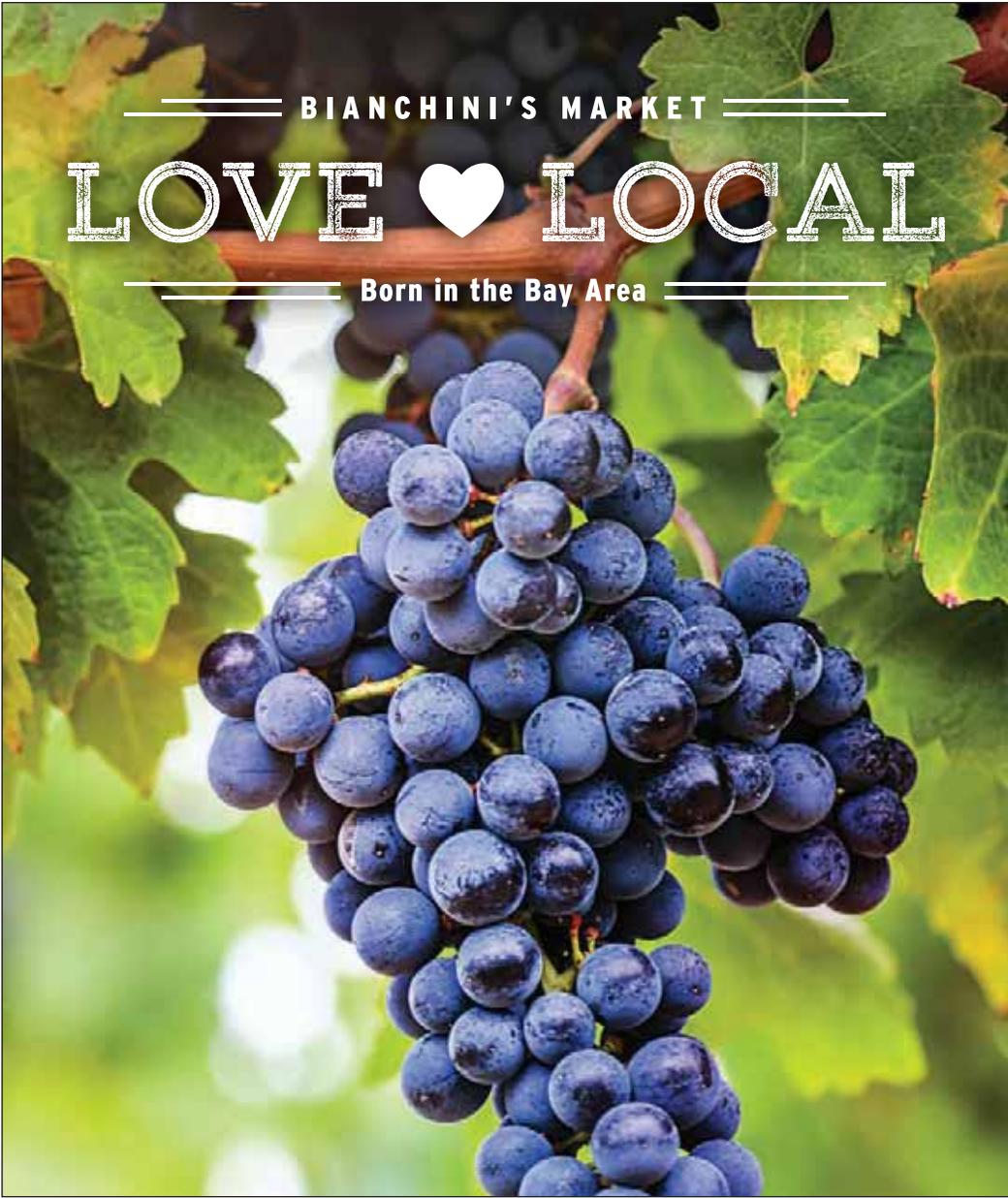
get it before the sale.”

FOPAL’s next book sale will be Oct. 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Oct. 12 from 1-4 p.m. at the Cubberly Community Center. On Oct. 11, the main room will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the bargain room from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the children’s room from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ■

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.





BIANCHINI'S MARKET

LOVE ♥ LOCAL

Born in the Bay Area



**THINK LOCAL,
SHOP LOCAL,
STAY LOCAL,
LOVE LOCAL**

September is Love Local Month at Bianchini's Market!

Celebrate with us as we embrace the local lifestyle by supporting our community.

For over 50 years, we've partnered with local farms and producers to bring you farm-fresh produce, all-natural meats, fresh seafood, fine wines, craft beers, premium cheeses, and more. Discover the best of local at Bianchini's and join us in supporting our neighbors.

