

The Almanac

NONPROFIT LOCAL NEWS FOR THE MIDPENINSULA

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Singaporean restaurant finds its way back to downtown Menlo Park

Shiok! left its longtime home when its building was sold last year

By Arden Margulis

After being forced out of its longtime Menlo Park home last year, Shiok! Singapore Kitchen has found its way back. The restaurant has reopened in a new space on Oak Grove Avenue with the same kitchen staff dishing up the same family recipes.

Since 1999, Shiok! served traditional Singaporean dishes out of its space at 1137 Chestnut St., co-owner Dennis Lim said. The restaurant was started by Lim's sister, who moved from Singapore after marrying an American and began cooking the food she grew up with for friends at home before opening a small restaurant in San Carlos. When it outgrew that space after only six months, she and their mother moved the business to Menlo Park, eventually calling Lim, then living in Micronesia, to take over about 13 years ago.

But when the Chestnut Street building was sold, Shiok!, along

with other tenants, including Gerry's Cakes, was forced to leave by the new owner by Jan. 1, 2025. Lim said he looked for a new location to avoid laying off staff but struggled to find one that fit his needs.

"I drove up and down the Peninsula, but we really wanted to come back to Menlo Park, because of the community," Lim said. "My customers are like family. I watch kids here grow up, go to college, and then come back. I'll see my regulars every month or even two or three times a month."

Since the closure, Shiok! has been operating as a delivery and takeout restaurant from a "ghost kitchen" in Redwood City, but Lim said the experience was not the same.

"You don't have the same connection with customers," Lim said. "Cooking, people eating your food, it's very personal to us. If it's just faceless through a screen, it feels different."

See **SHIOK!**, page 23



Seeger Gray

Shiok Singapore Kitchen's owner Dennis Lim stands inside the restaurant's new location when it was under renovation in Menlo Park on April 6.

Scientists still hard at work after bird flu hits Año Nuevo's elephant seals

Popular Coastside preserve reopens after being closed to visitors during outbreak

By Magali Gauthier

When biologist Patrick Robinson first spotted a dead elephant seal at Año Nuevo Coast Natural Preserve and another one convulsing in February, he wasn't that concerned. Finding a carcass at a nature preserve like Año Nuevo isn't unusual, nor is seeing a sick or injured animal. Still, he recorded his observations.

The following day, several pups that should have been snoozing or squeaking at the Pescadero preserve were behaving erratically, and others were dead.

"That's a dramatic increase from what I had seen the day before," recalled Robinson, the Año Nuevo reserve director at University of California, Santa Cruz.

Lab tests and necropsies confirmed in late February that a lethal bird flu known as H5N1 had infected the animals — the first cases ever recorded in northern elephant seals and in any marine mammal in California.

Since the virus can spread from animals to people, the reserve shuttered public access and canceled its popular guided tours for the rest of the seals' breeding season. Officials

warned people to stay away from dead or sick wildlife along the coast, and community members' concerns grew over the health of the landmark marine mammals that draw 100,000 visitors to the southern San Mateo County park annually.

For a couple of years now, scientists had quietly monitored for the bird flu at the reserve following a worldwide spike in outbreaks. In late 2023, the virus tore through southern elephant seals in Argentina, causing mass mortalities. Recent research shows the population could take decades to recover. In the United States, millions of

birds have died since the virus was detected at a commercial poultry farm in 2022.

At its onset, no one knew how the disease would progress in the northern elephant seals, but officials announced the reserve could reopen on April 11, just a month and a half after its closure. Scientists haven't detected a sick or dead animal on the mainland in two weeks, Robinson said via email.

The timing of the first detected cases may have limited the virus' spread, as many elephant seals had already departed the reserve for their annual migrations. But the Año Nuevo colony is also one of the most

studied marine mammal sites in the world. The scientists' familiarity with the animals — as well as the research collaborations already in place — allowed officials to act quickly.

As visitors head back to the reserve to see the elephant seals, scientists are still hard at work. The health of the animals must be continually monitored for potential spikes in cases. Studies are underway to better understand the virus' behavior, and researchers are developing new technologies to improve the detection and management of future outbreaks in wildlife.

See **ELEPHANT SEALS**, page 20

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Seeger Gray

Daisy Leng, 16, with her dog, Mochi, 7, at her home in Ladera on April 13.

Ladera teen and her therapy dog spread love to community

Duo raises nearly \$2K for therapy animal fundraiser

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

When 16-year-old Daisy Leng broke her leg a few years ago, she was stuck on the couch and feeling hopeless. Her dog, Mochi, stayed by her side the whole time, she said, offering emotional support. It was clear from that moment that he was destined to be a therapy dog.

"That's when we started

calling him my therapy dog, because he would always be there supporting me and laying next to me," said Leng, a lifelong Ladera resident. "I think he could tell if I was upset or something was going on and he would just be there to calm me down."

Mochi, now 7, entered Leng's life when he was just six months old. His breed, a mix of Bichon Frise, Poodle and

Shih-Tzu, is known as a "daisy dog."

In 2021, he became certified as a therapy dog through Pet Partners, a nationwide organization that registers and supports volunteer therapy animal teams. Leng and her furry friend have volunteered together and participated in events at Palo Alto High

See **THERAPY DOG**, page 17

Short on funds, Portola Valley explores how to tackle financial crisis

Town faces \$700K structural deficit

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

As the town of Portola Valley wrestles with a structural deficit, Town Council members pushed back on a proposal for staff cuts, arguing for the need to maintain stability during a tumultuous time.

During a Town Council meeting on April 8, Finance Director Tony McFarlane presented the council with projected operational costs and expenditures for the 2026-27 fiscal year, which

will start in July. Currently, the town estimates it will face a \$700,000 structural deficit next year due to increased public safety costs, town projects and cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for employees.

"There are some baseline adjustments each year that are beyond our control, and they also exceed growth of our revenue," McFarlane said during the meeting.

He added that without new revenue methods, there will be an impact on council priorities,

which include the town's financial long-term viability, safety, operational efficiency and effectiveness, and community services.

The town is exploring a so-called revenue enhancement ballot measure for the November 2026 election that could help alleviate rising financial pressures. Although the council has not voted on which measure to pursue, three options are under consideration: adopting a town

See **FINANCE**, page 21

Ousted sheriff files defamation suit against county

Christina Corpus was removed from office in October

By Michelle Iracheta

Former San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus filed a claim against San Mateo County, alleging defamation during a process that led to her ouster from office last fall.

The government claim argues that county officials, employees and agents spread numerous false statements that portrayed Corpus as dishonest, corrupt and unfit for office, damaging her reputation, costing her income and benefits, and contributing to the suspension of her peace officer certification, which affects her ability to get another law enforcement position in California. The filing says her damages exceed the threshold of \$35,000 for an unlimited civil case.

John Nibbelin, attorney for the county, said Corpus' claim contains mostly "allegations that she has already raised and that have been fully considered and rejected."

"Everyone who has looked at the facts, including investigators, the Board of Supervisors, an independent hearing officer and judges of the San Mateo County Superior Court, has concluded that Corpus committed misconduct that warranted her removal from office," Nibbelin said.

The claim is the latest turn in the long-running political and legal fallout over Corpus' tenure as sheriff.

Corpus was removed from office on Oct. 14, 2025, when

the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to oust her after a monthslong process made possible by Measure A, the charter amendment county voters approved last March with overwhelming majority.

Before Measure A, the board did not have the power to remove an elected sheriff. The measure temporarily gave supervisors that authority through the end of 2028, provided four-fifths of the board voted in favor.

The board's action followed multiple investigations into Corpus and the Sheriff's Office. In November 2024, the Board of Supervisors released a 408-page report by retired Judge LaDoris Cordell that concluded Corpus and her former chief of staff, Victor Aenlle, fostered a culture of intimidation and retaliation in the department. The report also found they had an inappropriate personal relationship and raised concerns about abuse of power, retaliation and conflicts of interest.

Corpus has repeatedly denied wrongdoing and said she was being unfairly targeted.

After the board began removal proceedings in June 2025, Corpus appealed, triggering a 10-day public hearing in August before retired Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge James Emerson. Emerson later issued a nonbinding opinion concluding the county had cause to

See **CORPUS**, page 18



Neil Gonzales

San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus, in the red suit, outside of the courthouse in Redwood City on Aug. 29, after a hearing on her potential removal from office.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE WOODSIDE TOWN COUNCIL will hold a hybrid public meeting which is open to the public thereby allowing for the option to attend by teleconference/video conference or in person in Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

At this meeting, the Town Council will be presented with an update on the Town Center Area Plan (TCAP) Update project and will discuss long-range design concepts drafted in response to feedback received during Community Engagement Phase I.

All interested parties are invited to submit written comments to townhall@woodsideca.gov and/or attend in person or virtually at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85437892933>.



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Judge drops charges against one of two men in Atherton attempted teen sex case

By Arden Margulis

The case against one of the two San Mateo men accused of attempting to meet an Atherton teen for sex was dismissed on April 14 due to insufficient evidence, while prosecution of the other man will move forward, according to a ruling by Judge Renee Reyna.

Prosecutors say that Inri Aguilar and Luis Zamorarosales, both 25, arranged to meet a 14-year-old Atherton resident on March 6. The teen had previously met Aguilar at the Hillsdale Train Station and shared her phone number with him. Prosecutors said Aguilar later texted her and asked her to bring a friend to meet him and his friend for sexual activity.

The teen and her parents reported the messages to police, who then took over communication while posing as the girl. Officers arranged for Aguilar to meet in front of a vacant Atherton home, prosecutors said.

When Aguilar arrived, police detained him and discovered Zamorarosales waiting in a car nearby. Both men

were arrested and charged with meeting a minor for lewd purposes and attempted unlawful intercourse, both felonies. Zamorarosales also faced an additional charge of contacting a minor for sexual purposes.

Both defendants had been jailed since their March 6 arrests.

At a preliminary hearing on April 14, Reyna found prosecutors had not presented enough evidence to continue the case against Zamorarosales, dismissing all charges against him. However, she determined there was sufficient evidence to proceed against Aguilar. Atherton police Detective Jeffrey Taylor and Officer Vaneesh Kumar testified during the hearing.

Aguilar, who was on felony probation at the time of the alleged offense, will remain in custody on \$100,000 bail. His next court appearance is scheduled for April 29 in San Mateo County Superior Court in Redwood City.

Zamorarosales was released on April 14. ■

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

CRIME BRIEFS

Interrupted Atherton burglary

Atherton police are investigating an attempted residential burglary that occurred on April 11 on the unit block of Catalpa Drive.

Officers responded around 8:15 p.m. after residents heard glass breaking and discovered two rear windows had been shattered, police said. The department said it suspects the suspects fled when they realized the home was occupied, and they didn't enter it. Officers searched the area but did not locate any suspects or vehicles connected to the incident.

Police ask residents near Catalpa Drive to review any home-surveillance footage and report possible leads to the Atherton Police Department at 650-688-6500.

— Arden Margulis

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Courtesy Sonia Williams

These Woodside Elementary School kindergarten students were selected for the May Day kindercourt for 2026.

Getting ready for Woodside's annual May Day celebration

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Woodside's annual May Day celebration is less than a month away and this year marks the 104th year of the community tradition. Local Woodside residents can look forward to the event on May 2, honoring the year's kindercourt and the grand and deputy marshals.

