

The Almanac

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

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Jeremy Word

'Oldest refrigerator in the county'

From left, Jackie Nicholson, Lorna Basso, Jill Daly and Susan Lang peer into the historic Dairy House at Wunderlich Park in Woodside on Sept. 27. The group is part of the Friends of Wunderlich and Huddart Parks, which is partnering with San Mateo County to renovate the structure. See story, Page 5.

Portola Valley community survey on tax measure met with criticism

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Portola Valley is surveying residents on a potential revenue measure for the November 2026 ballot, but the process is drawing criticism for its scope and methodology.

On Aug. 27, the Town Council unanimously agreed to poll residents on a real estate transfer tax that would require Portola Valley to become a charter city, choosing it over other options that included a parcel tax, a new utility-user tax or changes to the existing tax. The council said the choice to survey residents on only one potential measure was made for simplicity, even though members had expressed interest in exploring multiple options.

The town hired Las Vegas-based McGuire Research and Godbe Research to conduct the \$33,200 survey, which takes about 25 minutes to complete.

According to Town Manager Darcy Smith, the survey aims to evaluate ballot feasibility, resident satisfaction with

town services and community priorities.

"The survey is designed to inform critical public policy decisions, including budgeting, planning, prioritization and community engagement strategies," Smith said.

About 200 responses will be collected through randomly selected phone, text and email invitations, using voter rolls and parks and recreation registration databases.

Some residents, who were contacted as early as Sept. 23, questioned the survey's legitimacy, concerned it might be a scam. Others on the private PV Forum have criticized the town's decision to limit the survey to one tax option.

In response, the town posted an online announcement that the survey is valid and residents would be randomly selected and chosen to participate. It ensured that all responses are confidential and will be used for research

See **SURVEY**, page 6

3 arrested in Menlo Park sting, suspected of sex crimes

Suspects were from out of town

By Arden Margulis

The Menlo Park Police Department arrested three men on Sept. 24 after conducting an undercover sting operation using adult dating sites to lure individuals interested in meeting minors for sex, the department said.

Law enforcement used Grindr, MeetMe, Tinder and more adult dating sites to pose as underage users. The three men were arrested on suspicion of the intent to sexually victimize children, police said.

The dating apps named require users to be at least 18-years-old to register.

Three suspects allegedly communicated with undercover officers, learned of the fake minors' ages and arranged to meet them in various locations around Menlo Park after allegedly engaging them in sexually explicit language. Once the suspects showed up at the locations, they were arrested.

One of the suspects was also accused of sending "graphic photos" to the undercover officers.

"Sexual exploitation of children affects communities everywhere, including Menlo Park," the department said in a statement. "The individuals arrested, traveled here specifically to victimize children, underscoring the importance of vigilance and proactive enforcement."

Those arrested were a 45-year-old Mountain View resident, 33-year-old San Jose resident and 26-year-old Oakland resident.

They were all arrested on suspicion of attempted lewd or

lascivious acts with a child under 14, contacting a minor with the intent to commit a sex crime or other serious felony, and arranging to meet a minor with the intention of engaging in lewd or lascivious behavior. The Oakland resident was also arrested on suspicion of distributing "harmful matter" to a minor.

All three were held on bond in the Maguire Correctional Facility. The Mountain View resident and San Jose resident had their bond set at \$300,000. The Oakland resident had a \$400,000 bond. They were

scheduled to be arraigned on Sept. 25.

The department encouraged parents to stay vigilant about their children's activities online and report suspicious activity to law enforcement.

Editor's Note: This news organization's policy is to withhold the names of those arrested for most crimes until the District Attorney has determined there is sufficient evidence to file charges in the case. ■

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The entrance to Portola Valley Ranch is located at Indian Crossing and Alpine Road.

Portola Valley Ranch celebrates 50 years of community

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Fifty years ago, local developer Joe Whelan built a community of homes that were unlike others in Portola Valley — a clustered development of earth-toned houses that seamlessly blended into the natural landscape. Portola Valley Ranch recently celebrated its milestone with a three-day celebration recognizing

the community and history of the unique neighborhood.

Whelan, who died in 2013 at the age of 83, had the idea in the 1970s to create a housing development that was inexpensive and would not require leveling the land. Over the years, Portola Valley Ranch grew to what is now 205 single-family homes.

Nature was the focus when the ranch was built, said Leo

Gonzalez, general manager of the planned development. The property covers 435 acres with over 200 acres of open space in the neighboring Coal Mine Ridge Nature Preserve.

The clustered development model is aimed at conservation by increasing housing density to preserve the remaining land for open space. Portola Valley

See **PV RANCH**, page 10

Historic Dairy House celebrates ground-breaking for restoration project

‘Oldest refrigerator in the county’

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Work is underway for Wunderlich Park’s historic Dairy House makeover.

On Sept. 27, Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks and the San Mateo County Parks Department held a ground-breaking ceremony for the restoration of the 150-year-old structure.

The Dairy House “may be the

oldest refrigerator in the county,” according to Kym Teppo, executive director of Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks. For one of the oldest stone structures in the Bay Area, county parks has embarked on the process to restore and transform the structure into an interpretive exhibit.

In its current state, the Dairy House is on the “brink of collapse,” according to the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks.

“It’s incredibly rewarding to see this historic restoration finally begin after years of planning and fundraising,” said Teppo. “This project isn’t just about preserving a building — it’s about honoring our shared history, revitalizing a beloved building and investing in the future of the park.”

Built in 1874, the limestone Dairy House was used to

See **DAIRY HOUSE**, page 15

Local schools enter uncharted territory amid rise of e-bikes

Recent injuries heighten concerns

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Student bike safety has been a topic of ongoing conversation among local schools in San Mateo County, but the rise in popularity of a new type of bike has reshaped the debate.

Electric bicycles, or e-bikes, are capable of moving as fast as 28 mph. School leaders are worried about the car-like speeds that students now travel. School administrators, local law enforcement and the San Mateo County Office of Education are all working on regulating, educating and guiding the community toward safer e-bike practices.

“The rapid rise in student e-bike use has created new challenges and schools were not fully prepared for this surge. Students need proper training to ride safely, and parents play a key role in making sure their children are ready,” said Safe Routes to School Coordinator Theresa Vallez-Kelly. “We wouldn’t put a young person in a car and simply tell them to drive. They are trained first.

“The same approach needs to apply to kids and e-bikes,” she said.

Recently, a 16-year-old Menlo-Atherton High School student was hospitalized after colliding with a car while riding an e-bike. In June, a Stanford University undergraduate student riding an e-bike, died after being struck by a vehicle.

Apart from e-bikes, general bike safety in cities such as Menlo Park continues to be a concern. In 2022, there were 22 reported bike crashes resulting in injury or death, and nine were among children under the age of 15, according to the California Office of Traffic Safety.

As e-bike popularity skyrockets, so have injury and accident rates. A 2024 University of California, San Francisco, study found that e-bike “injuries dramatically increased from 751 in 2017 to 23,493 in 2022.” Researchers also noticed that risky behavior and lack of helmets was common among electric scooter and bike users.

Local jurisdictions are currently considering ways to regulate the use of certain e-bike models that are not legal in California. E-bikes are classified in three categories, differing in maximum speed and pedal or throttle assisted functions.

Class 1 bikes are low-speed pedal-assisted e-bikes that are not capable of traveling over 20 mph. Class 2 are pedal or throttle-assisted bikes that can travel up to 20 mph without pedaling. Class 3 bikes are restricted to ages 16 and older, equipped with a speedometer and can travel up to 28 mph.

In July, the Woodside Town Council held a study session to evaluate community concerns about e-bike ridership by teens and children. Council member Jenn Wall stated during this meeting that she frequently observes kids in town riding throttle-assisted e-bikes with no pedals, which are illegal to ride on California roads.

Capt. Frank Dal Porto with the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office said during that meeting that the biggest issues are the lack of education and awareness in parents purchasing the bikes and the delayed update in laws that help regulate e-bikes.

The Atherton Police Department has also conducted checks at school campuses, looking for e-bike models with additional legal requirements and ensuring that students are following traffic laws, according to the M-A Chronicle.

Local school districts are also doing their part in promoting awareness of basic bike and e-bike safety through workshops in collaboration with police and Safe Routes to Schools.

Menlo Park City School District has hundreds of students biking to school on busy roads such as Santa Cruz Avenue and Middlefield Road. Its Safe Routes to School Superintendent Advisory Committee frequently hosts bike rodeos for younger students and offers regular safety training for middle schoolers.

For e-bikes, MPCSD has

See **E-BIKES**, page 8

Fight at Redwood City jail leaves 10 injured

Melee at Maguire involved about 30 inmates, sheriff says

By Arden Margulis

A fight broke out at the Maguire Correctional Facility around 10:45 a.m., Sept. 26 that required correctional officers to deploy less-lethal options and that left six inmates hospitalized, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

The fight broke out between inmates in a housing unit at the jail during recreation time, and the facility was immediately placed on lockdown, according to a press release from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office estimates that 30 inmates were involved. Four Sheriff's Office personnel sustained minor injuries during the fight. One correctional officer was hospitalized, the Deputy Sheriff's Association said in a statement.

Six inmates were hospitalized; three returned to the jail later that day, and the rest were reported to be in stable condition.

The cause of the fight is still under investigation but the Sheriff's Office said there is no threat to the public and the jail remained secure throughout the incident.

"I'm grateful to the Sheriff's Office personnel who acted swiftly to stop the fight and ensure the safety of the correctional facility and everyone



Magali Gauthier

The Sheriff's Office estimates that 30 inmates were involved in a fight that broke out at the Maguire Correctional Facility in Redwood City.

inside of the facility," Sheriff Christina Corpus said in a press release. "Their actions undoubtedly prevented more serious injuries and ensured the situation was quickly under control."

However, the Organization of Sheriff's Sergeants claims that chronic understaffing has made San Mateo County correctional facilities unsafe for personal and inmates. Previously, sergeants had been able to work overtime and fill in for deputies to help ease with staffing challenge until the Sheriff's Office ended the practice on Aug. 12, according to the union.

The union claims that there is a shortage of deputies since

many have been newly hired, leading to some deputies being forced to work overtime.

Within eight days of sergeants no longer being able to fill in for deputies, the sergeants' union claims approximately 179 shifts in the jail went partially staffed or unstaffed.

