

The Almanac

NONPROFIT LOCAL NEWS FOR THE MIDPENINSULA

SEPTEMBER 18, 2026 | VOL. 62 NO. 3



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‘We’ve done everything we can’ — Menlo Park mayor invites Bonta to see controversial skyscraper project site

Protestors warn of gridlock, environmental damage if development goes through

By Arden Margulis

After he accused Menlo Park of illegally delaying a proposed high-rise development, Mayor Betsy Nash invited California Attorney General Rob Bonta to visit the former Sunset Magazine site and see why residents want the city to keep fighting the project.

Menlo Park and developer N17 have been in an escalating dispute over a proposal to build mixed-use high-rise buildings at the former Sunset Magazine campus on the Palo Alto border. Submitted in 2023 under the state provision known as builder’s remedy, the proposal includes 665 residential units, 332,000 square feet of office space, a 130-room hotel and 17,500 square feet of retail space spread across several buildings. The tallest three would range from 301 to 458 feet in height — meeting most definitions of a skyscraper.

With the Attorney General’s

Office pressuring the city to move the project forward, a group of more than 40 people joined a demonstration Thursday, Sept. 10, at the intersection of Middlefield and Willow roads from 4:30 to 6 p.m., during peak rush hour. As cars headed to Highway 101 were backed up, attendees held signs warning the development would make the area’s traffic problem worse.

“It would make my life absolutely miserable. There will be constant traffic on Willow Road, which is already bad,” said Menlo Park resident Carla Loomis, who lives a few blocks away from the intersection on Willow Road.

Loomis said she could support a differently scaled project at the site.

“A five-story building would be OK, but a 30-plus-story tower is absolutely insane,” she said. “This doesn’t belong in Menlo Park.”

Builder’s remedy allows



Seeger Gray

Menlo Park resident Brian Kissel holds signs during a protest against a planned development at 80 Willow Road, the former office of Sunset Magazine, in Menlo Park on Sept. 10.

developers to bypass local housing rules when a city lacks a certified housing element. At the time of the project’s submission, Menlo Park was awaiting state

approval of its housing element. On July 29, the California Attorney General’s Office sent a letter warning Menlo Park that it was violating state law

by requiring the developer pay certain fees and accused the city of using new reasons to find the

See **SKYSCRAPER**, page 18

Menlo Park, Atherton join county in \$1M Marsh Road bike, pedestrian study

County transportation authority will explore trail options, including possible U.S. 101 crossing

By B. Sakura Cannestra

Officials from San Mateo County, Menlo Park and Atherton are beginning to explore pedestrian and bicycle upgrades to Marsh Road in the hopes of closing travel gaps around U.S. 101.

At its Sept. 3 board meeting, the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA) awarded the trio a \$1 million grant through its 101 Corridor Connect Kickstart mini-grants program, which is

intended to help transportation projects near the highway get off the ground.

The segment of Marsh Road from Middlefield Road north to Bayfront Expressway is overseen by Menlo Park, which applied for the grant individually. South of Middlefield Road to Bay Road is shared between Atherton and the county, which also applied for the grant for their segment. SMCTA helped combine them into one project.

“Broadly, the project is intended to develop a

coordinated vision for improving multimodal transportation connections along Marsh Road and across US 101,” Sue-Ellen Atkinson, manager for SMCTA’s Planning and Fund Management division, told this news organization in an email.

The agencies still need to work out the project’s scope and what options might be pursued, since the project is in its infancy. Atkinson said SMCTA is providing technical assistance, and will help find a consultant to study the area and gather public input

on potential improvements, such as a shared-use trail and a pedestrian and cyclist crossing over the highway. She said they’re anticipating the study to begin mid-2027.

Marsh Road has been on all three jurisdictions’ radar for years. Menlo Park’s 2024 Vision Zero Action Plan identifies Marsh Road as a “high collision corridor.”

Atherton officials noted Marsh Road’s potential as a bicycle and pedestrian corridor more than a decade ago. In the town’s 2014 Bicycle and

Pedestrian Master Plan, the “Bay to Ridge Greenway” was proposed to give residents more travel options across the highway, to the multiple office spaces and to the Bay Trail.

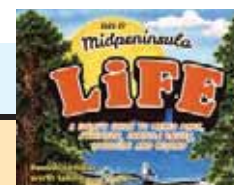
Atherton Public Works Director Robert Ovadia said the city is working to finalize an updated Active Transportation Plan, which will once again include this project, before the end of the year. ■