As one of the oldest town traditions, the May Day celebrations brings together hundreds of locals to watch the parade on Woodside Road as students, neighbors, local leaders and organizations march down the town's main artery.

The kindercourt is a group of kindergarten students from Woodside Elementary School who are randomly selected to serve as May Day royalty for the parade.

Every year, the ceremony recognizes three local leaders who have dedicated their time and energy to serving the community. This year, Woodside will honor Richard Mainz as grand marshal and Linette Griffith and Brian Myrtetus as deputy marshals.

Grand Marshal Richard Mainz grew up attending the May Day Parade as a child and is an alumnus of Woodside Elementary and Woodside High School. Now living in town with his family in the Woodside Glens, he's volunteered on the Woodside Recreation Committee for over 28 years and has helped expand youth sports and community programs for the town.

His leadership has brought indoor and outdoor soccer, softball leagues, volleyball and family camping at Huddart and

Memorial Parks, movie nights and more.

He lives by this philosophy: "If something doesn't exist, step up and help build it. Don't sit back and wish it were so or complain about it, just do it."

Linette Griffith will be recognized at the parade for 12 years of teaching second grade at Woodside Elementary School, part of her 40-year career in education. Growing up in rural Minnesota, she sees the uniqueness of Woodside's close-knit community and family feel.

After years of teaching, many of her former students and families have become part of her extended circle.

In the classroom, Griffith's teaching focuses on building confidence, especially in math. She believes that growth in children stems from feeling safe enough to take risks.

"All students are mathematical," she said. "They just need the experiences to build that confidence." Her classroom emphasizes collaboration, resilience, and encouraging students to learn from one another.

Bryan Myrtetus is a second grade teacher at Woodside Elementary School and has been teaching in its classrooms for more than 20 years. He's known for his lessons in the garden, teaching students about planting, harvesting and observing. As a teacher, he's dedicated to helping children discover their interests, grow confident, independent and maintain their curiosity.

Myrtetus attributes the success of the students to the many parent volunteers, teachers and families that have contributed

their time to shaping the environment of the school.

As deputy marshal, Myrtetus will be spotted along with Griffith and Mainz as they celebrate the annual town tradition, or as Myrtetus calls it "Mardi Gras for kids."

May Day details

May Day festivities will begin at 7:30 a.m. when Fun Run participants check in at the Woodside Library. Highway 82 between Cañada Road and Kings Mountain Road will close at 8 a.m. and the Fun Run will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The May Parade will start at 10 a.m. on Woodside Road followed by the presentation of awards and the maypole dance at the amphitheater at 11 a.m. The carnival at Woodside Elementary will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. where a barbecue lunch can be enjoyed starting at noon.

The carnival will feature classic games, cotton candy, face painting, an inflatable obstacle course and dunk tank. Wristbands for full access to carnival games are \$25.

The barbecue will be prepared by award-winning pitmaster and Woodside parent Jason Appelbaum. The menu includes brisket, pulled pork sandwiches, veggie and hot dog options and Buck's beet and apple salad. Proceeds from the barbecue will support the seventh grade operetta fund.

Carnival wristbands and barbecue meal tickets can be purchased ahead of time on woodside-elementary-pta.square.site. ■

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REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Landlord Responsibilities

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Evan G.

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Where does Caltrain get its money?

The Peninsula's commuter rail service faces dire service cuts without additional funding, officials warn

By Hannah Bensen

If voters don't approve a new sales tax this year, could it signal the end of the line for Caltrain? As soon as next year, service cuts could mean Bay Area residents enjoying a night out in San Francisco would have to wrap up their evening before the last train leaves at 9 p.m. Giants fans would need to take the bus or a car to weekend home games.

Caltrain has raised warnings of a fiscal cliff that could require significant service cuts, such as closing more than one-third of stations, eliminating weekend service, reducing train frequency to an hourly schedule or ending service by 9 p.m.

Complicating these financial worries, governance tensions have flared between Caltrain

and SamTrans, the San Mateo county transit district that serves as Caltrain's managing agency.

The financial future of Caltrain and other Bay Area transit providers could be on the ballot in November. Voters are expected to decide on a 0.5% sales tax in San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda and Contra Costa counties, and a 1% increase in San Francisco. The measure needs 50% voter approval across all five counties to pass.

Here's what you need to know about Caltrain, which runs along the Peninsula from San Francisco to Gilroy.

How is Caltrain funded?

Caltrain has a range of revenue sources, including fare revenue, grants, state funding and a regional sales tax. In the current fiscal year, which ends on June 30,

its adopted budget includes about \$243 million in total funding.

Around 30% of Caltrain's budgeted revenue this year came from Caltrain's own operations, which includes its fares, annual passes like GoPass, parking revenue, rental and other income (about \$73 million).

The remainder came from contributing sources. Roughly half of Caltrain's total revenue (approximately \$120 million) comes from Measure RR, a one-eighth percent sales tax in San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties that serves as a dedicated source of revenue for Caltrain. The measure was passed by voters in 2020.

An additional approximately \$35 million comes from grants and about \$15 million comes from three state funding programs. The Low Carbon Fuel Standard, which is a California policy designed to reduce greenhouse gases that compels high-emissions fuel producers to purchase credits from low-carbon providers. Caltrain, which became fully electrified in 2024, receives clean energy credits worth around \$1 million. The Low Carbon Transit Operations Program was another program created by the state to reduce emissions that provides operating and capital assistance for transit agencies. Finally, the State Rail Assistance program provides supplemental funding.

Why is Caltrain facing a fiscal cliff?

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, 75% of Caltrain's total costs were covered by revenue derived from its operations, including fares and rental income, according to a report prepared by the governing body that owns Caltrain. During the pandemic, commuting patterns shifted as more people worked remotely, causing a sharp drop in the number of riders.

Ridership has ticked up steadily in the last few years, but remains below pre-pandemic levels. Caltrain had 1.1 million monthly riders in March 2026, about 75% of its pre-pandemic ridership (roughly 1.5 million monthly riders), according to statistics on its website.

Caltrain faces a \$75 million annual budget shortfall beginning in fiscal year 2027-28. In February, the state legislature passed a law that provided one-time loan funds for Bay Area transit agencies, which will cover Caltrain's shortfall for fiscal year 2027.

Caltrain's Executive Director Michelle Bouchard stated that it is facing a structural funding



Seeger Gray

Caltrain officials warn of severe service cuts if a funding shortage isn't addressed.

challenge that cannot be solved through cuts or efficiencies alone. Railroads have high fixed costs from maintaining tracks and electrical infrastructure, and inflation has driven up operating costs faster than revenues, its website notes.

"Caltrain is delivering more frequent, faster, and more reliable service for riders up and down the Peninsula," said Bouchard. "(But), without a stable, long-term funding solution, we will be forced to make difficult decisions that would significantly reduce service and impact the communities that rely on Caltrain every day."

What is the sales tax measure known as the Connect Bay Area Act?

Last October, a state law called SB 63 was passed to authorize a transportation funding measure to be put on the November 2026 ballot in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. For the next 14 years, the measure would implement a 0.5% sales tax in all counties except San Francisco, which would have a 1% rate.

Supporters of the initiative, also called the Connect Bay Area Act, must gather 186,000 signatures from registered voters across the five counties by mid-May to get it on the November ballot. If passed by over 50% of voters, the measure is expected to generate nearly \$1 billion annually to help fund Bay Area transit systems, including Caltrain, BART, Muni, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and SamTrans.

Sales taxes are composed of a 7.25% state rate and additional county and city taxes. That's why the sales tax varies by city in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. On the Midpeninsula, the current sales tax is 9.875% in

Redwood City, 9.375% in Menlo Park and 9.75% in Palo Alto and Mountain View.

SB 63 would add an additional 0.5% sales tax to this existing rate in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

What do local governments have to do about the Connect Bay Area Transit initiative?

The Palo Alto City Council endorsed the initiative in March. A report prepared by city staff noted that the measure aligns with the city's priorities by deterring solo drivers and supporting local and regional transportation options. The report also estimated that the initiative could generate \$264 million per year for the Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority — a county agency that provides bus services and other transit options — and about \$75 million for Caltrain.

In Redwood City, city staff estimated that \$50 million of the sales tax would be returned to San Mateo County for use on transit projects including SamTrans. While the city council has not taken a formal position on the tax ballot measure, the city's communications manager Nick Mathiowdis said that Caltrain is an important part of Redwood City's transportation network that supports access to downtown and helps connect people to destinations throughout the region.

Menlo Park's spokesperson said the city had no comment on the initiative and Mountain View's city council has yet to take a position. ■

Hannah Bensen is a recipient of the California Local News Fellowship who is a member of the Embarcadero Media Foundation Staff through 2027. She can be reached at hbensen@almanacnews.com.



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- Living room with signature fireplace plus formal dining room
- Sleek mid-century kitchen with casual dining area and adjoining family room
- Main-level: primary bedroom suite, two bedrooms and hall bath
- Lower-level: possible bedroom and bath, three flexible-use bonus rooms, walk-in wine cellar
- Less than 5 minutes to Highway 280, Robert's Market, Ladera Shopping Center, PV hiking trails, and Alpine Hills Tennis & Swim Club; less than 20 minutes to Stanford and Palo Alto
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612 PARTRIDGE AVENUE MENLO PARK



BRIGHT & INVITING IN ALLIED ARTS

Perfectly positioned in the highly sought-after Allied Arts neighborhood, just moments from both downtown Menlo Park and downtown Palo Alto, this inviting home offers an exceptional blend of comfort and convenience in one of the Peninsula's most desirable settings. Spanning more than 1,800 square feet across two levels, the home is filled with natural light and features richly hued engineered hardwood floors, soaring ceilings with integrated speakers on the main level, and a thoughtfully designed floorplan. Expansive living and dining areas flow seamlessly into a well-appointed chef's kitchen with appliances from GE Profile and Kenmore Elite, while four bedrooms include a spacious primary suite. A back patio provides a serene space for outdoor enjoyment, complemented by air conditioning, a tankless water heater, and an attached 2-car garage with EV charging. All of this is just moments from premier shopping and dining, beautiful parks, key commute routes, and top-ranked schools including Oak Knoll Elementary, Hillview Middle, and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

612Partridge.com

Listed at \$1,988,000

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2466 SHARON OAKS DRIVE MENLO PARK



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Bright and beautifully updated, this stylish home in the Sharon Oaks community blends comfort, style, and convenience. Spanning more than 2,200 square feet across two levels, the home features hardwood floors, crown molding, high ceilings, and an abundance of natural light throughout. The spacious living room centers around a fireplace, while a dining room with a wine refrigerator flows into a chef's kitchen with quartz countertops and a breakfast nook, alongside a sun-filled den. Three well-appointed bedroom suites provide exceptional comfort and flexibility, each offering the space and feel of a primary retreat. Outdoors, a pergola-covered patio creates a wonderful setting for relaxation or entertaining, complemented by community amenities including a pool and clubhouse. Additional highlights include air conditioning and a 2-car garage with an epoxy floor. All of this is just moments from the Sharon Heights Shopping Center, with easy access to downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, Stanford University, Interstate 280, and top-ranked Las Lomas schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE

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

2466SharonOaks.com

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Chan Zuckerberg Initiative announces \$10M donation for Menlo Park, East Palo Alto families

Grants will go to 3 nonprofits to support families following closure of CZI-backed private school

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) announced on April 13 that it will be providing \$7 million in grants and investments to three local nonprofit organizations in East Palo Alto and the Belle Haven neighborhood in Menlo Park. The donation comes two months before the closure of The Primary School.