Corpus responded to the union and claimed that financial challenges and staffing increases made overtime by sergeants no longer necessary. Corpus said on Sept. 8 that no staff member had been required to cover a shift due to understaffing since many trainees are now able to provide staffing coverage.

The union disagrees.

"Our cease and desist letter to Sheriff Christina Corpus made clear that her decision to reduce staffing flexibility and force exhausted deputies into unsafe conditions would endanger lives," the sergeants' union said in a press release.

The Maguire Correctional Facility located in Redwood City is the county's largest jail and has struggled with maintenance issues in recent months.

Since late June, in-person inmate visitation has been suspended at the jail due to an elevator breaking down, as first reported by this news organization. The county says it has made several attempts to fix the elevator, to no resolve. The Independent Civilian Advisory Commission on the Sheriff's Office is scheduled to receive a timeline on repairs on Oct. 1. On Aug. 13, a ceiling light in the lobby of Maguire spontaneously burst into sparks.

The Sheriff's Office did not say if any of these conditions contributed to the fight that broke out Friday.

Once the investigation into the incident is complete, the case will be forwarded to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office to determine whether any charges are appropriate. ■

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

Woman dies in custody of San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

Authorities responded to medical emergency

By Bay City News Foundation

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office is investigating the death of a female inmate at the Maple Street Correctional Center early Monday morning.

At about 6 a.m., jail guards were notified that a woman was

having some kind of apparent medical emergency inside the general population pod where she was housed, the Sheriff's Office said.

Guards provided "lifesaving measures" until jail medical staff arrived, and fire and EMS personnel were also called into the jail in Redwood City, but

the 31-year-old inmate was pronounced dead at the scene, according to sheriff's officials.

The San Mateo County District Attorney's Office, the San Mateo County Coroner's Office and the Sheriff's Office Investigations Bureau will each do an independent investigation into how the woman died

and the circumstances surrounding her death.

The woman's name will be released following notification of her family by the Coroner's Office. In accordance with state law, the California Board of State and Community Corrections is also being notified. ■

SURVEY

continued from page 1

purposes only.

The research firm is contacting people through phone calls, texts and emails. Selected residents will receive texts from McGuire Research from a phone number with a 415 area code, according to Smith.

Smith explained that residents are being randomly selected through a stratified cluster sample design that groups the community by age, gender and geography.

She said the approach was designed to avoid bias and ensure scientific validity.

"And so for that reason, the survey is not necessarily something that the town is sharing extensive details about," Smith said.

However, Open Space Committee Chair Betsy Morgenthaler noted that she was barred from participating in the survey due to potential conflicts of interest.

During a Town Council meeting on Sept. 24, Morgenthaler commented that she was selected

at random to complete the survey but had her opportunity revoked due to her position on a town committee. She counted about 95 other committee members who would also not be eligible for the survey due to their involvement with the town.

"We're very proud of our volunteer community, and I was kind of surprised that someone, and it might not have been any of you present tonight, decided that they had some conflict of interest," Morgenthaler said.

Council member Helen Wolter stressed the importance of the

survey, urging participants to stick with it despite its length.

"It's a long poll, so get a glass of water, get a soda, get a glass of wine and take the survey," she said. "We are sorry in advance that it's long. We really need to hear from the community about this."

Smith said the survey should be completed in the next few weeks and results will be shared with the council in November. ■

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Established 1965

The Almanac

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Starbucks closes stores in San Mateo County

Redwood City location among hundreds nationwide facing closure

By Miranda de Moraes

It's not September without a pumpkin spice latte, and there's no "PSL" without Starbucks.

But Starbucks, the international coffee chain that popularized September's epochal beverage, is bolting up hundreds of its locations across the country, including the landmark Courthouse Square location here in Redwood City.

Revered by many as "fancy Starbucks" for its gothic exterior, the coffee shop at 2227 Broadway stopped filling cups on Sunday. Employees across the country found out about the sudden closure on Thursday, Sept. 25.

"We're doing OK," a partner at Starbucks' Courthouse Square location said exhaustively, who chose to remain anonymous due to corporate restrictions on media relations.

The store's manager, Patricia Puga, declined to comment, citing the same policy.

The abrupt closure comes as a result of the location's inability to either offer "the physical environment our customers and partners expect," or to indicate "financial performance," the chairman and CEO of Starbucks, Brian Niccol, detailed in a press letter on Sept. 25.

What was once a Starbucks Reserve location back in 2016, the upscale Starbucks site on Broadway served premium, single-origin coffees for years, until it was downgraded to a regular Starbucks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I used to work at a Reserve Starbucks in Redwood City and it's now a sad shell of what it used to be!" a former employee posted on Reddit two years ago. "There used to be 10-15 people working at all times."

The decline has since continued, as only a few employees worked behind the counter on Friday, Sept. 26, with one admitting to The Almanac that they're "understaffed."

The sudden shutdown of this Starbucks location has patrons reeling. A replenishing throng of coffee-goers crowded the closure sign at the store Friday morning, which stated "this isn't just any store."

The 8.5-by-11-inch print-out included an apology on behalf of "The Starbucks Coffee Company," and characterized this specific shop as "your



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Pedestrians walk past Starbucks in downtown Redwood City on Sept. 26.

coffeehouse, a place woven into your daily rhythm, where memories were made and where meaningful connections with our partners grew over the years."

Some disgruntled customers have spilled the beans on the closure to their communities, like Rashida Hutchins.

A San Mateo County employee who works close to that Starbucks location, Hutchins said she's "disappointed" about the shutdown, not just because of the convenience of the location, but because she loves the mobile order pickup feature.

She snapped a picture of the sign outside of Starbucks and sent it to her colleague to say, "Oh no! our Starbucks is gonna be closing."

Another downtown Redwood City worker, Hailey Ponce, said she was "shocked" when she saw the sign. Ponce was aware that other Starbucks locations were closing but said she didn't realize it would be "our Reserve."

While the Starbucks by Courthouse Square is no longer technically a Reserve site, she considers it to be "the nicest" of the nearby locations. Two other Starbucks exist about a mile from the heart of downtown and are not expected to bolt up anytime soon.

Sam Jeffries, a Starbucks Brand Reputation and Crisis Communications manager, told The Almanac that he didn't have "specifics" on other locations that would be closing starting this past weekend. However, he confirmed that such stores would have "signage up and an

e-mail to notify customers."

A public Google sheet had over 500 entries marking likely closures as of Friday morning.

Including the numerous coffeehouses Starbucks has opened in North America this last year, the overall company-operated count of shops will fall by about 1% for the 2025 fiscal year. The plan is to end the year with 18,300 Starbucks locations across the U.S. and Canada. Over the next 12 months, the company plans to elevate over 1,000 of its locations to add "greater texture, warmth, and layered design," the CEO explained in his letter.

"Exceptional customer service" is among the other intentions of this change, which aligns with the company's Back to Starbucks enhancement initiative, announced last September.

Of the thousands of Starbucks employees impacted by these sudden closures, Starbucks intends to transfer many to nearby locations "where possible" and "help partners understand what opportunities might be available to them."

For those it can't place, the Starbucks team intends to provide severance packages and to welcome them back in the future when new coffeehouses open and staff needs increase. Several Redwood City Starbucks employees are already blazing the #OpenToWork banner on their LinkedIn profiles. ■

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REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Buying a Condo That's Been in Litigation

Dear Monica: Is it risky to buy a condo that has just settled a lawsuit over construction issues? Meredith M.

Dear Meredith: There is a lot to consider regarding this. If the settlement covered the complete scope and costs of repairs, this is reassuring, although it would be best if the work had been completed. If damages were also part of the settlement, this would be good, but it could also imply that some dishonesty was involved.

If the scope of the issues litigated was not complete you may find there is unknown damage that you will have to pay for. Know what is being offered before you buy.

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Wag Hotels settles Bay Area lawsuit over pet safety

Pet boarding company to pay fines, adopt safety measures

By Arden Margulis

Wag Hotels, a pet boarding company with facilities across the country, including in Redwood City, San Francisco and Santa Clara, has agreed to pay \$150,000 and implement a series of reforms, without admitting wrongdoing, to settle claims it violated California's Pet Boarding Law and failed to properly report dog bites.

The settlement comes after the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office, in conjunction with the Santa Clara County and San Francisco District and City Attorney Offices, filed a civil suit against the company on Aug. 22 claiming numerous violations of California's Pet Boarding Law and local ordinances.

Among the company's

alleged violations of the pet boarding law, the lawsuit claimed Wag Hotels allowed the population of pests in its facilities to become large enough to become harmful, threatening, or annoying to pets in its care, did not properly clean or maintain its facilities and did not adequately observe pets for signs of sickness, injuries or distress.

The suit also alleges that Wag Hotels did not inform owners immediately if their pets are sick or injured, did not appropriately treat sick or injured pets and did not isolate pets with contagious diseases.

Additionally, the suit claims that Wag Hotels did not follow state and local rules regarding the reporting of dog bites at its San Francisco, Redwood City and Santa Clara locations.

The California Department of Public Health claims the

reporting of dog bites is to ensure the biting animal is healthy and not to get the owner or pet in trouble. One of the most prominent diseases that can be spread by dog bites is rabies, which has a nearly 100% fatality rate once symptoms appear. However, there are fewer than 10 deaths in the United States annually, due to the disease.

The suit does not mention rabies at Wag Hotels.

"We reached a mutual settlement with these agencies in which Wag admits no wrongdoing for isolated incidents that occurred several years ago that are exceptions to the hundreds of thousands of visits to our facilities over our 20-year history and have been addressed by the practices we have in place," Wag Hotels said in a statement.

As part of the settlement,

Wag will need to create an animal welfare department, playgroup safety program, employee training program and area for overstimulated or tired pets.

The company is also required to improve hygiene and pest management, keep detailed records, report dog bites in a timely manner, maintain an on-call veterinarian or animal hospital, submit to quarterly and annual inspections and audits, and retain surveillance videos in certain cases.

The reforms must remain in place for at least five years.

"When people leave their pets in someone else's care, they are placing immense trust in that facility. This settlement ensures that Wag Hotels will meet the standards the law requires to safeguard the health, safety, and dignity of every animal entrusted to them" San Mateo

County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said in a press release.