**JOIN US FOR OUR
TASTE LOCAL FOOD FESTIVAL!**

**BIANCHINI'S MARKET
SAN CARLOS**

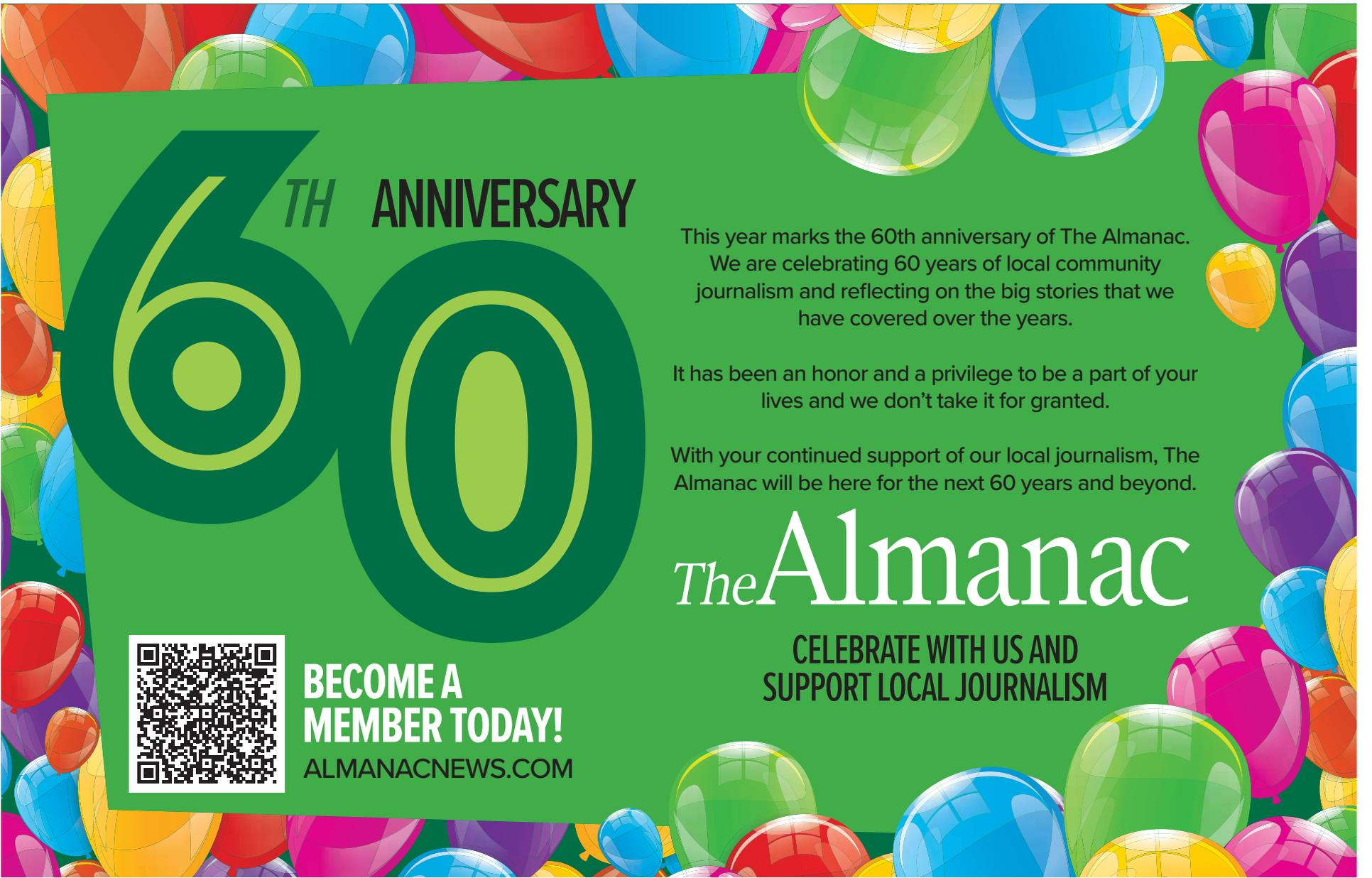
September 20 • 12:00pm - 3pm

810 Laurel St, San Carlos, CA 94070
Open Daily 7am-8pm

**BIANCHINI'S MARKET
PORTOLA VALLEY**

September 21 • 12:00pm - 3pm

3130 Alpine Rd, Portola Valley, CA 94028
Open Daily 7am-8pm



60TH ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 60th anniversary of The Almanac. We are celebrating 60 years of local community journalism and reflecting on the big stories that we have covered over the years.

It has been an honor and a privilege to be a part of your lives and we don't take it for granted.

With your continued support of our local journalism, The Almanac will be here for the next 60 years and beyond.

The **Almanac**

**CELEBRATE WITH US AND
SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM**



**BECOME A
MEMBER TODAY!**

ALMANACNEWS.COM

BLUE OAKS MASTERPIECE WITH BAY VIEWS



1 REDBERRY RIDGE | PORTOLA VALLEY | OFFERED AT \$8,995,000 | 1REDBERRY.COM

- Custom Craftsman home built in 2003 by Chessler Construction in the prestigious Blue Oaks neighborhood
- 5 bedrooms, 6 full baths, and 2 half-baths
- Approximately 7,735 total square feet
 - Main home: 6,620 square feet
 - Attached 4-car garage: 955 square feet
 - Mech rooms: 160 square feet
- Exquisite Cherry woodwork, including cathedral ceilings, paneling, millwork, and Eucalyptus chevron-patterned floors
- Main level (with slight elevations): foyer, living room with fireplace, formal dining room, butler's pantry, executive office, kitchen, breakfast room, family room with fireplace, bedroom suite, formal powder room, half-bath, laundry room, mud room, attached 4-car garage
- Upper level (with slight elevations): bedroom suite, primary bedroom suite with Bay views, bedroom suite, laundry room
- Lower level: recreation room, full bar, wine cellar, bedroom or media room, bathroom, fitness center, yoga/massage room, bathroom
- Expansive rear deck and terrace with in-ground spa, fireplace, and outdoor shower
- Backup generator
- Approximately 1.29 acres (56,482 square feet)
- Just down the street from trailheads to miles of hiking trails
- Excellent Portola Valley schools



**HUGH
CORNISH
& ASSOCIATES**

Over \$3.5 Billion in Sales
 #1 Coldwell Banker Agent, San Francisco Peninsula
 #7 Coldwell Banker Agent, United States
 #111 Agent in the United States, *RealTrends* 2025



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