The shuttering of the CZI-backed, tuition-free private school will displace more than 400 students at the end of June. The Ravenswood City School District recently announced it would ask voters to support another bond measure to pay for facility improvements as

it prepares for the influx of students from The Primary School.

The pre-K to eighth-grade school was spearheaded by Priscilla Chan, pediatrician and wife of Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, and offered integrated health and education services to support disadvantaged children.

CZI aims to continue its commitment to provide integrated care, early childhood support and family wellness to the community, according to the announcement. The nonprofits receiving the grants are the Ravenswood Family Health Network and Children's Health Council, which will receive \$3 million each, and the

Ravenswood Early Learning, which will receive \$1 million.

The grant to the Children's Health Council aims to adapt and continue The Primary School's Parent Wellness Coaching program, CZI said in its April 13 announcement. The grant will ensure that families have continued access to mental health and wellness support.

"We are committed to adapting and carrying forward the Parent Wellness Coaching program with care, continuity, and respect for the legacy of The Primary School and its families," said Ryan Eisenberg, chief executive officer of the Children's Health Council, in a statement.

The grant awarded to Ravenswood Family Health Network will expand its school-based medical offerings to more schools across East Palo Alto and

Belle Haven, integrating physical and behavioral health care directly into school communities.

Ravenswood Early Learning's grant will fund the launch of an early intervention initiative to strengthen developmental screenings, referrals and follow-up services for children up to age 5.

An additional \$3.6 million will fund 550 education savings accounts for Primary School students, as part of the \$50 million the organization invested last year, said CZI Director of Communications Jane Packer. These accounts will help families pay for future education expenses and bring CZI's total investment in the community this year to over \$10 million.

"These investments support the families, educators, and organizations of East Palo Alto and

Belle Haven — and the community partners best positioned to serve them for years to come," CZI officials said in a press release.

While enrollment has been declining at most local school districts, the Ravenswood City School District is expecting an increase in the next school year due to The Primary School closure. According to Packer, CZI has provided the district with bridge funding to support the transition of its students to Ravenswood schools. The organization is also in discussions with the district about investing in affordable housing for teachers and staff, according to a press release. ■

*Email Staff Writer
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jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.*



Leslie "Les" Zwiebel

November 17, 1947 - January 28, 2026

Leslie Fred Zwiebel, of Menlo Park, died at his home on January 28 after several years of declining health. He was 78. Les was born on November 17, 1947, in New York City to Bernice (Sebelsky) and Arthur Zwiebel. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Leta Jane Zwiebel, in 2020, and by his stepson, John King, in 2024. He is survived by stepsons Stephen King and Aaron King of California, and his sister, Ronni Hoover of Middleton, Massachusetts.

Les had a great zest for life, and relished many passions, some of which he was able to enjoy until his final days—in particular, lots of good food and classic rock music.

A self-described "vintage gear admirer, operator, collector and restorer" of ham radios since his youth, he was active in numerous ham radio groups, and amassed an extraordinary collection of radio equipment, gear, magazines and literature. He used his call sign, WB6ORZ ("Old Radio Zealot"), on his license plate, email addresses and personal cards.

Education was critically important to Les. He graduated from Mephram HS in North Bellmore NY in 1965, earned his BA from the University of Pittsburg in 1969, an MS Ed from Northeastern University in Boston in 1970, and his PhD in Psychology from the California Graduate Institute in 1990.

A licensed Marriage, Family and Child Counselor since 1976 and a licensed psychologist since 1993, he helped countless clients over his decades of clinical practice until his retirement in 2024.

Enjoyment of his last years was made possible by the loving, devoted service of many friends and caregivers, among whom Maricela Guevara, Betsy Cozart, Susyn Almond and Rocky Amansec deserve special mention. His days were also brightened by the delightful companionship of Barbara "Babs" Gildersleeve, the spiritual support of special friends Timothy Connor and Laurel Leone, and by the abiding devotion and presence of his stepson, Steve.

There will be an informal memorial remembrance in Lehman Hall at St Bede's Episcopal Church on Saturday, April 18th at 1pm, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park with refreshments Les would have liked.

PAID OBITUARY

LifeMoves announces leadership change as CEO steps down

Aubrey Merriman led Peninsula nonprofit through growth period

By Gennady Sheyner

LifeMoves, the Silicon Valley nonprofit that emerged over the past decade as a regional leader in providing interim housing and support services for homeless individuals, is now undergoing its own leadership change, with CEO Aubrey Merriman stepping down from his role.

Merriman, who has been at the helm of the organization for five years, will be succeeded by Nick Hodges, who will serve as interim CEO while LifeMoves looks for a permanent successor, according to an April 9 announcement.

Merriman's exit follows five years of significant growth for the organization, which has built 26 interim-housing developments in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, including the 100-unit community in Mountain View that opened in 2021 and that was touted by Gov. Gavin Newsom as a promising and innovative approach for adding housing.

LifeMoves is now completing an 88-unit transitional-housing project in Palo Alto, a development that it expects to complete in late spring. It also operates the Navigation Center in Redwood

City and the Opportunity Services Center in Palo Alto, facilities that provide living spaces, case management and other services for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Merriman joined LifeMoves in February 2021, succeeding former CEO Bruce Ives. He said in a statement that he's had the privilege over the past five years "of witnessing what's possible when a dedicated team and an engaged community come together with a shared purpose."

"Alongside our government and private-sector partners, we've expanded LifeMoves' reach and served more clients than at any point in our 40-year history," Merriman said. "I am deeply proud of the LifeMoves team and grateful to the civic, nonprofit and business leaders across Silicon Valley who have made addressing homelessness a true priority. This progress is the result of collective commitment, and I'm honored to have been part of a team working every day to create lasting change."

According to its impact report, LifeMoves served 6,317 individuals and families in the most recent fiscal year. It also reported that 96% of the families that transitioned from its programs to permanent housing remained housed a year later.

Melissa Selcher, chair of the LifeMoves board of directors, said in a statement that when the

board hired Merriman five years ago, it saw in him "the vision, passion and commitment to innovation and outcomes that would help LifeMoves grow in its role as Silicon Valley's leading provider of interim supportive housing and services."

"During his tenure, LifeMoves has experienced extraordinary growth and visibility, when the need is more acute than ever," Selcher said. "We are deeply grateful to Aubrey for his service and for the meaningful impact LifeMoves achieved during his tenure."

The board plans to initiate a search process for its next CEO, according to the announcement. In the meantime, Hodges will serve as interim CEO. Before joining LifeMoves, Hodges had served as COO at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and Schwab Charitable.

Tammy Crown, vice chair of the LifeMoves board, said in a statement that the organization is "well-positioned for continued success."

"We are as confident as ever that the foundation built over the past several years — including expanded programs, strong community relationships and a respected fundraising platform — ensures that LifeMoves will continue delivering critical services and driving solutions to homelessness throughout Silicon Valley," Crown said. ■



Aubrey Merriman

Stanford OK'd to study adding cancer center to Redwood City campus

By Miranda de Moraes

The Redwood City Council approved a resolution April 13 that set the wheels in motion for Stanford Health Care to further study adding a new cancer center at its Redwood City campus, which could increase building heights on the campus from five stories to as many as 10.

“We will develop the cures for cancer in Redwood City, and those will be deployed across the globe,” said Rick Shumway, the chief operating officer of Stanford Health Care, of the new plan. “We are absolutely thrilled about the possibilities that (this) has, certainly for humanity at large, but definitively for the citizens here of Redwood City.”

The changes would include “bench-to-bedside” in-house cancer research and treatment facilities, a greater plan boundary and building heights, additional parking, an extended greenway and a central utility plant, according to a city staff report. The proposal would require amendments to the Redwood City General Plan and the Stanford in Redwood



Courtesy Redwood City

Stanford Medicine Cancer Center rendering of its Redwood City campus.

City Precise Plan, which govern development at Stanford’s campus in the area.

According to Stanford, 23,704 residents with Redwood City ZIP codes are receiving care through Stanford Health Care, which is just over a third of Redwood City’s population. Around 3,000 of them are cancer patients who have had to travel outside of Redwood City for treatment, which was cited by Shumway as evidence for the need for such a center.

The Redwood City Council approved the Stanford in Redwood City Precise Plan and

a development agreement with Stanford in 2013 for a 48-acre area that has since transitioned from industrial uses to research and development, educational, administrative and medical office uses, the staff report states. The plan also allowed expanded campus development, a new street grid and related amenities.

“The proposal we’re now bringing forward presents an opportunity to really evolve that vision in a way that meets not only the essential requirements of the modern cancer hospital but also the needs of

the community,” said Molly Swenson, the director of Land Use and Licensing for Stanford Health Care, in reflection of the decades-old Stanford in Redwood City Precise Plan.

While the city previously approved Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Stanford in Redwood City Precise Plan, Stanford is now seeking to modify previously entitled development on Blocks C and E, as well as future planned development on Block D, according to the staff report. The proposal includes increasing building heights from five stories to up to 10 on Blocks C, D, G and E; replacing existing development with a primary hospital building and two new medical research and clinic buildings; increasing development devoted to hospital uses; and adding three new parking garages across the campus.

“By placing research within immediate proximity to clinical functions, we’ve strengthened the bench-to-bedside connection,” Swenson added, “bringing discoveries more quickly into patient care, especially for cancer.”

In the last decade, Stanford has doubled the size of its cancer

program, said Shumway. This proposed center is estimated to add up to 200 clinic rooms and 320 inpatient beds to Stanford’s campus in Redwood City, helping match Stanford’s expanded focus on cancer with more treatment options.

Council member Diane Howard, as a medical professional, said she has “first-hand knowledge of the needs of patients and families” and emphasized the importance of offering overnight accommodation. She’d also like to see consideration of sea level rise and flooding.

Vice Mayor Kaia Eakin asked Stanford to look into establishing the facility with net-zero emissions, which Stanford said hadn’t been considered because of the energy demands typically associated with hospital equipment. Nonetheless, they are open to exploring net-zero as an option.