The monetary fine of \$150,000 consists of \$75,000 to cover investigative costs and \$75,000 in civil penalties. The settlement was approved on Sept. 25 in the San Francisco Superior Court.

Concerns about animal safety or welfare in San Mateo County should be reported to the Peninsula Humane Society at 650-340-7022 ext. 601 or reportcruelty@peninsulahanumanesociety.org, the San Mateo District Attorney's Office said.

The reporting of animal welfare in Santa Clara County varies by city but residents can check who has authority at svaca.com/services/field-services. ■

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

Palo Alto leans on new technology to lower aircraft noise

City experimenting with geofencing software

By Gennady Sheyner

Eager to turn down the volume in the sky above Palo Alto Airport and along crowded flight paths, city officials are banking on a new software to identify and notify pilots that flout local rules about noise abatement.

The city installed the software system, which is known as 1200. Aero, in March 2024 and has been testing it in an area around the airplane runway that makes up about 90% of the airplane's operations, according to a report from the Department of Public Works. The software relies on

geofencing to monitor aircraft in an area above East Palo Alto and to notify pilots when they fail to follow the airport's noise abatement procedures. These include requests that pilots departing from the runway climb over the Bay and get to the area of Dumbarton bridge before turning left to fly south or to the Peninsula.

The guidelines also request that pilots keep an altitude of at least 1,500 feet when crossing U.S. Highway 101.

The goal of the new program is to reduce airplane noise, a source of headache for residents who live under designated plane

pathways and for city officials who have been hearing about the problem for years but who have struggled to do anything about it. In 2021, the city tried to join the SFO Roundtable, a coalition that includes San Francisco and various San Mateo County cities, but the club didn't want Palo Alto as a member.

Federal regulations represent another barrier. The Federal Aviation Administration bars airports from enforcing noise abatement rules. The city's noise abatement procedures are thus requests rather than orders.

That said, most pilots do as they're told, according to Public

Works data. The bustling airport had 150,123 operations in 2024 and 99.93% of them complied with the noise abatement rules. The city has observed a total of 35 violations that year, including seven in the fourth quarter of the year.

"Airport staff makes every effort to talk to all pilots that violate these procedures, but it is difficult to talk to all transient pilots about noise abatement procedures," the report states.

The new software currently applies to an area over East Palo Alto, where it tracks aircraft movements that do not conform with local procedures.

According to the new report, additional geofencing will be applied over Palo Alto and Menlo Park "as testing progresses to ensure comprehensive monitoring."

The issue of airplane noise took on greater urgency in 2014, when the Federal Aviation Administration rolled out its NextGen Initiative, which established three arrival routes over Palo Alto. At around that time, the city became inundated with complaints about the airplanes constantly flying over neighborhoods, disrupting sleep and

See **NOISE**, page 16

Teen hospitalized after e-bike collision in Menlo Park on Thursday

Menlo-Atherton student involved in collision

By Arden Margulis

A Menlo-Atherton High School student was hospitalized with moderate injuries that were not life-threatening after colliding with a car while riding an electric bicycle the morning of Sept. 25.

The crash occurred around 8:30 a.m. at Crane Street and Valparaiso Avenue, according to the Menlo Park Police Department. The 16-year-old bicyclist was taken to a hospital,

and parents were notified. The cause of the collision remains under investigation, and fault has not been determined, police spokesperson Nicole Acker said.

Bicycle safety has been a recent focus for both the Atherton and Menlo Park police departments. Menlo Park police previously stationed officers near Menlo-Atherton before school to stop bicyclists and check for traffic violations, Principal Karl Losekoot told parents. Atherton police

have also reportedly conducted pre-school bike safety checks, looking for e-bike models with additional legal requirements and monitoring students' compliance with traffic rules.

The incident comes several months after Menlo-Atherton athletics coach Dylan Taylor was killed in a bicycle collision with a garbage truck in Atherton last May.

Menlo-Atherton did not immediately respond to a request for comment. ■

E-BIKES

continued from page 5

provided parents with information on online e-bike safety classes through PedalAce, "urging parents to learn more about e-bikes, including the different types and age recommendations for use," said MPCSD spokesperson Parke Treadway.

"Technology has outpaced the law when it comes to student safety and e-bikes, and we are now in a place where it feels like education is not enough," said Menlo Park Superintendent Kristen Gracia in a written statement.

According to the district, e-bike will be a topic of discussion at an upcoming school

board meeting at 6 p.m. on Oct. 9 at the board office, 181 Encinal Ave., Atherton.

The San Mateo County Office of Education has also created an online e-bike toolkit to provide schools with educational materials, resources and guidance on laws to help educational leaders increase awareness among students and parents. ■

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

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PV RANCH

continued from page 5

Ranch residents benefit from proximity to neighbors down the road while also enjoying the nearby hiking trails and views.

Located in a wildland urban interface community, ranch residents often see skunks, coyotes, mountain lions, deer, turkeys, quail, raccoons and ground squirrels in their backyards.

The overall design of the neighborhood allows for the coexistence of humans and wildlife. With no fencing, only native plants and its brown and wooden home designs, Portola Valley Ranch houses become one with nature.

"It really is a nice place to live because it has community as

well as all the beautiful nature around us and the trails," said Portola Valley Ranch resident Helen Quinn. "We found it a wonderful place to live and raise our family."

Dan and Helen Quinn are among the longest-tenured homeowners of the ranch. They believe their house was the 10th to be developed in 1976. As former Stanford University graduate students, they were looking to buy a house after renting in Palo Alto. After hearing about the new Portola Valley Ranch development from a Realtor, they decided to put in an offer before their house was even built.

The couple describe their lives on the ranch with joy and serenity, recalling their early years raising their son and daughter in an open space and being able to look out at the Windy Hill Open Space Preserve from their deck.

"In our first year (living on the ranch), I probably took 100 photos of Windy Hill," said Dan Quinn, an avid photographer. "Every morning when I'd wake up and go, 'Whoa, what a beautiful view.'"

With public trails running through the ranch, the Quinns said they are outside walking or hiking every day.

"We hardly go anywhere else to hike these days, especially because we have several trails within Portola Valley Ranch, and then close by there's Windy Hill and other town trails connecting us to neighboring lands. It's really wonderful living out here," said Dan Quinn.

Emergency preparedness is always important

Like many neighborhoods in the Peninsula, the San Andreas Fault runs through the middle of the Portola Valley Ranch property along with dozens of minor faults. Houses have been strategically placed on either side of the fault lines, said Dan Quinn.

Wildfire is also a top concern. According to Gonzalez, Portola Valley Ranch may have been one of the first communities in the area to be certified as a Firewise Community.

Within the community center, the ranch has a preparedness room supplied with water, first-aid kits, a radio, tools and other emergency equipment. The ranch community also provides monthly newsletters to residents about pruning vegetation, importance of removing invasive plants around the property and fire risk management. Portola Valley Ranch

was the one of the first to do individual home inspections as well, said Gonzalez.

The ranch also partners with the Woodside Fire Protection District's chipper program to maintain the land and its vegetation.

A sense of community

Unlike other areas of Portola Valley, where the nearest neighbor might be an acre or more away, ranch residents have been able to build their own community of close-knit neighbors through Portola Valley Ranch events and welcome parties.

Gonzalez, who has been working at the ranch for 13 years, said each new resident receives a gift, information and resources about the ranch and an official acknowledgment during an occasional Friday social event.

As a homeowners association, Portola Valley Ranch also has its own board and nearly 10 committees dedicated to design, finance, emergency preparedness, landscape, nature preserve, wine, the community Ranch House and more.

"People that typically buy into the ranch understand or have a love for nature and the idea of doing right by the land and nature and

coexisting together with it," said Gonzalez, adding that the volunteerism within the community is very unique.

The community treats Gonzalez as one of its own. He said the ranch has been welcoming of him and his family from the moment he joined the staff. Many residents have gotten to know him and often ask about how his family is doing, Gonzalez said.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Portola Valley Ranch, the community recently enjoyed three days of special events including a Friday night cocktail party, Saturday morning nature hike and a Sunday afternoon barbecue serving over 150 guests.

"As we look back on the weekend, and on five decades of life here, one thing is clear: the heart of the ranch is strong," wrote the Ranch Committee co-chairs Rebecca Johnson and Michelle Rapp in the community newsletter. "We honor the past, we celebrate the present, and we look forward with joy to the next 50 years of community, friendship, and connection to the land." ■

Email Staff Writer
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jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.

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'Longevity is going to change almost all aspects of our lives'

Stanford psychologist Laura Carstensen explores how longer lifespans are reshaping human experience and well-being. Inspired by her own recovery from a serious accident, she noticed disparities in how young and old patients were treated, sparking her interest in aging. Her research shows that emotional well-being improves with age, as people shift focus from uncertainty and exploration toward positive experiences and meaningful connections. Carstensen's work highlights how perceptions of time influence motivation, resilience, and emotional balance. With 100-year lives becoming more common, she emphasizes valuing each stage of life and leveraging the strengths of older adults as vital societal resources. **SCAN TO READ THE SPOTLIGHT**