The plan would transform the central energy hub on Stanford’s campus in Redwood City into a central utility plant, which, Stanford said, would not be coal-powered. However, the source of

See **CANCER CENTER**, page 16





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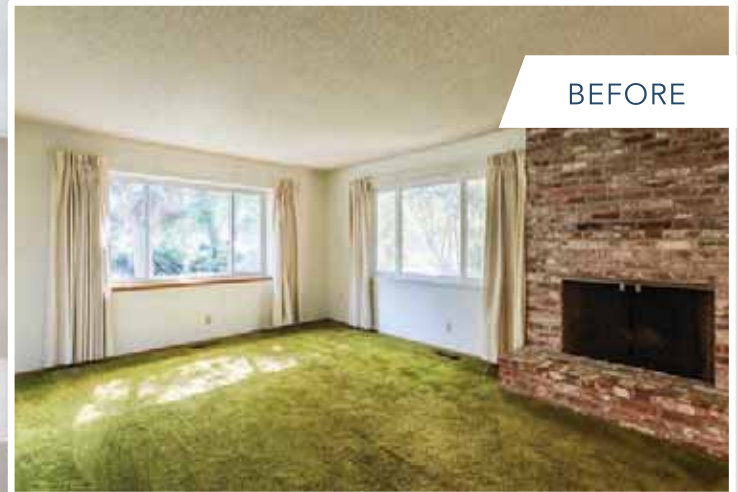
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RESOLUTION NO. 1273 (2026)

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

Lands of MICHAEL LIN CHANG and MANDY PEIYIN LIN, as co-Trustees of THE MICHAEL CHANG AND MANDY LIN LIVING TRUST, U/A dated December 3, 2022, the GRANTEE

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

- A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR")... B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property... C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board... X All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or [] Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone... D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

- 1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law. 2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: April 22, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices
500 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025
& via Zoom

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

- 3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i). 4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo. 5. The General Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

Exhibit A

Legal description document for Exhibit A, dated 6-25-2025, describing the annexation of lands of Lin and Chang to the West Bay Sanitary District. Includes geographic description, courses, and professional signatures.

Exhibit B

Survey map for Exhibit B showing the proposed sewer annexation area. Includes a vicinity map, scale of 1"=60', and professional engineer information for Lea & Braze Engineering, Inc.

CANCER CENTER

continued from page 13

energy is currently under study. Community engagement was central not only to the message Stanford's project team conveyed to the council, but also among council members regarding the project.

Lucy Wicks, a government affairs representative with Stanford Health Care, noted Stanford's commitment to being a "good neighbor," in hosting open houses in English and Spanish, conducting door-to-door outreach, mailing thousands of post-cards to neighbors, launching an informational website and organizing a community advisory group to field feedback about the project.

Members of the public who offered comment at the City Council meeting included Mike Morris, who said he lives about half a mile from the project and that it would gum up Woodside Road, U.S. 101, Broadway and other streets that are already gridlocked.

"I'm all for curing cancer," Morris said. "This project is just too big for a small, compressed area."

Council members Isabella Chu, Chris Sturken and Jeff Gee recused themselves from participating in the vote and discussion. Chu and Sturken said they both work for Stanford University, and Chu lives within 500 feet of the project. Gee said his affiliated company, Swinerton Builders, works with Stanford entities.

Monday's vote would allow Stanford to begin further study of the proposal, but it does not amount to project approval.

The next step is for Stanford to submit the project details and scope, which could happen in the next few months, said Ryan Kuchenig, the city's principal planner. Later this year, into early 2027, Stanford is expected to submit a formal application to the city, including general plan and precise plan amendments, and start environmental and project reviews.

Final action by the City Council is not expected until as early as the end of 2028, with community engagement intended throughout the process.

LEHUA GREENMAN



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THERAPY DOG

continued from page 5

School and Stanford University to provide emotional support to students on campus.

Mochi recently competed for the title of Pet Partners “Pet of the Year,” an annual competition that awards the pet that raises the most money for the organization’s therapy animal program. Leng and Mochi were able to raise \$1,953, falling just short of their \$2,200 goal.

Although they may not have won the contest, Leng continues to share the message that therapy dogs have a greater impact than many people realize.

“I’ve seen firsthand how much my dog can impact others and just brighten your day,” she said.

Leng said Mochi has a natural ability to comfort others and easily connects with kids, friends and family. In his role as a therapy dog, he tailors the support he provides to each member of the family in different ways.

For Leng’s mother, Mochi goes on walks with her. For her father, he sits down and cuddles to watch sports or a television show.

“It’s kind of different for all of us, but he still provides the same

amount of comfort and we all love him,” Leng said.

The duo is looking into volunteering for more therapy pet programs in the community, including a reading program that promotes increased literacy and confidence in children at libraries.

The “Pet of the Year” competition has closed but Leng encourages the community to support organizations like Pet Partners because “therapy animals really do make a difference in a lot of places.”

Although she did not anticipate registering her dog as a therapy pet, Leng said she feels lucky to have a dog that connects well with other people and is proud of the impact he has made on the community by spreading love. ■

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Aircraft’s botched takeoff causes runway closure at San Carlos Airport

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

A plane having trouble with takeoff at the San Carlos Airport damaged the runway and caused a two-hour closure. The incident, at around 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 12, required crews to make runway repairs.

No one was injured and there were no major delays, according to San Carlos Airport spokesperson Davy Howard.

The plane was identified as a Stoddard-Hamilton Glasair IIS-FT, operated by a private pilot who was the only individual on board. Howard said that the aircraft began bouncing back and forth on the runway during takeoff, causing the nose of the plane to dive down and the propeller to



Courtesy Orlando Nell

The propellers of a Stoddard-Hamilton Glasair IIS-FT aircraft damaged the runway at the San Carlos Airport on April 12.

strike and crack the pavement. This is an uncommon occurrence called pilot-induced oscillation, he added.

After the damaged plane was removed and cracks on the

runway were repaired, the airport reopened around 5 p.m. Because of the rainy weather, the airport was not busy and the incident did not cause delays for any other aircraft, Howard said. ■

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Martha Prindle McLaughlin, 89, of Palo Alto, was born in Hillsborough and worked as a nurse in public health, including at the Stanford Blood Bank, and as an instructor at Telesensory Systems, an early tech company that built technological aids for visually impaired people. Her wide range of interests included tennis, golf and bridge and she shared her passion for books by tutoring young readers through the Avenidas volunteer program. She died April 6.

Donald John Roberts, 80, was a world-renowned professor at the Stanford Graduate School of Business whose books and theories revealed how companies actually work. At home, he was a talented chef who expressed his love through food. Born in Winnipeg, he stayed connected to his Canadian roots and his travels took him to 65 countries and all seven continents. He died Jan. 23.

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

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CORPUS

continued from page 5

remove her. He cited conflict of interest tied to her relationship with Aenlle, retaliation against a captain, retaliation against the deputy sheriffs' union president and the arrest of union president Carlos Tapia without probable cause.

The board then held its final vote in October and removed Corpus from office effective immediately.

In the new claim filed April 10, Corpus' attorneys argue that the county's statements and reports were defamatory and not supported by evidence. The filing says Corpus suffered reputational harm, loss of professional standing, loss of employment opportunities, emotional distress, and the loss of income and benefits tied to her removal.

The claim also alleges that county officials republished false statements through official reports, press conferences, social media and communications to outside agencies, including the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, or POST.

Corpus' filing names numerous county officials, employees and agents as contributing to her alleged damages, including County Executive Mike Callagy and several members of the Board of Supervisors, including Board President Noelia Corzo, Ray Mueller and David Canepa. Supervisors Mueller and Canepa, as well as other members of the board, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Corzo, speaking on behalf of the county, echoed Nibbelin and said the claim "recycles allegations that have already been carefully considered and rejected or rebutted."

She said the issues raised in the filing were reviewed through multiple formal processes, including the Keker investigation, the removal hearing and court proceedings, and that the county stands by the Board of Supervisors' decision to remove Corpus.

A government claim is typically the required first step before someone can sue a public entity in California. The county can review the claim and either reject it, settle it or take no action, which could open the door to a lawsuit.

The filing also comes as the county has turned the page on Corpus' removal. In November, the Board of Supervisors selected Kenneth Binder to lead the Sheriff's Office, less than two weeks after launching a public interview process. Three finalists were interviewed during a multi-hour public forum before the board made its choice. ■



RESOLUTION NO. 2472 (2026)

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

Lands of Sivaram Krishnan and Vijaya Ram, Trustees of The 2005 Ram Krishnan Trust dated October 24, 2005

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

- A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR"), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.
- B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the "Parcel") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the "Zone"). The Parcel is described in Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit "B" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.
- C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:
 - X All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or
 - Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit "B" and are incorporated by reference.
- D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

- 1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.
- 2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: April 22, 2026
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices
 500 Laurel Street
 Menlo Park, CA 94025
 & via Zoom

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

- 3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i).
- 4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.
- 5. The General Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

Exhibit A

EXHIBIT "A"
ANNEXATION OF 1265 WESTRIDGE DR., PORTOLA VALLEY CA 94028 TO WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT

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Lot 7, Tract 761, Block 2 of Arrowhead Meadows Unit #2 as recorded in Volume 48 of Maps at page 48 and 49, recorded in the County of San Mateo, State of California (APN 077033080) also described as follows:

- (1) Commencing at a point on the centerline of Westridge Drive (seventy feet wide) as shown on said Map, said point being at the intersection of the prolongation of the most Northernly line of said Lot 7 and the True Point of Beginning; Thence, easterly along said prolongation and the boundary of lots 7 and 8, as shown on said map, "South 70° 10' 30" East, 388.98 feet to the most easterly corner of said Lot 7;
- (2) Thence southerly along the boundary of said Lot 7 and boundary common to Lots 12 and 13 of said map, South 07°58'13" West, 323.46 feet to the most southerly border of said lot 7;
- (3) Thence westerly along the boundary of said Lot 7 and boundary common to Lot 6 of said map, North 57°30'00" West, 160.00 feet to an angle point in said common boundary;
- (4) Thence northwesterly along the boundary common to said lots 6 and 7 of said map, North 42°20'44" West, 213.50 feet to an angle point in said common boundary;
- (5) Thence northwesterly along the boundary common to said lots 6 and 7 of said map, North 57°30'00" West, 88.58 feet to a point on the Centerline of said Westridge Drive;
- (6) Thence northerly along the Centerline of Westridge Drive, North 15°46'00" East, 135.58 feet to the beginning of a tangent curve, concave westerly having a radius of 350 feet;
- (7) Thence northerly, along the centerline of Westridge Drive and said curve through a central angle of 8° 18' 26", an arc distance of 32.53' to the True Point of Beginning.

As shown on Exhibit "B" attached.

For assessment purposes only. This description of land is not a legal property description as defined in the Subdivision Map Act and may not be used for sale of the land described.

Exhibit B

EXHIBIT "B"

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SWIFT ENGINEERING
 3520 CEDAR SPRINGS DR., MEADOW VISTA, CA 95722
 TEL: 916-656-0105 - FAX: 916-656-0106
 MARCH 2025

SUMMERLearn more at AlmanacNews.com/camp-connection/

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Kids and teens (ages 5-18) will explore AI, robotics, drones, coding, animation, holographic AR, 3D design, and more in a fun, hands-on journey of creativity. They will have a blast building smart robots, designing and flying space drones, and even launching their creations into near space—up to 100,000 feet! Create magical game worlds, design interactive 2D/3D animations, and bring your art to life. Earn NVIDIA AI certificates. No experience needed—beginner to advanced levels. Register now with code PAW26 to save.

Camp.Integem.com**(408) 459-0657****Code for Fun****Bay Area**

Spark creativity this summer! Code For Fun offers computer science and robotics camps for ages 5-15 in Palo Alto, 35+ Bay Area locations and online. From coding robots to designing games, creating websites to digital art, kids explore, create, and learn through hands-on activities balanced with collaborative projects. Experienced staff ensure every camper at all levels has an unforgettable summer. Half day and full day options available weekly, June through August.

CodeForFun.com**(510) 578-8920****Destination Science****Bay Area**

The fun science day camp for curious kids 5 to 11! Encourage the love of science, spark creativity, year-round hands-on learning with Destination Science camp. 2026 new camp themes: Robot Olympic Challenge, Movie Maker STEM Lab and Jedi Engineering Science Camp. 15 STEM activities each week including make and take projects. That is three exciting science stations per day, plus games, creative challenges, silly songs and all the friendship and fun of camp. Destination Science's energetic, professional educators make learning fun.

DestinationScience.org**(888) 909-2822****Emerson Montessori School****Palo Alto**

An amazing summer writing program. Every year, Emerson Montessori School offers its three Write Now!® courses — camp-like sessions designed to improve students' writing and public presentation skills. Each one-week course features a different focus: Expository Writing (prose forms used in school assignments), Creative Writing (stories, plays, poems), and Presentation Skills ("Posters & PowerPoints" this year). Parents are welcome at the afternoon "Authors' Workshops" and "Speakers' Forums."

EmersonMontessori.com/WriteNow**(650) 424-1267****Harker Summer Programs****San Jose**

Harker summer programs for preschool - grade 12 children include opportunities for academics, arts, athletics and activities. Taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff, our programs offer something for everyone in a safe and supportive environment. Register as soon as possible.

Harker.org/Summer**(408) 553-5737****Lydian Academy****Palo Alto**

Complete UC-approved college-prep, Honors, or AP course in as few as 3 weeks in a 1:1 or small group setting. Popular non-credit Academic Enrichment Programs include our Project-based STEM Skills Workshop in our Innovation Studio, Executive Functioning, Writing Workshops, Public Speaking, Life Skills, Personal Finance, and more. Lydian offers a welcoming and supportive environment for Neurodiverse and 2e learners.

LydianAcademy.com/Summer**(650) 321-0550****ACADEMICS****Pinewood School****Summer Festival of Learning****Los Altos**

Pinewood's two- or four-week summer program provides a unique blend of academic and enrichment classes designed to sharpen academic skills and deepen a love of learning in an uplifting environment. Specialized teachers and small classes maximize the summer school experience. Our curriculum emphasizes academic growth as well as joyful participation in the arts, technology, and athletics. This balance has been unique to Pinewood from its founding and remains central to the Pinewood experience.

Pinewood.edu/Summer-at-Pinewood**STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research****Stanford**

Stanford Explore is a lecture series in biomedical research that offers high school students the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students. Explore various topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neuroscience, cancer, and immunology.

Explore.Stanford.edu**Summer@Stratford****Palo Alto/Bay Area**

A summer full of wonder, exploration, and discovery awaits! From thrilling adventures to hands-on fun, campers will learn new skills, make new friends, and create memories they'll never forget. Day Camp, Academic, Specialty, and Sports Camp options keep campers engaged all summer long. Register today!

StratfordSchools.com/Summer**(650) 493-1151****ARTS, CULTURE & ENRICHMENT****Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls****Palo Alto**

Casti Camp offers girls entering grades 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including art, music, drama, dance, crafts, games and more. Leadership program available for girls entering grades 7-9.

Castilleja.org/SummerCamp**(650) 470-7833****City of Sunnyvale****Sunnyvale**

Offering 110+ camps for ages 2 to 17 featuring traditional, visual arts, performing arts, sports, aquatics, STEM and teen leadership camps. Full and half day options run June 8 through Aug. 14. Dive into swim lessons for all levels starting in June, or cool off with recreation swim at our aquatic facilities all summer long.

Sunnyvale.ca.gov/Activities**(408) 730-7350****Community School of Music and Arts****Mountain View**

CSMA summer and school-break camps let young artists explore, create, and share the joy of making art and meeting new friends! 60+ creative camps for ages 5-15! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Fashion, Digital Art, Musical Theater, and more. One and two-week sessions are held at our beautiful MV arts campus. After-camp care is available.

Arts4All.org**(650) 917-6800 ext. 0****J-Camp at the Oshman Family JCC****Palo Alto**

J-Camp is a day camp for incoming transitional kindergarten through 10th grade. Our camp activities build confidence, stretch imaginations and teach new skills. Every session is a unique experience, full of fun and engaging programs. We are a welcoming and inclusive community where campers of all backgrounds and their families learn, play and connect.

OFJCC-JCamp.com**(650) 223-8622****ARTS, CULTURE & ENRICHMENT****Stanford Jazz Workshop****Stanford**

Stanford Jazz Workshop week-long jazz immersion programs for young musicians in middle school (Giant Steps Day Camp, starts July 6), high school (Jazz Camp, starts July 12 and/or July 19, and advanced teens (Jazz Institute, July 26). All instruments and vocals. On the Stanford campus!

StanfordJazz.org**(650) 736-0324****ATHLETICS****Bald Eagle****Bay Area**

The first camp ever approved by The Positive Coaching Alliance for message and Development Zone programming. We offer 4 camps: Non-Traditional MultiSports (TK-5th), Sports Leadership & Field Trips (6th-8th), Basketball Camp (3rd-8th) and Coach In Training (free, 9th-10th). Extended Care 7:30 am - 6 pm.

BaldEagleCamps.com**(888) 505-BALD****Maccabi Sports Camp****Hayward**

Maccabi Sports Camp is an overnight Jewish sports camp located on the beautiful CSU East Bay campus in Hayward. We welcome campers entering grades 3-11 with programs dedicated to building strong character and Jewish community through sports. We offer six core sports: soccer, baseball, basketball, racket sports, volleyball and multi-sport.

MaccabiSportsCamp.org/wp**(415) 997-8844****Spartans Sports Camp****Mountain View**

Spartans Sports Camp, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation and all proceeds benefit the Mountain View High School Athletic Department. Spartans Sports Camp has raised over \$550,000 since 2012! Follow Spartans Sports Camp on Facebook and Twitter!

SpartansSportsCamp.com**(650) 479-5906****Stanford Water Polo Camps****Stanford**

New to water polo or have experience, we have a camp for you! Half day or full day options for both boys and girls ages 7-14. Each session teaches fundamentals, shooting & scrimmaging. Session 1: June 8-11, 2026; Session 2: June 15-18, 2026.

StanfordWaterPoloCamps.com**(650) 725-9016****Please check directly with camps for updates and offerings.**

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ELEPHANT SEALS

continued from page 1

“We weren’t able to do much in terms of preventing additional deaths,” Robinson said. “And so it really is kind of understanding what’s happening and using this as a research opportunity.”

A closer look at the numbers

Since the outbreak began in mid-February, 40 marine mammals have tested positive across San Mateo, Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo counties. The majority of those that succumbed to the infection were elephant seal weanlings, or pups whose mothers have left them, at Año Nuevo Natural Reserve in Año Nuevo State Park.

But official numbers only tell the part of the story that takes place on the mainland. An estimated 45 to 50 elephant seals have died on Año Nuevo Island, said Robinson, who facilitates UC Santa Cruz research at the reserve. During peak breeding season, roughly 5,000 elephant seals crowd the preserve daily, with about a quarter of that population on the islet just a half-mile off the coast.

“We think that the death rate of weanlings on the island is about three times what we’re seeing on the mainland, but there are fewer seals out there,” Robinson said.

Citing concerns with virus transmission and animal disturbance, Robinson said no researchers have visited the island to swab sick animals and carcasses, so none of the animals’ causes of death on the island has been confirmed. The infection estimates come from observations made using aerial drone surveys.

A stroke of luck

By the time the bird flu outbreak began spreading at the preserve, there were about 1,350 elephant seals on the beach, officials said during a March 12



Charles Russo

A male elephant seal rears its head at Año Nuevo Coast Natural Preserve.

press conference.

“When our research teams walk out there, most of the animals we see are healthy,” Robinson said in an interview in mid-March. “We’re monitoring out there and certainly (there’s) a higher than normal level of mortality, but we’re not seeing the devastation they saw in the southern elephant seals.”

In 2023, the same avian flu strain that infected the Año Nuevo seals ripped through elephant seal colonies in the Southern hemisphere during breeding season. On the island of South Georgia in the South Atlantic Ocean, the virus killed an estimated 53,000 adult females, about half the breeding female population. In Argentina, roughly 17,000 elephant seals — nearly all newborns — succumbed to the disease during a separate outbreak.

Elephant seal migrations operate like clockwork, and December through March is the breeding season at Año Nuevo. Females arrive at the reserve,

and those that are pregnant give birth and nurse their pups for roughly a month.

Before taking off into the Pacific Ocean in search of food, female elephant seals mate with the adult males. And by early March, most are gone while the males stick around until the end of the month to mate with the few lingering females.

Because the virus was detected at the tail end of the females’ breeding season, the majority were already back out at sea, officials said. The virus may have spread differently in the Argentinian outbreak because it began right as the beach was packed with animals for those elephant seals’ breeding season.

‘A National Geographic experience in our own backyard’

The outbreak’s timing in mid to late February also forced officials to cancel the season’s last month of guided tours. For safety reasons, visitors are not permitted to walk freely around the reserve in the winter as adult males, also called bulls, can sometimes be found near trails away from the beach. Nearly 20 tours are offered daily between Dec. 15 and March 31.

Año Nuevo State Park Interpreter Susan Blake coordinates the park’s docent program, whose volunteers eventually lead over 2,000 tours during the 3 1/2 monthslong breeding season. There are around 180 docents, and each is trained to field questions from curious visitors. School groups of all ages make up about a quarter of the tours each day.

“They are usually amazed by the size of these animals, by the sound, by what they’re seeing,”

Blake said. “There could be fighting, there could be mating, there can be nursing. The animals are fascinating. They haven’t seen anything like that.”

Bonny Hawley, the executive director of Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, a nonprofit that helps fund and operate Año Nuevo State Park, said there are opportunities to see seals outside the breeding season. Females, males and juveniles molt throughout the year, returning to land at different times to shed their skin and fur.

“We like to say it’s a National Geographic experience in our own backyard where you can get close to some amazing wildlife,” Hawley said.

Growing up, Carlmont High School AP Research teacher Andrea Struve regularly visited Año Nuevo Natural Reserve with her family. Many of her students have an interest in science, so when the opportunity arose to bring them to the preserve, she didn’t hesitate.

“The students were most excited to see the elephant seals,” Struve said. “To not only ask the docents questions, because all of them love engaging with others who are passionate about what they do, but also just be able to be immersed in something that they would have read about.”

Struve said her students were disappointed when the tour was canceled. But the class used the news of the outbreak to discuss disease progression and why officials needed to shut down public access to the seals. She added that she will try to bring students to the park again should she get funding for future field trips, particularly considering the amount of

research that takes place there.

“Going back to AP Research in the real world, that’s the whole point behind it: It’s to bring the kids out into the world and see what’s around them and experience the things that they’ve learned in the class, outside,” Struve said.

A legacy of research and conservation

The outbreak didn’t surprise scientists. It wasn’t a question of if the virus would jump to local marine mammals, but when.

Over the last two years, UC Santa Cruz and University of California, Davis researchers have regularly swabbed and tested animals to monitor for the disease, Robinson said.

“Knowing that avian influenza (was) within the seabirds along the West Coast ... we knew that it might happen,” he said.