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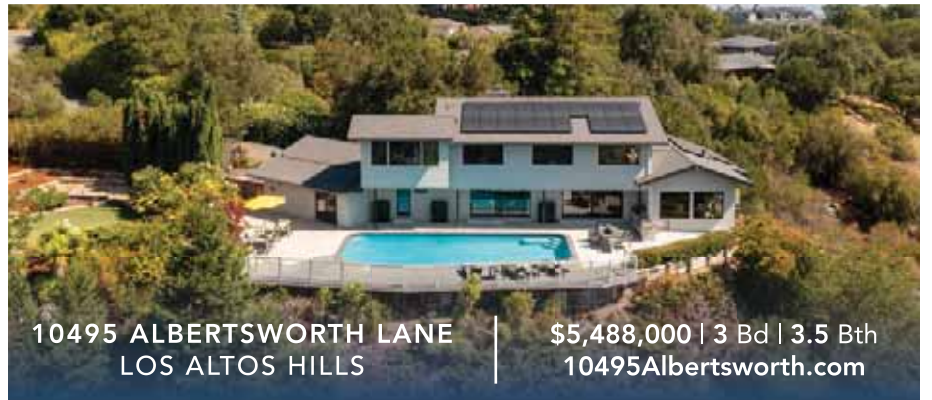
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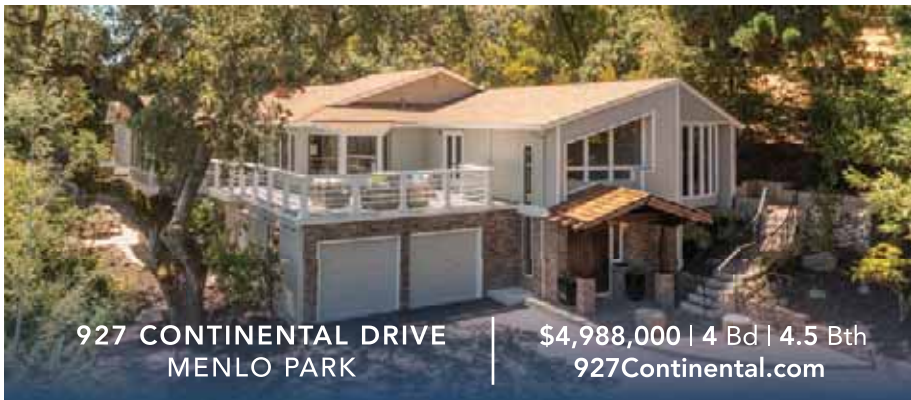
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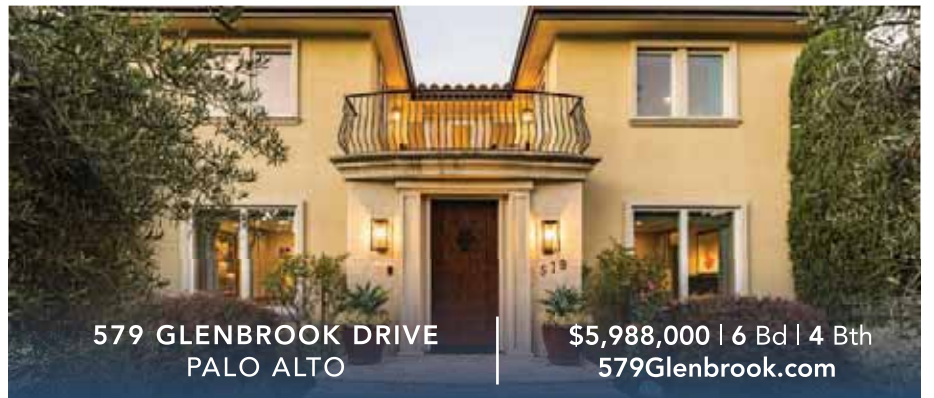
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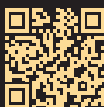
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Courtesy Jeremy Word

From left: Kym Teppo, Susan Lang, Jill Daly, Jackie Nicholson, Lorna Basso, Iain Finlay, architect Greg Smith, contractor John Funghi and Bruce Basso stand together during the Dairy House groundbreaking on Sept. 27.

DAIRY HOUSE

continued from page 5

preserve perishable goods such as fruits, dairy and meat. It was built by Simon Jones, a farmer and owner of exporting business S.L Jones & Co. in San Francisco. Jones named the property that is now Wunderlich Park, Hazel Wood Farm, where he grew orchard crops and grapes for export. The Dairy House was used to keep all the harvested “goods fresh in an era before refrigeration,” according to Teppo.

In prior years, the structure was part of the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks educational programming for school field trips about California history but is currently closed off and covered due to its crumbling state.

In a newsletter, Teppo described Wunderlich Park as “not only a treasure for hikers, but a special place for history buffs and equestrians too.”

Historic structures are scattered through the park, including the Folger Estate Stable, Carriage House, Blacksmith Barn and Chinese Stone Walls. All have been recognized by the National Registry of Historic Places.

The envisioned future Dairy House will be decorated with ham hocks, milk jugs and bushels of vegetables — giving guests a peek into what it looked like in the 19th century.

“We’re excited for what this means for the generations who will gather, learn and connect here for years to come,” said Teppo.

The Friends of Huddart and

Wunderlich Parks began fundraising for the renovation in 2021 with a goal of \$400,000. By March 2025, it had raised \$300,000. According to Teppo, the organization is still accepting donations and has currently raised up to 87% of its goal amount.

The nonprofit and county parks estimate the renovation will be completed in January or February depending on winter weather conditions. Heavy rain will delay the renovation due the limestone structure’s sensitivity to precipitation.

For more information on the Dairy House visit huddartwunderlichfriends.org/save-the-dairy-house.■

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Elyce E. Melmon

May 15, 1937 – September 18, 2025

Elyce E. Melmon (née Edelman) was born on May 15, 1937 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to parents Anita and Albert, joining older brother Harvey. She would later describe her childhood as one of love, music, and the joy of freshly fallen snow. She fondly recalled beautiful houseparties hosted by her mother.

In 1947, her family moved to San Francisco where Albert worked as an eclectic entrepreneur and businessman. She rode the trolleys and attended Lowell High School, where her love of theater and the written word first blossomed and where she established friendships that would last a lifetime.

In 1957, she married a dimpled medical student and the love of her life, Ken Melmon. She dropped out of UC Berkeley, where she wrote alongside the Beat Generation while pursuing a degree in English and journalism. Elyce and Ken welcomed their son Brad in 1960, and their daughter Debbie in 1963. In these early years, the family moved away from San Francisco to accept opportunities in Bethesda and Seattle, before returning to California to settle in Marin County.

Elyce said “my children are my inspiration; it was only natural for me to pursue a teaching credential.” She completed her Masters Degree in English and earned a teaching credential at Dominican College in San Rafael. Elyce taught English at San Domenico, Woodside Priory, and Castilleja, and volunteered in her retirement at East Side Preparatory School. She wrote short stories, plays, and poetry, self-publishing three books. Her full-length play, “A King’s Legacy,” was produced at the Pear Theatre and was awarded the Silicon Valley Small Theatre Standout New Work in 2014. Her short 10-minute plays were produced in small theatres up and down the coast of California. Active throughout her retirement, Elyce turned her skills toward grief counseling as a volunteer at Kara. She led the life of an educator, humanitarian, and philanthropist, contributing to education and the environment. She took excellent care of her family and friends, remaining deeply loyal, disciplined, and loving to the end.

Elyce was beloved by all who knew her because her guiding force in life was love. The unfading sparkle in her eye and her power to find the beauty in people always encouraged and helped others to bring their best selves into the world. She has been described by her students as inspiring and creative, with a unique combination of scholarship, inspiration, and unconditional support. To those in her family, Elyce graciously served as their biggest fan, greatest confidant, and foremost teacher of what it means to love and be loved.

Elyce is preceded in death by her husband Ken and her granddaughter Amy. She is immediately survived by her brother Harvey; her grandchildren Joey, Joshua, and Ari; her children Brad and Debbie; her daughter-in-law Deina; along with extended family and friends too numerous to list. The Melmon family expresses gratitude to Dr. Teresa Nauenburg, M.D. for her deep compassion and clinical skill in caring for Elyce throughout the last two years.

Elyce asked that donations be made to East Side Preparatory School in East Palo Alto (accessible online at eastside.org). A celebration of life will be held at Elyce’s home on Saturday, October 25, 2025 from 2–5PM. Please contact elycemelmonmemorial@gmail.com for more details.

No more than words that may fail to appease, Though pride and pretense tangle with reason, Still hawk and hummingbird share the same breeze, and roses return every season.



CITY ADVISORY BODY CURRENT VACANCIES

The City of Menlo Park has an opening on the Library Commission. The Library Commission advises the City Council on matters related to the City’s library operations and programs.

CURRENT ADVISORY BODY VACANCIES

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PAID OBITUARY



Antoinette Silvestrini Carter

January 9, 1926 – September 17, 2025

Antoinette was born in the coal mining town of Archbald, Pennsylvania to Pietro and Agostina Silvestrini. As the story is told, the midwife walked through the deep snow wearing her husband's hip boots to assist with the birth. The family lived in a "company" house without indoor plumbing. Her father worked in the mines and her mother, known for her delicious homemade pasta, took in boarders. Nina, as her family called her, was a lively child with the nickname "Trumbetta" - always looking forward to hearing and sharing the news of the day. Until the end, reading the daily newspaper was one of her favorite activities.

Her older brother, Dominic, found employment in California, and at age eleven Nina and her parents followed him to San Francisco. They later moved to Redwood City where she attended Sequoia High School, and then the College of San Mateo. In 1947 she met Frank Carter, her "one and only". They married in 1948, and made a home with Frank's mother in Menlo Park. Toni and Frank stayed with his mom until 1980, when they moved to Corralitos. For the two of them, it was a dream come true, building their own home and planting a small orchard with a variety of apples, avocados, citrus, and various other fruits. They shared the bounty of the orchard with everyone they knew.

Toni's greatest joy was hosting friends and family with meals she expertly prepared. Her culinary skills gained recognition when she was hired by Syntex, in Palo Alto, to prepare daily lunches in their executive kitchen for the president of the company and his associates. She loved the job. For her effort one of the visiting guests, who was based in New York City, declared her cheesecake the very best - "Mamma Leone's never tasted this good!"

Toni had seemingly boundless energy. Even in her later years, she spent many hours in her garden, raking bushels of leaves, picking fruit, pulling endless weeds, and tending to her roses. Another passion was opera. She loved attending San Francisco Opera performances, and also local live HD Met Opera broadcasts when she could no longer drive to the city.

Her family extends sincere gratitude to Hospice of Santa Cruz County and Toni's team of loving caregivers, Mary, David, Grace, and Jessica. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Hospice of Santa Cruz County, The San Francisco Opera or the Peninsula Open Space Trust. A celebration of her life will be held at a future date.

PAID OBITUARY

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Roberta Robertson, 77, a Los Altos resident who attended Stanford University and met her husband through the Stanford Band, who taught music across the Los Altos School District, and who liked to travel, garden and spend time with her grandkids and friends, died on Sept. 22.

Josephine Ventura, 86, a Mountain View resident who was born in Hawaii, enjoyed a career as a social worker and a transportation officer in San Mateo County, and who loved to travel and play bridge, died on Sept. 12.

Alan "Max" Kautz, 40, a Palo Alto resident who played baseball in college and earned a special education teacher degree at Cumberland University in Tennessee, who had worked at Lenz Precision Technology in Mountain View and at Facebook in Menlo Park, and who later worked at art galleries and loved traveling, died on Aug. 31.

Richard Meehan, 86, a former Palo Alto resident who served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who helped Lam Takhong Dam in 1963, who established the civil engineering firm Earth Sciences & Associates and worked as an adjunct professor of engineering at Stanford University, and who loved to travel and play bridge, died on Sept. 29.

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



Kevin Francis Hayes

November 19, 1954 – August 30, 2025

Kevin Francis Hayes, 70, of Redmond, Washington, passed away peacefully on August 30, 2025, with his loving family by his side.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, on November 19, 1954, Kevin was the son of Ward and Joan Hayes. He grew up in a lively household as one of five boys and attended Bellarmine High School before going on to study at Santa Clara University.

A prominent and well-respected lumber broker, Kevin's career took him across the globe. He was known not only for his professional success but also for his vibrant personality, quick wit, and exceptional storytelling. His humor, kindness, and love of life left a lasting impression on everyone he met.

Kevin was preceded in death by his father, Ward Hayes. He is survived by his mother, Joan Hayes; his four brothers, Stephen, Thomas, Michael, and Daniel; his best friend Patricia (Hayes) Lovelace; his daughter, Tiffinie; son-in-law Thomas, son Sean; and his four cherished grandchildren, who brought him immense joy.

Kevin's presence will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Sincere appreciation for Tiffinie's love and care for Kevin as he fought Lewy Body Dementia.

We will always carry Kevin's memory in our hearts.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to:

Lewy Body Dementia Association

PAID OBITUARY

NOISE

continued from page 8

disturbing work habits.

But while the issue has remained on the council's radar, the city has had few options for solutions aside from requests for voluntary cooperation from area pilots. To achieve that, the city has begun to hold monthly meetings with FAA air traffic controllers and with airplane users to discuss noise abatement procedures and "identify effective strategies for communicating with both based and transient pilots," according to a report approved by Public Works Director Brad Eggleston.

Airport staff have also been participating in regional meetings with managers of other airport managers to "explore a centralized website to consolidate noise abatement procedures throughout the Bay Area."

"The goal of this initiative is to improve pilot access to noise-related information and promote greater awareness of recommended procedures across the region," Eggleston's report states. "This effort remains an ongoing project and collaboration will continue with participating airports."

The report notes that the local airport remains one of the busiest in the Bay Area, with just over 150,123 takeoffs and landings in 2024, a slight increase from 2023 and roughly around the average of operations since 2015. To deal with the growing demand and achieve consistency with the FAA guidelines, Palo Alto officials had been working on a long-term plan for the airport that explored several options for extending the airport's sole runway.

The City Council paused the effort in September 2024 after heavy criticism from residents of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto — and, to a lesser extent, Menlo Park — about the proposed expansion's potential impacts on both the Baylands ecosystem and air traffic over residential neighborhoods. A coalition of nonprofit groups that included the Sierra Club and Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance were among the opponents of the expansion, as they made clear in a letter they submitted to the council.

The council ultimately directed city staff to explore alternatives for making the airport safer and more environmentally friendly without expanding the runway or adding to the noise in the sky.

"I want to see us transition into a more sustainable airport that is healthier and safer, particularly for adjacent communities," Council member Pat Burt said at the September 2024 discussion. ■

Email Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@almanacnews.com.

East Palo Alto breaks ground on first regulation football field

City and Ravenswood School District launch construction of \$4.2M project at Ronald McNair Academy

By Lisa Moreno

The city of East Palo Alto and the Ravenswood School District are set to construct the city's first ever football field at Los Robles Ronald McNair Academy, a local elementary school, following years of fundraising for the multimillion dollar project.

Like many other local teams, East Palo Alto's youth football players can't play home games in the city. The existing grass field has two goal posts but isn't regulation size and doesn't have the necessary striping, so it has remained a practice field.

The improved field at 2033 Pulgas Ave. will offer artificial grass, a functioning drainage system, a walk path around the perimeter, new scoreboards, bleachers and entrances, as well as basins and planters that will help with water runoff, according to Ravenswood Assistant Superintendent Will Eger.

Construction on the new field began last week and is set to conclude in early 2026. The field updates are the latest step in a complete campus rebuild.

Project leaders announced the construction at a Sept. 20 event on the field, inviting local

officials, 49ers representatives and youth who ran around the field, throwing footballs with Niners' mascot Sourdough Sam.

"Seeing the announcement about new construction at the Ronald McNair field brings a mix of nostalgia and excitement," Council member Webster Lincoln wrote in a message to this publication. "That space shaped so many of us, and knowing future generations will have an even better place to play, learn, and grow is truly meaningful."

Lincoln grew up playing on the field for East Palo Alto's football team the Nabata Yero Warriors, before they became the Mastodons.

The field wasn't just a place to play, he said, it was a hub where kids with various different backgrounds could connect.

"This is the ultimate collaboration, to see this come together," Rep. Kevin Mullin, D-South San Francisco, said at the event. "It's much more than a patch of grass, it's an investment in the future."

In 2022, the City and school district funded the new field designs and have since sought out construction funding, which includes the \$1.6 million



Courtesy Will Eger

Construction crews begin renovating Los Robles-Ronald McNair Academy playing field on Sept. 29.

in federal funds that the city obtained through Mullin's office.

Various other nonprofits contributed to the \$4.2 million project. These include the NFL Legacy Grant, Ravenswood Education Foundation, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, 49ers Foundation and the Bay Area Host Committee, which works to support economic development through its Sports for All Initiative.

"This site, soon to be a sports-for-all hub, will be the first football-sized field in East Palo Alto," CEO of the Bay Area Host Committee Zaileen Janmohamed said at the event.

The football field borders three schools and a Boys and

Girls Club. It is set to offer year-round access to the school district, community organizations and Mastodons Youth Football, an East Palo Alto and Menlo Park-based youth football organization.

"The community supports access to great facilities, great education, and there are going to be quality citizens who are going to come out of this East Palo Alto community because of this partnership that will help with the development of the next generation," former East Palo Alto Mayor Larry Moody said. ■

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

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Go to:
AlmanacNews.com/obituaries

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Costume drive in Menlo Park

In preparation for all children to be able to participate in the spooky spirit, the city of Menlo Park's Library and Community Services and Menlo Park Police Department are hosting a costume drive for K-5 students.

The drive will continue through Oct. 17 and donations can be dropped off during business hours at either the Menlo Park Police Department, 701 Laurel St. Menlo Park, or Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park.

Gently used costumes will be given to Belle Haven School students in need of a costume.

For more information visit menlopark.gov.

Kings Mountain Elementary School pumpkin fundraiser

All proceeds from pumpkins purchased at Alice's Restaurant will be donated to Kings Mountain Elementary School. The fundraiser will require a minimum \$20 donation. To support the local school, bring your selected pumpkins of choice to the front register.

Pancakes and pumpkins with La Honda Fire Brigade

The La Honda Fire Brigade will be hosting its pancake breakfast and pumpkin patch event on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 8945 La Honda Road. Breakfast will be served until noon and will include pancakes, eggs, sausage, orange juice, coffee and tea.

Breakfast will be \$15 per adult, \$10 per child and free for children under the age of 5. All proceeds from the event will support the volunteer fire brigade.

The fire brigade is also seeking volunteers to help in the kitchen, serve guests and to set up tables for the event. Community members interested in volunteering can sign up online at tinyurl.com/LaHondaVolunteer.

For more information about the event, visit lahondafire.org. ■

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi



VACANTES ACTUALES DEL ÓRGANO CONSULTIVO DE LA CIUDAD

¡La Ciudad tiene una vacante en la Comisión de Biblioteca! La Comisión de Biblioteca asesora al Concejo Municipal sobre las operaciones y programas de la biblioteca de la ciudad.

VACANTES ACTUALES DEL ÓRGANO CONSULTIVO

- Biblioteca – 1

REQUISITOS DE ELEGIBILIDAD

- Aplicar antes de las 5 p. m., viernes 10 de octubre
- Debe ser residente en Menlo Park
- Mayor de 18 años
- Comprometido a asistir a las reuniones programadas

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN

- Visite menlopark.gov/commissions
- Escriba a city.clerk@menlopark.gov
- Llame al 650-330-6620

Desarrollando líderes dentro de la comunidad

Public Notices

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 note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee to 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 on 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. 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 of 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)

DAX JANITORIAL SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-301693 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) DAX JANITORIAL SERVICES , located at 63 Haven Drive, Daly City, CA, 94014. Registered owner(s): DAVID CHRISTIAN WILLIAMS 63 Haven Drive Daly City, CA 94014 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 September 19, 2025. (ALM Oct 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2025)

SPEACHY LEARNING CENTER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-301667 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) SPEACHY LEARNING CENTER , located at 1164 Chestnut Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Registered owner(s): SPEACHY SPEECH THERAPY INC. 1164 Chestnut Street Menlo Park, CA 94025 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 12/18/2015. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 16, 2025. (ALM Sep 26, Oct 3, 10 and 17, 2025)

TWO FIFTEEN LIFE SCIENCES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-301707 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) TWO FIFTEEN LIFE SCIENCES , located at 3676 Highland Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94062. Registered owner(s): MARC BEBAN 3676 Highland Avenue Redwood City, CA 94062 State of Incorporation/Organization: California 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 September 22, 2025. (ALM Oct 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2025)

WAGS&CHEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-301620 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) WAGS&CHEW , located at 1090 Atkinson Ln, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Registered owner(s):

ASTOR TOYOS 1090 Atkinson Ln 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 September 11, 2025. (ALM Sep 26, Oct 3, 10 and 17, 2025)

DREAMSCAPE PRINTABLES FERN MOON STUDIO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-301684 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) DREAMSCAPE PRINTABLES , 2.) FERN MOON STUDIO , located at 1264 Skyline Dr., Daly City, CA 94015. Mailing Address: 1968 S. Coast Hwy #2658 Laguna Beach, CA 92651 Registered owner(s): CYNTHIA FERN 1968 S. Coast Hwy #2658 Laguna Beach, CA 92651 State of Incorporation/Organization: CA This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 18, 2025. (ALM Oct 3, 10, 17 and 24, 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)

MAKE MUSIC INSTEAD FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.: M-301581 The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) MAKE MUSIC INSTEAD , located at 8 Sunset Ln, Menlo Park, CA, 94025. Registered owner(s): MOTOHIDE HATANAKA 8 Sunset Ln Menlo Park, CA 94025 State of Incorporation/Organization: California This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 8/8/2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 08, 2025. (ALM Sep 26, Oct 3, 10 and 17, 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)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO COUNTY Case No.: 25CIV06435 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Ashley Suzanne Hagood filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: ASHLEY SUZANNE HAGOOD to ASHLEY SUZANNE HAGOOD CATANEO 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: 11/03/2025, 9:00am, Hall of Justice of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo County 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: 09/04/2025 Hon. Stephanie Garratt JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (ALM Sep 26, Oct 3, 10 and 17, 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-06910 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Pei-Yu Chi filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: PEI-YU CHI to PEGGY CHI 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: 11/20/2025, 9:00AM, Southern Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: ALMANAC Date: 9/23/2025 Rachel Holt JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (ALM Oct 3, 10, 17 and 24, 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.