The experts were all in place when the outbreak hit. UC Santa Cruz biologist Roxanne Beltran, who leads the university’s long-term elephant seal monitoring program, identified the telltale neurological symptoms in the first afflicted pups. Protective gear and swabs were already on hand at the park for sampling, and UC Davis scientists were ready to process those samples upon delivery. A pathologist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife was quickly brought in to perform necropsies, Robinson said.

“We found out very quickly what was going on because of that collaboration that we already had,” he said.

Prior to the partnership, UC Santa Cruz researchers studied the Año Nuevo elephant seal colony for nearly six decades, tagging over 50,000 seals in that time and making it one of the most closely monitored populations in the world.

Northern elephant seals, now numbering roughly 200,000 individuals globally, are widely considered a conservation success story after their recovery from a group of around 20 seals off the coast of Mexico in the 19th century. At the time, they were presumed extinct. Protections granted by the Mexican government allowed their numbers to recover and their range to grow.

By the 1950s, they arrived at Año Nuevo Island, and over two decades later the first pup was born on the mainland, Blake said. The passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act secured their protected status in the United States in 1972.

The Año Nuevo state park and reserve took shape over decades,



Photo by Frans Lanting for Beltran Lab/UC Santa Cruz/NMFS permit 28742/www.lanting.com

Courtesy Frans Lanting for the Beltran Lab / UC Santa Cruz under NMFS Permit 28742
A researcher collects a nasal swab sample from a symptomatic elephant seal weaned pup for avian influenza testing.

ELEPHANT SEALS

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beginning in the 1950s as land was progressively acquired, Blake said. UC Santa Cruz's research program took off in 1967.

"This really long history of study is what is going to help be able to really get a handle on how this avian flu is affecting the animals," Blake said. "They're being studied, and with that study can come knowledge, and with that knowledge we were able to get a lot more information."

Decades of research allowed scientists to understand how the virus interacted with individual animals. If a flipper-tagged seal died of the bird flu, for example, scientists could pinpoint where and when it was born, and potentially even trace what other wildlife it had interacted with, Robinson said.

"Because we had all those systems in place: the censuses, the tagging, and the knowledge of the normal patterns, that just allows us to put everything in context," he said.

Digging deeper

As the outbreak wanes in elephant seals, scientists are sampling animals "once per

week or as needed," Robinson said. Researchers are also gradually resuming routine work at the preserve while donning additional protective gear, he added.

Christine Johnson, who directs the UC Davis Institute for Pandemic Insights, is leading efforts to answer key questions about the virus. (The institute works in collaboration with UC Santa Cruz at Año Nuevo.)

Scientists believe Año Nuevo elephant seals caught the virus from birds at the beach, as they tend to carry it. But that's a "best scientific guess at the moment," said Johnson, and it still needs to be confirmed. Data from a couple of years of sampling and testing birds in the area is getting sequenced now to better understand how long this strain has been on the California coast.

But researchers do know the flu that infected the elephant seals has a mutation that allows it to survive at the lower body temperatures found in mammals compared to birds.

Robinson said it's unclear how the upcoming breeding season of both brandt's cormorants and western gulls, two seabirds that nest on Año Nuevo Island, will impact the outbreak. Sea

lions will start giving birth in May, throwing another layer of uncertainty into the situation.

Because the virus can spread from wildlife to people, it's crucial to monitor how it evolves and interacts with the environment, Johnson added. Down the line, it could help improve public health messaging around the disease.

"People can get it from animals, so we really want to mitigate that," she said. "Keeping an eye on the evolution of the virus is helpful for us to understand what the risk is."

Researchers are also developing technologies to support future wildlife studies during outbreaks. Thermal cameras on drones could identify live and dead animals in remote areas, like Año Nuevo Island. A device called an air sampler could collect particles in the air that are then analyzed in a lab, Johnson said. It could shed light on whether a particular strain of the bird flu is airborne.

One researcher has also created a breathalyzer of sorts that detects different COVID variants. If it could be applied to detect avian flu in marine mammals, it could be a game-changer, Johnson said.

"We can do so much more if we

don't have to get our hands on an animal," she said. "It's better for them in an outbreak, as well as us, right? So that's really the future."

What happens next?

Año Nuevo State Park announced the natural preserve's elephant seal viewing areas will reopen Saturday, April 11. A safe distance of 30 feet should be maintained from the elephant seals, Blake said. Roping around the park has been updated to reflect that guideline. If bird flu cases return, public access to the preserve may be limited again.

Guided tours are no longer required this time of year. Visitors can hike to the elephant seal viewing areas on their own after picking up a free permit in

Año Nuevo State Park is open 365 days a year, while the Año Nuevo Natural Preserve is closed from Dec. 1-14 and on Dec. 25. A \$10 parking fee is required at the park. For more information, visit the Año Nuevo State Park website.

For more information on UC Santa Cruz's elephant seal research program, visit tinyurl.com/ucsc_elephantseals.

person at the park.

While the breeding season has come to a close, adult females are starting their molts as weanlings head out on their first migrations. ■

Magali Gauthier is a Contributing Writer.

FINANCE

continued from page 5

charter, imposing a parcel tax and modifying the utility users tax.

If the town does not pursue a revenue enhancing measure, the council may need to consider reducing personnel, suspending town committees, reducing staff development and limiting building and planning consultant hours, McFarlane said.

"The staff are the reason the town has stabilized and losing staff actually is expensive as well as demoralizing," Councilmember Helen Wolter said.

The town might also have to reduce fire mitigation services and its level of San Mateo County Sheriff's Office services, McFarlane said. Since the town doesn't have its own police department, it contracts with the county Sheriff's Office for police services.

The Sheriff's Office contract remains the town's largest expense and is expected to increase each year. The next fiscal year will see a \$197,000 increase in the contract compared to this year, as well as a \$508,000 increase to the general fund budget when grants and funds used in previous years expire. The total cost for the policing contract is projected to reach \$2.5 million.

This year, the town was able to offset contract expenses by using a \$211,000 credit provided by the Sheriff's Office and tapping \$100,000 in remaining funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Capital improvement projects (CIP) for parks, roadways, open space and town facilities will also be costly for the town, with a total of \$1.29 million budgeted. The most expensive projects include street resurfacing for \$900,000, schoolhouse IT upgrades for \$100,000 and Town Hall energy efficiency upgrades for \$64,000.

Other projects ranging between \$20,000 and \$51,000 include town tennis court resurfacing, trail rehabilitation, storm drain repairs and designs to replace the Ford Field bathrooms. To better prepare for town priority projects, McFarlane recommended the town council create a capital improvement plan.

McFarlane also suggested the council provide a cost-of-living adjustment for its 13 staff members as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is rising about 3% annually. He recommended the council approve a 3% COLA increase totalling to \$63,000.

The town also plans to hire an assistant town manager and a senior development review technician, positions which are currently vacant.

McFarlane emphasized that the town staff has not received a merit increase in two years and suggested the council look into a 2% pool for salary bonuses.

Council member Judith Hasko explained that with declining revenue and rising expenses, she does not feel comfortable providing staff merit raises until the town passes a revenue ballot measure.

Hasko recommended holding off on issuing merit bonuses until later in the year but expressed her support for a 2.5% COLA increase.

"I think COLA and merit is part of retention and also we don't have extra money to spend," said Mayor Craig Taylor as he expressed his support of a 3% COLA increase.

As council members were trying to balance staff appreciation and dwindling reserves, they ultimately agreed on exploring a 2.5% COLA increase and 1.5% merit bonus. The council asked McFarlane to provide a model of how the budget would be impacted with these increases.

"I do think that we need to take care of our staff and people need to feel they're respected, supported and compensated," Council member Mary Hufty said. ■

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Eleanor Raab

A group of trees at Holbrook-Palmer Park. Ginkgo tree in the foreground.

Atherton Arbor Day

The town of Atherton is hosting Arbor Day at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 18, at Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave., in celebration of Earth Month. Volunteers are invited to help the town plant new sapling trees with Atherton Town Arborist Sally Bentz-Dalton.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Bentz-Dalton at sbentz@athertonca.gov.

GeoKids open house

GeoKids Early Childhood Development Center, 345 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park, is hosting its open house from 10-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 18, for families to tour the campus and meet its teachers.

The cooperative childcare center and preschool is now enrolling for the 2026-27 school year for children between the ages of three months and 5 years. GeoKids was founded in 1987 by a group of parents who worked for the United States Geological Survey and the Stanford Research Institute (now SRI International).

Tours can also be scheduled at other times through the "Contact Us" page at geokids.org or by calling 650-942-6560.

Music at the Park

The Horse Park at Woodside is celebrating the community with live indie music at Music at the Park from 4-8 p.m. on Saturday, May 9. The event will take place at the Heart of the Park.

The event will be headlined by Anthony Arya Band, an indie folk artist from the Bay Area. He previously appeared on NBC's The Voice and has released four albums with a fifth scheduled for release this year.

Tickets for the concert cost \$35 for adults and are free for children under 8 years old. Chairs, tables, and light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, visit horsepark.org/calendar/music-at-the-park. ■

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

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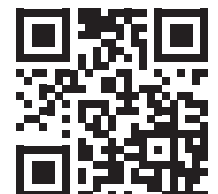
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SHIOK!

continued from page 1

Now Shiok! has reopened at 625 Oak Grove Ave., the former location of Lotus Restaurant.

“We don’t want to think of it as like a new opening. We want to think of it as we’re coming back to the community,” Lim said. “It’s always been about the community, the people coming in, introducing them to the flavors.”

Lim said customers can expect to see a lot of familiar faces at the new space. The entire kitchen staff is the same as before they closed and several of the servers

are returning.

The reopening has been a community effort. With limited funds after losing the previous space and having to pay moving expenses, Lim said his family is doing much of the renovation work themselves. His brother-in-law handled carpentry, his sister worked on the gardening and his wife helped build the seating. Customers have volunteered time and donated items to help get the new dining room ready, he added.

Singaporean cuisine is unique because it blends food from across Asia, Lim said. He describes it as

“the original fusion cuisine,” shaped over generations.

“Because Singapore is a small island, we adopt culture and food from all of the different ethnicities that live there,” Lim said. He added that customers will see influences from Chinese, Indian, Malay, Indonesian, Thai and European cooking on the menu.

For first-time customers, Lim recommends ordering across those traditions rather than sticking to a single flavor profile.

Just down the street, the former Chestnut Street building where Shiok! once operated sits, boarded up.

“We’re just wondering why, why is it vacant? We could have been there for a year,” he said, adding that neighboring businesses with decades-long tenures were also kicked out.

Shiok! is open in its new location

Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for lunch and 5-8 p.m. for dinner Tuesday through Sunday. ■

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



Sign up today for the only food newsletter on the Peninsula at AlmanacNews.com/peninsula-foodist

Public Notices

**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ADOPTION OF TOWN CHARTER
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026 AT 7:00 P.M.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on May 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as it may convene, the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing to consider and receive comments from the community regarding the proposed adoption of a Town Charter for the Town of Portola Valley. Over the past year and pending further direction at the Town Council study session on April 22, 2026, the Town Council has examined the viability of several locally controlled revenue enhancement options and has prioritized the consideration of a real property transfer tax (RPTT). A RPTT can only be implemented by charter cities and towns so the Town Council is considering providing the residents with the option to move from being a General Law Town to being a Charter Town. This hearing fulfills the requirements California Government Code § 34458 for a first public hearing to consider the adoption of a Town charter. If the Town Council approves further consideration of the proposed charter, a second noticed public hearing will be held as required by law. The meeting will take place at the Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Rd, Portola Valley, CA; and may be accessed virtually. Comments may be submitted in writing prior to the Town Council meeting by email: PVTownClerk@portolavalley.net, or in person or remotely via Zoom at the meeting of Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. All interested persons are invited to appear before the Town Council at the time and place herein above mentioned. The Town's website is www.portolavalley.net. The agenda and staff report will be published at <https://www.portolavalley.net/town-government/town-council/minutes-and-agendas> 72 hours in advance of the meeting.
Published: April 17, 2026
Veronica Dao
Town Clerk
Portola Valley
4/17/26
CNS-4032397#
THE ALMANAC
(ALM Apr 17, 2026)**

**MILKY TEA WORKS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-303320
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) MILKY TEA WORKS, located at 724 PALOMA AVE, BURLINGAME, CA 94010.
Registered owner(s):
LOUIS SREMAC
724 PALOMA AVE
BURLINGAME, CA 94010
This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 20, 2026.
(ALM Apr 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2026)**

**SAFE PATH LIVING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-303491
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SAFE PATH LIVING, located at 1450 Lincoln Avenue Unit 13, Burlingame, CA 94010.
Registered owner(s):
FUNCTIONAL SOLUTIONS LLC
1450 Lincoln Avenue Unit 13
Burlingame, CA 94010
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 08, 2026.
(ALM Apr 17, 24, May 1 and 8, 2026)**

**QUIRARTE PAINTING AND HOME SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-303444
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) QUIRARTE PAINTING AND HOME SERVICES, located at 1514 W Selby Lane, Redwood City, CA 94061.
Registered owner(s):
HECTOR QUIRARTE
1514 West Selby Lane
Redwood City, CA 94061
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 April 03, 2026.
(ALM Apr 10, 17, 24 and May 1, 2026)**

**INQUIRY LAB COACHING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-303275
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) INQUIRY LAB COACHING, located at 855 Jefferson Ave, BOX #104, Redwood City, CA 94063.
Registered owner(s):
NORBERT KEITH TAVARES
855 Jefferson Ave, BOX #104
Redwood City, CA 94063
This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on March 1, 2026.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 16, 2026.
(ALM Apr 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2026)**

**R&B ELECTRONICS SERVICE COMPANY LLC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-303349
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) R&B ELECTRONICS SERVICE COMPANY LLC, located at 1103 ODDSTAD DR, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063.**

**Registered owner(s):
R&B ELECTRONICS SERVICE COMPANY LLC
1103 ODDSTAD DR
REDWOOD CITY CA, 94063
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 24, 2026.
(ALM Apr 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2026)**

**THE GUILD THEATRE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-303271
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) THE GUILD THEATRE, located at 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
PENINSULA ARTS GUILD
905 El Camino Real
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 10/12/2017.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 16, 2026.
(ALM Mar 27, Apr 3, 10 and 17, 2026)**

**VIRSONO HEARING CENTER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-303286
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) VIRSONO HEARING CENTER, located at 1165B O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
EARLENS HEARING CENTER, INC
1165B O'Brien Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025
State of Incorporation/Organization: Delaware
This business is conducted by: a Corporation. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/03/2020.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 18, 2026.
(ALM Mar 27, Apr 3, 10 and 17, 2026)**

**KEN MCCOY CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-303297
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) KEN MCCOY CONSULTING, located at 2320 Cheshire Way, Redwood City, CA 94061.
Registered owner(s):
KENNETH F. MCCOY
2320 Cheshire Way
Redwood City, CA 94061
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 March 18, 2026.
(ALM Mar 27, Apr 3, 10 and 17, 2026)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 26-CIV-02337
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Renee Clarice Mendoza filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
CLARICE RENEE MENDOZA to RENEE CLARICE MENDOZA
CLARICE C. MENDOZA to RENEE CLARICE MENDOZA
RENEE C. BUSACKER to RENEE CLARICE MENDOZA
RENEE BUSACKER to RENEE CLARICE MENDOZA
RENEE MENDOZA to RENEE CLARICE MENDOZA
RENEE C. MENDOZA to RENEE CLARICE MENDOZA
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: June 3, 2026, 9:00 a.m., San Mateo of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
ALMANAC
Date: 04/03/2026
MC
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Apr 17, 24, May 1 and 8, 2026)**

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 26-CIV-01817
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Peggy Chi filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
MARISSA HU to MARISSA 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: 5/20/2026, 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: 03/19/2026
Hon. Stephanie G. Garratt
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Apr 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2026)**

**WOODSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS (RFQ/P)**

NTF-01 SPORTS ENGINEERING SERVICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Woodside Elementary School District (“District”) is seeking to establish a pool of qualified persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, associations, or professional organizations to provide sports engineering, civil engineering, landscape architecture, and specialty engineering services for upcoming synthetic and natural grass fields projects.

Application packages are available on the Woodside Elementary School District’s website, <https://www.woodsideschool.us/> or at the District’s located at: 3195 Woodside Dr., Woodside, CA 94062

Respondents to the RFQ/P should mail or deliver five (5) bound copies, one (1) unbound copy, and one (1) electronic copy on flash drive of their Submittal, labeled “RFQ/P #NTF-01 Submittal,” to:

**Hanwool Kim - Business Services CBO
WOODSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

3195 Woodside Dr. Woodside, CA 94062

ALL RESPONSES ARE DUE BY 2:00 P.M. ON Monday, May 4, 2026. Oral, telegraphic, facsimile, telephone, and/or email Submittals will not be accepted. Submittals received after this date and time will not be accepted. (ALM Apr 10 and 17, 2026)

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.

A DREAM Weaver at the Cantor Arts Center

Form goes far beyond function in Jeremy Frey's take on an age-old handicraft

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

REVIEW

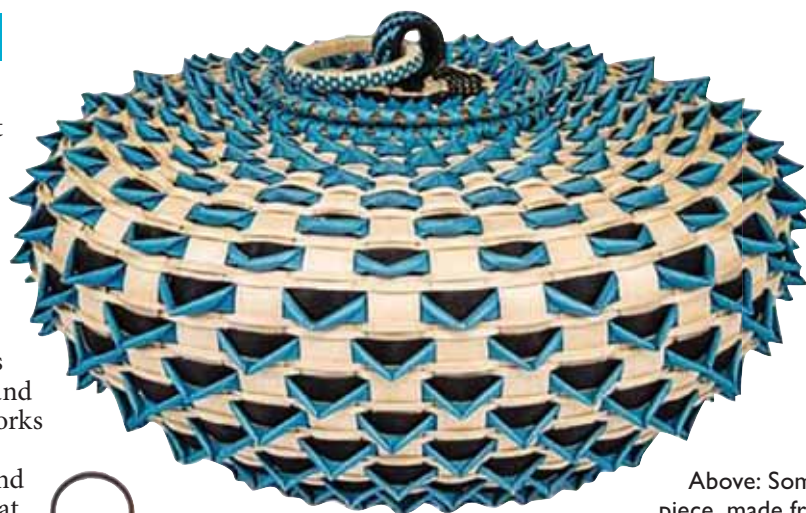
There used to be a strict dividing line separating art and craft: If it was made by hand and used in a utilitarian manner, it was a craft, not fine art. Over the last century, that division has been largely eliminated. Walk into any museum and you will see examples of quilting, embroidery, pottery and woodworking now recognized as works of fine art.

Go to the Cantor Arts Center and you can see yet another category that used to be relegated to craft — basketry — and be amazed at the exquisite objects made by Maine artist Jeremy Frey. On view through July 20, “Jeremy Frey: Woven” consists

of 30 examples of Frey’s innovative approach to a traditional art form.

Frey, who learned how to weave baskets from his mother, is a descendant of the Passamaquoddy Indian Township Reservation in eastern Maine. Basketmaking has been undertaken by many generations in this area, with men usually making the utility or work baskets and women weaving the “fancy baskets” that were more decorative. Frey began making baskets in 2000, taking the basic form into new and unconventional directions that resulted in him receiving a prestigious “genius” fellowship from the MacArthur Foundation in 2025.

This exhibition, organized by the Portland Museum of Art, has also been shown at the Art Institute of Chicago prior to coming to the Cantor. Veronica Roberts, Cantor Arts Center



executive director, expressed her excitement at hosting the show, saying that, “Frey’s baskets vibrate, pulsate and are full of life.”

In addition to weaving, Frey also harvests and processes the raw materials for his pieces.

Before viewing the exhibition, it is worthwhile to watch the short, unnarrated video shown in a small room outside the gallery that details Frey’s process. It starts by following the artist into the woods where he carefully selects and cuts down an ash tree. It is obvious that, even with modern tools like a chainsaw, making a basket is still a time-consuming and laborious process.

Frey uses a specific species of brown ash because of its color and grain. As he chops the wood and then further cuts it into long, slender threads, the amount of sheer muscular effort is impressive to watch. He works alone, from felling the tree, to stripping off bark and amassing wood strips for weaving.

Above: Some of Jeremy Frey’s pieces are larger scale, such as “Loon.” The piece, made from ash wood, cedar bark, porcupine quill on birch bark, and dye, is about 3 feet tall. Courtesy Eric Stoner. Left: Jeremy Frey wove a series of baskets inspired by the shape of sea urchins, as seen in this piece, “Blue Point Urchin,” made from sweetgrass, dye and ash. Courtesy William Marceau. Below Left: Jeremy Frey incorporates natural materials such as porcupine quills, which he gathers from the roadside, in baskets such as “Observer.” Courtesy Eric Stoner.

Frey also hand-dyes the strips to create a color palette that enhances the basic shape. Using wooden molds that he has also created, Frey expands upon the typical shape and size of traditional baskets to create pieces with complex patterns and designs.

Beginning with his First Fine Weave series of baskets from 2003, it is obvious that Frey strives for balance, symmetry and intricacy in his work. These baskets are small in scale and a bit delicate-looking but that is offset by the incredible uniformity of the weave, creating a strong and durable object. He learned how to braid coastal Maine sweetgrass, which he has incorporated here, creating subtle and pleasing color contrasts.

Sea urchins, once harvested by the Passamaquoddy community, have become an inspiration for Frey as he pushes the boundaries of traditional basketry. His Urchin Series baskets are made of ash and sweetgrass, dyed in matte shades of black, green and blue. In the “Blue Point Urchin” basket, the low, rounded form is complemented by triangular-shaped

points that mimic the needles of the sea creature. Frey tops the highly tactile baskets with braided lids and ring finials.

Frey, who spoke at the Cantor Arts Center on April 2, said, “The urchin is a difficult shape to weave.”

“But,” he added, “I am always trying to challenge things.”