What my Menlo-Atherton teacher taught me about sea life

Start by researching product labels

By Penelope Chapman

GUEST OPINION

Mountain lions don't keep me from hiking in the hills around the Bay Area, even though there could theoretically be one hiding behind every tree... the same applies to the ocean."

For Erika Shepard, the marine biology teacher at Menlo-Atherton High School, the media-fueled stigma surrounding sharks has always struck her as misplaced. "Sharks live in the ocean, so of course you might see one if you enter their home," she says. "But more often than not they will avoid or ignore you, just as the mountain lions do on land."

Before joining M-A, Shepard worked alongside a range of juvenile sharks — leopard and brown-smoothhound alike, she told me — at the Marine Science Institute in Redwood City, tagging and monitoring them before releasing them into the Bay. In addition, she introduced young students to the creatures — showing them how to gently touch their skin without causing any mutual harm.

For Menlo Park and Palo Alto students such as myself, MSI field trips were a rite of passage, from my elementary school to summer camps. I still remember leaning over a touch tank in the fourth grade and giggling as a leopard shark twirled around my hands.

But for many, awe has been replaced by fear — and by this, I mean a fear that was kick-started by film.

This summer marks the 50th anniversary of "Jaws," still one of the highest-grossing films of all time. However, its

cultural legacy not only made sharks villains of the ocean, but convinced generations, including my own, that they are inherently dangerous to humans. In fact, Shepard still meets students who hesitate to approach the juvenile leopard shark brought into class from the MSI, flinching, although it is harmless.

The reason for this pattern, however, is unimaginably horrific. Around the world, humans kill 100 million sharks annually for their body parts. 100 million, in comparison to the less than 70 annual unprovoked shark attacks on people.

While the MSI sharks are safe from human predation, such non-vegetarian squalene — an oil derived from sharks — continues to appear in cosmetics, vaccines, and even some processed foods locally. There are some repeat offenders — products which can be found throughout the most familiar convenience stores — in the CVS in Palo Alto's Town and Country Village and Sharon Heights, Walgreens in Menlo Park, and Target in Redwood City.

Although Shepard believes Bay Area consumers make thoughtful purchases, she urges that they still may not know when shark products slip into their carts. "The more people who know, and the more selective people are about their purchasing, the more power we have to stop the systematic

extermination of sharks," she told me.

Near the end of the school year, Mrs. Shepard showed us Sharkwater, by the late marine conservationist Rob Stewart. His work exposed not only ecological devastation but also the emotional disconnect that drives shark hunting. Shepard has shown his films to her students for nearly a decade and hopes the message will follow them long after they leave the class.

A broader societal change of heart, Shepard thinks, is possible, but requires persistence. "There was once a time when whales were seen as villainous — think "Moby Dick" — but due to a huge media campaign, people learned to love and respect whales," she said. "I can only hope that people realize that sharks have been set up to be the villain in much the same way, and hopefully will change before they are pushed to extinction."

To be sure, as Shepard stresses, the greatest danger in the shark-human relationship is not the risk they pose to us, but the violence we inflict on them. Many of us even in Redwood City, Palo Alto, Atherton, — all cities local to a Bay that is notoriously a protector of sharks — unknowingly buy products made from creatures caught far from protections. To contribute to healthy oceans, as sharks are the backbone of countless food chains and ecosystems, we can start by simply researching product labels. ■

Penelope Chapman is a senior in high school and lives in Menlo Park. She is the president of two clubs at Menlo-Atherton High School.



Penelope Chapman

What's on your mind?

From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the Almanac aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you.

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words. You can also submit a longer piece of 450 to 600 words for consideration to publish as a guest opinion column.

Questions? Email editor@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6537.

The Almanac

Employment

Seeking experienced caregiver/companion for kind 99 yr old woman living independently. Sat & Sun, 8 am - 8 pm (+ additional hrs to cover other caregivers as available). Must be conversational, prepare meals, responsible and fun. References to be requested. contact Amy on 646-321-7373.

ENGINEERING

Snowflake Inc. has mltp Senior Software Engineer positions avail in Menlo Park, CA. Undrstd the entir sftwr lifecycl & prtctpt in all aspts of it. Tlcmgt prmtd. Successful candidate's starting sal will be dtrmd based on permissible, non-discriminatory fctrs such as skills, exp, & geo lctn. This role is also elgbl for a cmptve bnfts pckge that incld: medical, dental, vision, life, & disability insrnce; 401(k) ret plan; FSA & HSA; at least 12 paid holidays; PTO; parental leave; ee asst program; & other co bnfts. \$215197 - 276000/yr. To apply, send rsme & w/ job title & Ref#8329809 to resume@snowflake.com. EOE.

ENGINEERING

Snowflake Inc has mltp Senior Software Engineer positions avail in Menlo Park, CA. Dsgn & build features, &/or dstrtd pltrms at scl. Tlcmgt prmtd. Successful candidate's starting sal will be dtrmd based on permissible, non-discriminatory fctrs such as skills, exp, & geo lctn. This role is also elgbl for a cmptve bnfts pckge that incld: medical, dental, vision, life, & disability insrnce; 401(k) ret plan; FSA&HSA; at least 12 paid holidays; PTO; parental leave; ee asst program; & other co bnfts. \$183000-270200/yr. To apply, send rsme & trnspts w/ job title & Ref#8996443 to resume@snowflake.com. EOE.

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U.S. POSTAL SERVICE STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685

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A. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	9,317	9,500
B. Legitimate Paid and/or Requested Distribution		
B1. Outside County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions	64	60
B2. In-County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions	4,857	5,148
B3. Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid or Requested Distribution Outside USPS	788	803
B4. Requested Copies Distributed by Other Mail Classes Through the USPS	0	0
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D1. Outside County Nonrequested Copies	0	0
D2. In-County Nonrequested Copies	0	0
D3. Nonrequested Copies Distributed Through the USPS by Other Classes of Mail	0	0
D4. Nonrequested Copies Distributed Outside the Mail	2,400	2,304
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TROUBLE *in* 'PARADISE'

Novelist Janelle Brown explores impacts of dot-com boom with suspenseful historical fiction

By Angela Swartz

A therton-raised writer Janelle Brown worked for Wired magazine in the 1990s, where she observed the start of the dot-com boom and felt like technology was going to change the world for the better.

Now, feeling like she was a little bit naive at the time, the New York Times bestselling author explores the dangers of unchecked technology, familial relationships and whether utopias can exist in her sixth novel "What Kind of Paradise."

The book, released in June, is a mix of historical fiction and suspense. It follows a teen living alone with her father in rural Montana during the '90s. The girl is mostly shut off from the outside world during the beginning of the digital revolution.

"It really took me almost three decades to figure out how to write about my experiences at the beginning of the digital revolution and my ambivalence now about how I feel about what's happened," said Brown, who graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School before attending University of California, Berkeley.

Brown, who resides in Los Angeles, found inspiration for her latest work in novels like "Tomorrow, Tomorrow, and Tomorrow" by Gabrielle Zevin, which chronicles the beginning of the gaming industry, and other coming-of-age stories like Barbara Kingsolver's "Demon Copperhead" and Donna Tartt's "The Goldfinch."

The book was a Jimmy Fallon Book Club finalist.

The following interview has been condensed for clarity and space. It has also been edited to remove spoilers.

The Almanac: How long did it take to write "What Kind of Paradise?" Where do you do your



writing now? (You previously said you work in a co-working space with other writers.)

Janelle Brown: It usually takes me about two years to write a book. I still have a co-working space. We actually had to move a couple months ago, which was a bummer, but we had been in the previous space for 13 years. The building was bought by a new owner, and he evicted us, but we found a new space. We just moved this summer.

The Almanac: What do you like about writing in that type of space?

Brown: I find that I'm more focused and more motivated when I'm in a separate space just for writing and also being around other people who are writing makes me spend less time surfing the internet, doing online shopping, and more time being like, "Well, they're being productive, so I should be productive too."

The Almanac: Technology plays a huge role in this book. How much of your upbringing in Silicon Valley influenced that?

Brown: I grew up just down the

street from SRI (International) and my father (now a Woodside council member) worked kind of in adjacent parts of the tech industry. Our nextdoor neighbors were venture capitalists. ... Growing up in the Bay Area, it was just part of life. ... I had a little more distance from it that I was able to be like, "Wow, that was a really kind of interesting place to grow up." I had these influences that I didn't even realize at the time. I certainly explore some of that.

The Almanac: How do you personally balance using tech with your other offline interests like reading?