As Frey began creating molds for his baskets, they became larger and more complicated. “Loon” stands at three feet in height and definitely blurs the line between basketry and sculpture. Like a fine vase, the piece begins with a round base then slowly grows into a more bulbous form, narrowing again at the top. With his usual tight weaving of ash and cedar bark, it stands tall and strong, looking every bit as impervious as a bronze statue. He has also created a whimsical lid for the piece, a finely woven circle that leads the eye toward the center and to a picture of a duck in water, fashioned using dyed porcupine quills. True to form, Frey collects the quills himself



'Wordside' helps creatives develop, publish their stories

Writing group meets at the Woodside Library weekly

By Angela Swartz

Every Friday afternoon, a group of around a dozen people gather around a conference room table in the Woodside Library to exchange constructive, encouraging feedback on their poems, novels, essays or memoirs, incorporating timed writing exercises to spark creativity.

"Wordside" was founded almost a decade ago as a safe place for participants to share their writing and practice reading it aloud.

It also provides a social space for members, who enjoy chatting at the beginning of each meeting.

The group formed in 2017 when Christabel Choi came to the library in search of a creative writing group. Without one, the librarian asked Choi, a Hayward resident who traveled to Huddart Park to bring her children to a nature program, to found such a group at the library.

Choi has since left the group, but she published her first book, a memoir called "Rice Paper Window" about her experience as a student in South Korea in the late 1980s, in June 2025.

One of the group's earliest members, Woodside resident Ricardo Lopez-Regalado, intended to get help from the group to translate his Spanish poems into English

with nuance. Ultimately, Wordside inspired him to start a novel. He compiled a book of short stories and poems called "Sangre Without Lines."

"We have a sense of community, a sense of being safe here, a sense of exploration without fear," he said.

Menlo Park resident David Roland, who joined in 2025, said he was a Toastmaster — a club in which you practice both planned speeches and unplanned responses — for many years. He wrote a lot but only had fragments and ideas.

"This group gave me the juice to put pieces together," said Roland. He's brought his granddaughter to the group as well.

He is working on an autobiographical novel, along with poems and chronicles of his business trips. "In fact, I'm on the threshold of cleaning up a couple of poems which I plan to submit to the New Yorker. Why not aim high?"

Since joining Wordside, Maria Devito has written two poetry books and a detective story.

But looking back, the San Mateo resident recalls that she was nervous when she joined



Michael Molcsan

Ricardo Lopez-Regalado points at a whiteboard during a Wordside Writers meeting.



Michael Molcsan

Ed Gray speaks during a Wordside Writers meeting at Woodside Library in Woodside on April 10.

Wordside. She brought a children's story to her first meeting.

"So I read it, and they gave me such positive feedback and were really supportive," she said. "So my fear just dissolved. ... Every Friday I've been coming as many times as I'm able, and I learned so much. I grew so much as a writer."

Although she doesn't attend Wordside meetings very often anymore, Foster City resident Shirley Potasz said she has found purpose in memoir writing since joining the group.

"I'm 90, and you have to have a purpose in life to keep going — something that inspires you to get up and do what you feel," she said.

Potasz also held leadership roles in Toastmasters over the years, where she met Lopez-Regalado, who introduced her to Wordside.

Redwood City resident Irene Perali joined Wordside a year ago when she came to the Woodside Library with her kids.

"I self-published a novel ("Followives" about Italian women who immigrate to the U.S. with their husbands) five years ago in solitude, so I really wanted to join a group that kept me motivated," said Perali, who is originally from Italy. "It's nice to be part of a writing community. I work in tech, and all my friends are in tech, and it's been very refreshing to be exposed to people who are not in tech."

She also noted that she is not a native English speaker and that reading to other people forces her to read better and be more expressive. ■

Angela Swartz is a Contributing Writer.

Wordside Writers Group meets at the Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, on Fridays, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. View the Woodside Library's events calendar at tinyurl.com/WoodsideLibraryEvents. Visit tinyurl.com/WordSideFirstFriday to see Wordside Writer's Group's presentation at Woodside Arts & Culture's First Friday event.

BASKETS

continued from page 24

from roadsides and uses them to create portraits of animals on his basket lids.

"My practice turns an ancient traditional form into a contemporary piece of art," Frey stated in an interview from the exhibition catalog.

Other innovations that Frey has developed include a double-walled basket, in which one basket is nestled within another. In the aptly named, "Deception," it is impossible to discern where one basket ends and another begins — and how the artist might have kept track of all the intricate and precise placement of materials (ash and braided cedar bark). At the lecture, Frey was asked how he creates these complex creations. He laughingly declined to answer, saying that the viewer "doesn't need to know everything about his process."

As his work and methods have evolved, Frey's baskets have become bolder, brighter and even more precise. In "Observer," his signature form has been embellished with an

elaborate geometric pattern consisting of dyed quills at the rim that perfectly mesh with the black and red circular design on the lid. This is clearly not just a vessel but an object of incredibly skilled workmanship and beauty.

It is easy to see why Frey's work has garnered so much attention and praise. Since 2001, he has been recognized with numerous awards in prestigious Indian markets in Santa Fe and Phoenix. His baskets can be found in nationally known collections, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Denver Art Museum.

In the catalog, Frey offers this intention for his work:

"Basketry is an art form I can relate to in many ways. It is part of my heritage, an art form that connects me to my relatives living and past. For me, to weave is a way to honor my ancestors. However, it is also a way to honor future generations both through my teachings and through my personal carrying out of the art form."

When asked where he might go next, Frey said that he



Courtesy Glen Cheriton

"Jeremy Frey: Woven" shows the variety in scale of his pieces.

is contemplating working with copper or bronze, a change made necessary by the fact that borer beetles are decimating ash trees across the United States. He is currently harvesting and stockpiling as much of this ancestral weaving material as he can.

Frey addressed the art/craft

question by stating, "I originally wanted to make 'art' but over time I realized that the art-craft argument was pointless. Now, it is irrelevant." ■

Email Contributing Writer Sheryl Nonnenberg at nonnenberg@aol.com.

"Jeremy Frey: Woven" is on view through July 20 at the Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford; admission is free. The Cantor will offer two curator talks about the exhibition on June 25 at noon and on July 16 at 5 p.m. For more information about the show or the talks, visit museum.stanford.edu.

THE BUZZ ABOUT APISOL

THIS SPARKLING HONEY DRINK IS MADE ON THE PENINSULA

By Karla Kane

It's fizzy and fermented, but it's not kombucha. It's slightly sweet but it's not soda. It's brewed with grain, but it's nonalcoholic and definitely not beer. So what is it?

When someone takes a sip of an Apisol beverage for the first time, "pretty much everybody is telling me, they've never had anything like that," founder Ariana Wei said.

Apisol is a sparkling, honey-based drink. The name comes from "apes," which is Latin for bees, and hydrosol, which refers to the aromatic water made from

More information is available at drinkapolis.com.
Instagram: @drinkapolis.

flowers and herbs. It's brewed from grains and Bay Area honey, with no artificial flavors or preservatives, and it's currently available in several flavors, both canned and on tap.

Wei, a resident of the Redwood Shores area of Redwood City, developed the unique beverage through experimentation (she declined to

share details on the proprietary fer-

mentation method).

"I did take inspiration from a lot of things ... a little bit about beer, a little bit from kombucha, and also soda, obviously, and then kvass. So it's kind of a fusion of all the fizzy drinks out there," she said. "And I wanted to make something that's not too sweet. Or, I call it just sweet enough."

Current canned Apisol flavors include the honey-forward original, lavender and cascara (made from coffee cherry, the fruit of the coffee plant).

To source her honey, Wei tried many varieties from local suppliers and ultimately settled on a company from the Napa Valley, which she said has the complex taste profile and sustainable practices she wanted, as well as the ability to provide enough honey consistently.

For the lavender, she uses high-quality culinary buds, avoiding any cloying "grandma soap" scent or flavor, she said with a laugh.

"Not using the syrup, using the real flower, really makes a difference," she said.

The cascara flavor is the newest canned option. She described the flavor as "a little sour tart, fruity. To me, it tastes kind of like tamarind," with "an earthy undertone." It doesn't taste much like coffee, she said, but it is lightly caffeinated, providing a mild energy boost.

'IT'S KIND OF A FUSION OF ALL THE FIZZY DRINKS OUT THERE.'

ARIANA WEI, APISOL FOUNDER

Around the holidays, she offered a special cranberry flavor, which she will likely do again this year. And at pop-ups, she also sells on-tap batches, including a velvety butter cream-topped option that's made with brown sugar, butter, cream and milk, inspired by the concept of butterbeer in the "Harry Potter" series. The rich and creamy flavor has become a fan favorite.

Apisol beverages have "all the benefits of the real honey. You have natural antioxidants and probiotics," Wei said. The canned varieties are pasteurized, but the on-tap drinks also have probiotics, she added.

The origins of Apisol are rooted in Wei's longtime love of honey products.

"I eat a lot of honey. I just love it," she said. She grew up in China, moved to the U.S. to attend college and had been working as a scientist, using her skills and curiosity to make food and beverages for fun on weekends.

"I cook a lot. I cook good food, according to my husband and my friends. But



Above and left: Cans of lavender-flavored Apisol at a commercial kitchen in Belmont. Photos by Seeger Gray.



From left to right: A can of Cascara-flavored Apisol at a commercial kitchen in Belmont. Apisol creator Ariana Wei stands for a portrait. Photos by Seeger Gray. Apisol is available in several varieties, including a version sold at pop-ups with a butter cream top. Courtesy Apisol.

I don't actually have a background in cooking or the food industry," she said, recalling her time mixing up honey-based brews in pitchers from IKEA and creating Apisol by happy accident.

She estimates going through close to 200 variations before she was satisfied with Apisol's recipe. Feeling burned out from her career in biotech, her husband and friends encouraged her to follow her passion and try bringing Apisol to market. The brand's one-year anniversary will be in July.

Apisol is currently brewed and canned at a commercial kitchen in Belmont. Because she's a one-person operation in a limited space, Wei said she can currently produce a few hundred cans

a week at the most.

Canned Apisol can be ordered directly online (in single-flavor packs or variety four- or six-packs, \$24-\$32.50), but you can also find and sample it at a variety of spots around the Bay Area, including the San Mateo farmers market (at College of San Mateo) on Saturdays, the Redwood City farmers market every other Saturday, the Belmont farmers market on Sundays, and in stock at retailers Fireside Books & More in Redwood City and Food Folk in San Francisco. Wei also brings Apisol to many fairs and pop-up events, including, coming up in May, Santa Clara's Night Market and San Carlos Hometown Days.

Her goal for continuing Apisol's expansion is "definitely to get more people to

try this," as well as having it available and accessible in more locations. Customers who come across her at pop-ups want to find the drinks more consistently, she said. She'd love to be in grocery stores all over the Bay Area.

She'd also like to lower Apisol's price, currently at \$6.50 for a single can.

"That's definitely a premium price. We do want to bring down the price when we can, so that's also a near-future goal," she said.

Wei said she's constantly experimenting with new flavors and welcomes ideas.

"There's a long list. The next couple in mind would be a berry flavor and a floral one. I'm trying to do a new flavor every season," she said.

And for those wanting to give Apisol a try, Wei hopes they'll find her at a market or pop-up soon.

"If I'm in the area, just come over and meet me," she said. ■

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Above from left: A device used by Apisol creator Ariana Wei to check the sweetness of a batch of Apisol tests a syringe with the drink in a commercial kitchen in Belmont. Apisol creator Ariana Wei goes through the process of checking a batch of Apisol for quality. Photos by Seeger Gray.

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