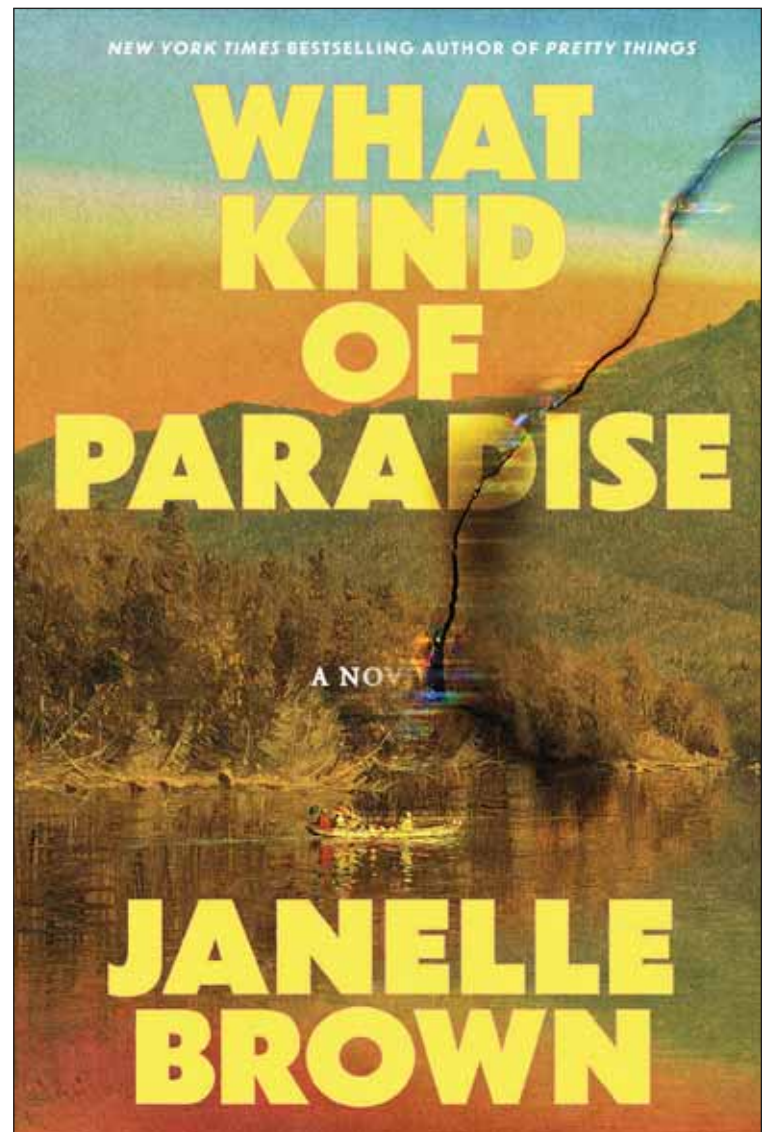
Brown: It's a constant battle. Writing is so easy to distract yourself from. You have to have no outside distractions. We live in this era of constant distraction. I mean, your phone is pinging. There's so many things to surf on the internet. I see it with my teenage children. It's even harder for them, because they've been kind of built in this world. And it's definitely one of the things that I wrestle with and that definitely found its way into the book.

The Almanac: How did you come to choose Montana as the setting of the novel?

Brown: My family had a cabin in Montana for a while when I was in my 20s. We would go out there and be out in the woods. As I was working and developing this idea, and I was thinking a lot about the push and pull of the '90s. ... I remember feeling when I spent time there in Montana in the '90s and the early 2000s it felt like such a departure from my tech world in San Francisco.

The Almanac: What was it like writing the main character?

Brown: She was such a great character because she's intelligent and so overly educated in so many ways, yet so naive in every other way. It was also a challenge



Above: "What Kind of Paradise" is Janelle Brown's newest novel. Courtesy Random House. Left: Author Janelle Brown speaks at a book signing at the Atherton Library on June 7, 2025. Courtesy San Mateo County Libraries.

to write a character who's full of those contrasts, who's so naive about social and personal relationships, but desperately wants to connect with the world and has so much excitement and open-eyed wonder about what she's experiencing. I thought that was really fun to write.

The Almanac: Is there a message that you want people to take away from the book?

Brown: I want people to think about the world in less of a black-and-white way, and look at the nuances of gray areas in between. I feel like we're losing a lot of that in day-to-day life. Technology has done wonderful things for us, but it's also a big problem and my book lives in the gray areas. ... That's what I want people to think about. It's not always good or bad, but life is somewhere in the middle, and we need to find an equilibrium.

The Almanac: How involved are you in the adaptations of your book "Pretty Things" and "What Kind of Paradise" for TV?

Brown: I'm an executive producer on both of them, so involved as much as you can be. You just have to kind of learn to be very zen about the whole process because it's incredibly maddening; it's a very, very complicated industry (Hollywood), and everything takes forever. You have to be OK with letting your books become something else when they

go to the screen. It's never going to be an exact copy of your book, and learning to let go and just let it be what it's going to be in this next form is kind of exciting to be honest.

The Almanac: Are you working on any other books now?

Brown: I'm just getting going with a new book, but it's kind of too early to talk about it.

The Almanac: What books are you reading right now?

Brown: "The Safekeep" by Yael van der Wouden, "Broken Country," "Orbital" by Samantha Harvey, "Show Don't Tell," which are short stories by Curtis Sittenfeld for my family book club. I get together with mom (Pam Brown) and sister (Jodi Carter). ... My family started one during the pandemic ... and we get together over Zoom and talk about a book every couple of months.

The Almanac: Do you find reading fiction is helpful to your own writing?

Brown: I find it very, very (helpful), especially when I'm feeling stuck. If I just sit down and read someone else's book, I'm like, "Oh yeah, that's how they did it." It just gets my brain moving. ■

Angela Swartz is a contributing writer.

More information is available at janellebrown.com.

Andy Z releases new record, 'My Voice'

Fatherhood influenced the Peninsula family performer's latest studio album

By Angela Swartz

With new singles consistently streaming on the radio and a full performance schedule, it's hard to believe it's been seven years since Redwood City native and singer-songwriter Andy Zamenes — better known as Andy Z — put out an album.

Zamenes released his eighth album, "My Voice," on Aug. 29, his first since 2018, the same year his son Gio was born. The responsibilities that come with becoming a dad and the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to the delay, he said.

"Being able to release a full-length album, being able to get national coverage again, is very fulfilling," said Zamenes, a Sequoia High School graduate who earned a bachelor's degree in music from San Francisco State University. "It's a really good combination of all of the styles I've done over the last two decades. Somehow it all flowed together really well. I couldn't be happier with the results."

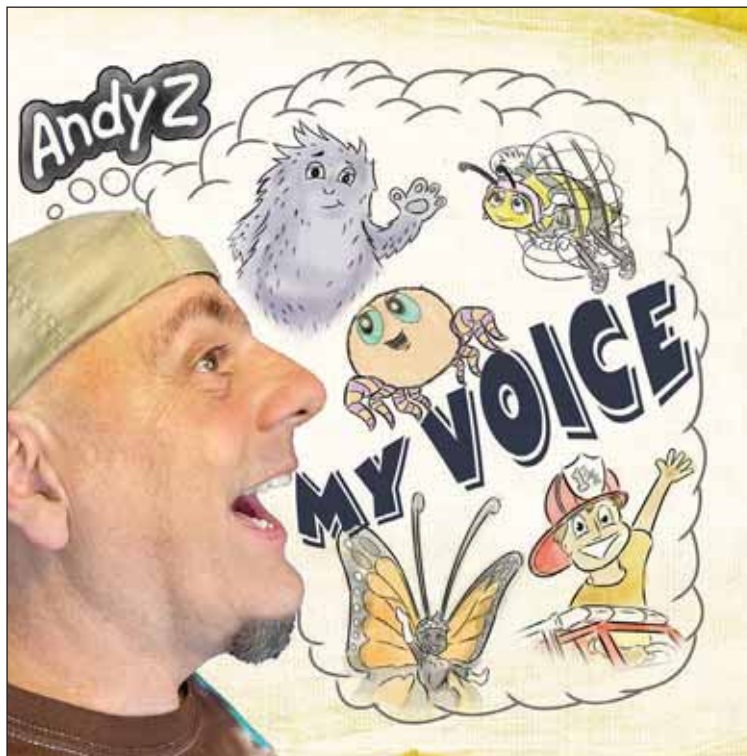
Past projects have included audio stories, folk songs, themed albums (Halloween songs, for example) and covers of classics such as "This Land is Your Land" and "The Hokey Pokey." His music has been showcased on the Today Show, and he has won awards from Parents' Choice, Disney Family's iParenting Media and more.

The "My Voice" album includes a few songs he'd already written, along with some he'd written bits and pieces of before finishing them, and songs he'd never gotten a chance to record.



Courtesy Seth Affoumado

Andy Zamenes, better known as Andy Z, took on a full-time music career in 2001 after working in tech.



Courtesy Andy Z

The cover of "My Voice," Andy Z's first studio album since 2018.

"They all came really quickly," he said.

Two songs off of the 16-track album are specifically about Gio. Zamenes wrote "Song For My Baby" and "It's Not Your Fault" for him. The latter is a response to the bullying his son experienced at school. He hopes the song resonates with other families dealing with bullying and that they take home the message that they shouldn't blame themselves.

"Flutter Flutter, Butterfly," about monarch butterfly migration, is one of Zamenes' favorite tracks off the album. He had Andrés Salguero and Christina Sanabria of the Grammy Award-winning band 123Andrés translate the song into Spanish ("Mariposa Vuela") and perform it on the album as well.

"It was extra special that they would find the time when they're in the middle of being on the road," Zamenes said. "It's really a beautiful one, and it really just fell into place very quickly for me at the beginning of the year."

Zamenes has released a music video for one song on the album called "Spider On The Floor." He'd like to make music videos, with animations, for "Down By The Bay" and "Buzzabee." He works with animator James Coffey of Blue Vision Music and Baine Secuya of Happy Man Creative.

Zamenes takes an active

role in producing his own music, in part, because of skills he learned in a past career in tech. He was laid off from his job in tech in 2001 during the dot-com bust. With a month's worth of severance, he decided to jump into making music full time rather than as a side gig.

"Knowing the ins and outs of computer software helped me get established in the business aspect (of making music)," he said. He knows how to use music recording software, and how to repair and reconfigure tech from his days working in information technology.

Zamenes advises aspiring musicians to follow their passion. He noted there is a fine line between being hypercritical of yourself and being realistic.

"Take constructive criticism without going to 'Oh my God, I really stink' or 'Why even bother?' or 'These people don't know what they're talking about, I'm great,'" he said. "If it is the strongest force in your life, follow it with all your heart and do what you can to muffle the voices who say that being a musician is a tough life and you don't make much money. If it's really your passion, and you have some talent there, you can't help but keep doing it."

Zamenes is already working on his next album, which he plans to release in early 2027. ■

Angela Swartz is a contributing writer.

More information is available at andyz.com.

Worth a Look

Lucía

Hailing from Veracruz, Mexico, the acclaimed vocalist Lucía started singing and dancing in her parents' band at age 2. Now with a flourishing career, she incorporates influences from jazz, Latin and pop music. In 2022, she was the first Mexican artist to enter the Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, which she then won.

She recently released her first full-length, self-titled album, which includes jazz standards, Spanish-language classics and current pop numbers. She'll perform two shows for Stanford Live, in The Studio at Bing Concert Hall.

Oct. 3, 7 and 9 p.m., The Studio at Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford; \$43.20-\$54 general admission; live.stanford.edu.



Courtesy Shervin Lainez

Vocalist Lucía performs Oct. 3 at Stanford Live.

'The Art of Murder'

An eccentric artist plots to kill the art dealer he believes has wronged him while his cunning wife and his housekeeper also get drawn into the intrigue in the suspenseful and darkly humorous "The Art of Murder" by Joe DiPietro, coming up from The Pear Theatre. "It's a comedy, it's a farce, it's a thriller, and maybe the amalgamation of those three things makes it more than the sum of its parts," according to the director's note from Melissa Mei Jones.

Oct. 3-19, The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View; check online for specific showtimes and tickets; thepear.org/whats-playing.

'Romantic Reverie: From Bohemia to Hollywood'

Violinist Stella Chen, joined by a chamber ensemble (Laura Liu on viola, Kevin Ahfat on piano, Nathan Meltzer on violin, and Haddon Kay on cello), performs a Music@Menlo concert featuring pieces by Antonín Leopold Dvořák, Fritz Kreisler, and Erich Wolfgang Korngold. The concert, titled, "Romantic Reverie: From Bohemia to Hollywood," represents a musical journey from Central Europe to Hollywood's golden age, according to Music@Menlo. Chen was named Young Artist of the Year title at the Gramophone Awards in 2023 and has performed across the U.S. and internationally.

Oct. 4, 4 p.m., The Spieker Center for the Arts, Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton; \$35-\$70; musicatmenlo.org/conl?evt=1850.

Black Joe Lewis & The Honeybears

Black Joe Lewis & The Honeybears perform blues, soul and rock music, influenced by the likes of Howl'n Wolf and James Brown, and the group, which has been on the music scene for nearly two decades, brings its sound to the Guild Theatre this week. "Retroflavored" artist Shane Guerrette, who takes inspiration from classic soul and roots rock, is also on the bill.

Oct. 7, 8 p.m., The Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; \$40-\$307; guildtheatre.com/.

4th Annual Upscale Pub Crawl

Redwood City Library Foundation holds its 4th annual "Upscale Pub Crawl" fundraiser in conjunction with Banned Books Weeks. This year's theme, announced by the Banned Books Week Coalition and the American Library Association, is "Censorship Is So 1984. Read for Your Rights." At the event, participants stroll from the library through downtown Redwood City, where 16 establishments offer discounted libations and small bites, as well as information on censorship and banned books. RCLF volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and join in discussions.

Oct. 8, 5-9 p.m., Redwood City Public Library, 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City; \$44.52; rcldfn.org/events.

Food & Drink

Seeing Green

How new Peninsula cafes are handling the matcha shortage to meet customer demand

By Edwina Dueñas

Matcha has reached a fever pitch in today's culinary world, and more matcha-focused cafes are cropping up on the Peninsula — even with an ongoing shortage of the green-hued tea powder.

With origins in Japan dating back to the 12th century, matcha is produced by finely grinding shaded tencha leaves, a process that's highly seasonal, labor intensive and steeped in tradition. The result is a tea powder that's versatile when whisked into beverages or desserts like lattes, ice cream or pastries. High-grade ceremonial matcha is most suitable for crafting drinks, while culinary matcha is best used for cooking and baking.

Although matcha has been around for centuries, demand for the product has risen steadily over the past decade. In Japan, data has shown a threefold increase in matcha production from 2010 to 2023, even as the number of tea farmers in the country has dropped from 53,000 in 2000 to just over 12,000 in 2020, according to a recent "Food & Wine" article. Some Japanese tea purveyors

have even set limits on the amount of matcha visitors can purchase. This existing demand for matcha, coupled with the recent onset of tariffs, has tea importers and businesses feeling the strain.

Matcha's popularity worldwide can largely be attributed to its health properties, explained Patrick Sunbury of Redwood Tea Estate, a Lodi-based tea farm that has been in operation since 2020. While the California tea industry is in its infancy, Sunbury's farm is the only one in the state producing tea on a commercial scale, including green tea, white tea and oolong tea. The farm is also experimenting with a California-grown matcha in the years to come.

"Matcha's popularity makes sense: Its brilliant green color visually conveys wellness and vitality," Sunbury said. "With matcha, you consume the entire leaf, so you're also getting antioxidants like EGCG, chlorophyll, fiber and other nutrients. It's lower in acidity, easier on digestion and carries centuries of tradition as a centering ritual."

Jason Naraja of Kaizen & Coffee also believes matcha's health properties help fuel its popularity.

"Matcha has extra appeal since matcha's naturally occurring L-theanine helps balance out the energy boost and reduces the jitters that can come with caffeine," said Naraja, who opened his San Mateo coffee shop in 2023.

A craft coffee shop at heart, matcha is a fixture on Kaizen's menu, with offerings such as a lemongrass coconut matcha latte or an ube matcha latte from its secret menu. Cafes like Naraja's have helped make matcha more accessible, even if they don't necessarily specialize in Japanese green tea.

Along the Peninsula, a number of dedicated matcha cafes have recently opened to meet the demand for all things matcha.

Based in Palo Alto, Ryokucha Cafe held a soft opening in August and offers matcha and espresso-based beverages and Straus soft serve. Owner Stuart Bai previously operated mochi doughnut shop Te'Amo out of the space, which features high ceilings, wall-to-floor windows and outdoor seating.

Seeking a fresh start, Bai transitioned to a matcha concept with the help of his friend Yuki Oyaizu, a native of Japan. Ryokucha proudly tailors drinks to customers' tastes,



Seeger Gray

Matcha Ren at Daly City's Serramonte Center offers a variety of matcha drinks, including this strawberry matcha latte.

offering an extra shot of matcha and alternative milks free of charge. When asked about shortages, Bai said he is confident Ryokucha will remain well stocked.

"My manager, Yuki, has a personal relationship with the farmer based in Shizuoka, Japan," Bai said. "I could see a

shortage impact for larger-scale businesses, but not for the smaller quantity of matcha a business of this size needs."

Similarly, mini chain Matcha Ren, which opened in Daly City's Serramonte Mall on Sept. 12, is leaning on its supplier relationships to bring its menu of whisked-to-order matcha



Seeger Gray

An employee holds two matcha drinks for a customer at Matsu Matcha in Santa Clara on Sept. 18.



Seeger Gray

Matsu Matcha in Santa Clara offers five levels of matcha gelato.



Seeger Gray

An employee sifts matcha at Matcha Ren inside Serramonte Center in Daly City.



Seeger Gray

An employee whisks matcha at Matcha Ren inside Serramonte Center in Daly City.

drinks and desserts like crepes and soft serve to new customers. Matcha Ren's first Bay Area cafe opened in San Jose, and its new Daly City location takes over the former Mochill Donut kiosk.

"We have not faced any critical shortages," said Taisuke Yamamoto, vice president and managing director of Yamamoto Holdings. "However, the rising cost of ingredients is unavoidable and (we will) consider price adjustments if necessary to ensure we can continue providing our customers with high-quality matcha."

Open since August, Matsu Matcha in Santa Clara sources its supply from matcha epicenter Uji, Japan. Its menu includes matcha drinks, parfaits and five levels of premium Japanese-style gelato. The first level is described as "light, floral and

refreshing" while levels four and five are characterized as "bold" and "umami-forward," respectively.

Matsu Matcha's manager Alan, who asked to keep his last name private, believes that a growing enthusiasm for Japanese food and culture has contributed to the matcha boom. He said that while Matsu Matcha has a strong relationship with its supplier, businesses need to brace for change.

"The shortage impacts the entire food and beverage industry, not just us," Alan said. "We have seen suppliers increase their price 50%-60% over the past year, due not only to tariffs but also because of the continued demand for premium ceremonial matcha."

Other matcha cafes on the horizon include BonBon Matcha

along Main Street in Cupertino and Izumi Matcha in downtown San Mateo. Alongside existing cafes and tea shops like Junbi, Maruwu Seicha and HeyTea, there are plenty of local matcha spots to choose from, including eateries like Bloom Bagels.

Based in Campbell, Bloom Bagels is known for its Korean-style stuffed bagels, but its beverage menu has also built steam. Owner Emily Tan estimates that about 40% of the eatery's drink orders are now matcha-based. Recent creations include a pistachio matcha latte and a banana matcha latte, in addition to signature espresso-based beverages.

Tran planned to get ahead of the matcha shortage by buying out the rest of her supplier's stock for the current harvest. But her order, valued at \$7,000,

got lost in the mail for about four weeks before it was delivered to the shop.

"It is nonetheless sad that a tiny matcha order can surmount to that much money nowadays," Tran said before her package arrived safely. Relieved at this turn of events, Tran is dedicated to building up Bloom Bagels' drink menu with coffee and matcha alike.

There are no signs that matcha will run out entirely, but the shortage remains a valid concern. As an alternative, business owners and tea experts encourage customers to try other forms of tea to ease the demand, such as hojicha (roasted matcha) or black tea matcha. Customers can also try their hand at making tea-based drinks at home.

"In reality, you can grind any tea into a powder, and each has

its own unique expression," said Patrick Sunbury of Redwood Tea Estate. "Depending on your palate, these can be inferior, or in some cases superior, to traditional Japanese matcha." ■

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

Ryokucha Cafe, 4131 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-752-6145, Instagram: @ryokucha.cafe. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Matsu Matcha, 3030 El Camino Real, Santa Clara; 408-564-4076, Instagram: @matsumatcha.sc. Open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Matcha Ren, 3 Serramonte Center, Daly City; Instagram: @matcha.ren. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday.



Seeger Gray

An employee sets a drink on the counter for a customer at Matcha Ren inside Serramonte Center in Daly City on Sept. 19.



Seeger Gray

An employee tops a matcha parfait with white bean matcha paste at Matcha Ren inside Serramonte Center in Daly City on Sept. 19.

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