Email Staff Writer
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INSIDE

MIDPENINSULA LIFE 2026

VIEWPOINT 22 | ARTS 23 | FOOD 25



We Are Buying

Watches, Jewelry, Diamonds

Rubies, Sapphires, Emeralds

Gold, Platinum and Silver



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

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

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

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Michael Merritt
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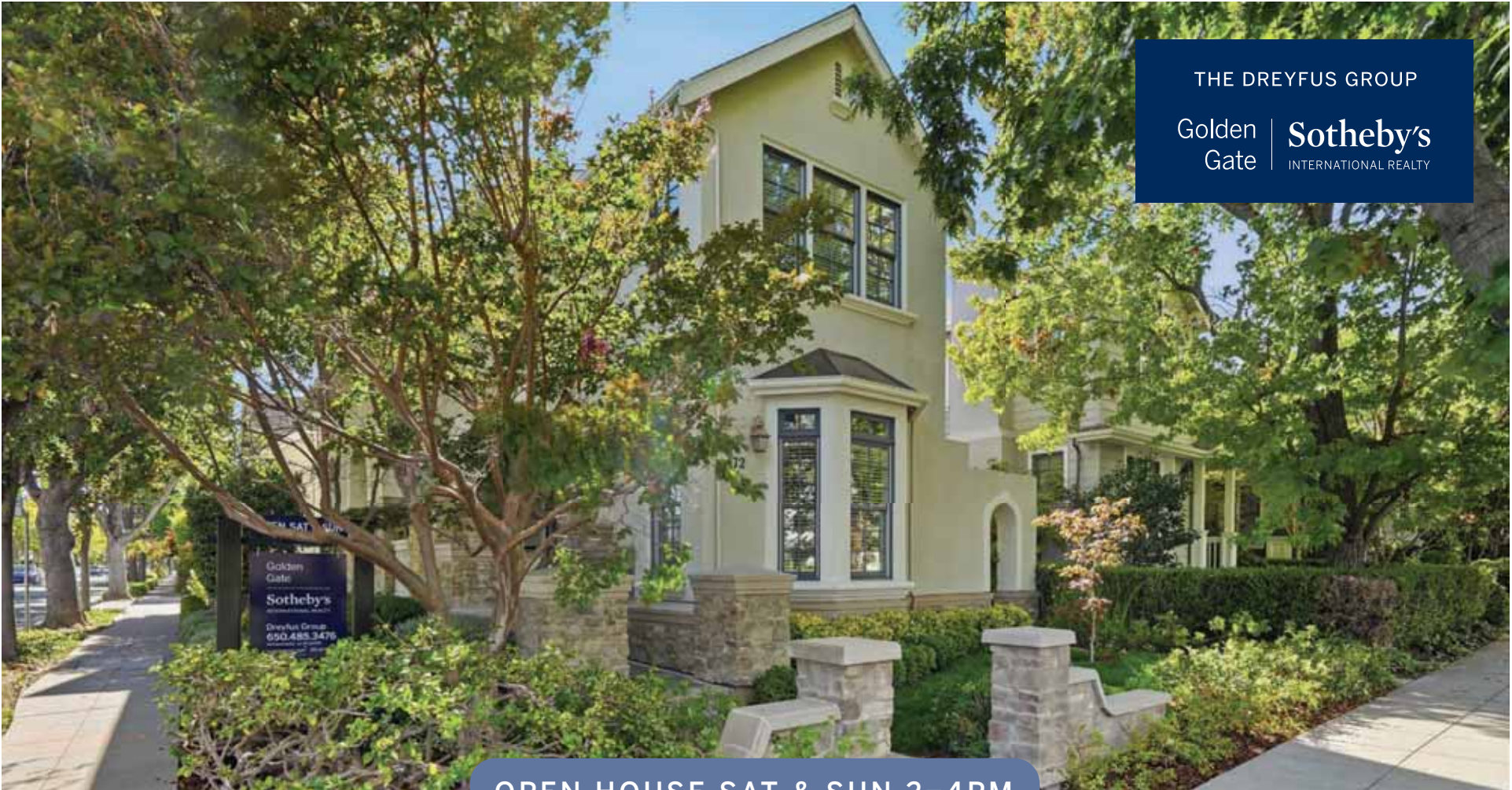
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Local News

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Michael Molcsan

A group of people cross Skyline Boulevard towards the Skyline Watershed Ridge trail in unincorporated San Mateo County on Sept. 12.

New Skyline Watershed trail raises concerns over parking, pedestrian safety

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The newly opened Skyline Watershed Ridge Trail in San Mateo County is booming in popularity — it's almost too popular, as far as local residents are concerned. They say overflow from the parking lot is resulting in lines of cars parked on the side of Highways 35 and 92, raising concerns about obstructing traffic, grass fires and pedestrian safety.

The 6-mile trail, owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), was 20 years in the making, offering access to a sensitive habitat in watershed lands surrounding reservoirs that supply the Peninsula with drinking water. While the only other trail through SFPUC watershed land is restricted to docent-led hikes, the new trail requires only a free annual permit. Permit holders can bring up to six

people with them.

Since opening on Aug. 24, the trail has gotten "overwhelming interest," drawing large crowds on weekends, according to Bay City News.

The designated parking lot at the start of the trailhead has about two dozen spaces, but the number of vehicles traveling up to the area often exceeds that. On the side of Highway 35, known locally as Skyline

See **TRAIL**, page 16

Former Robinhood engineer arrested in crypto trading case

Hefu Chai faces 30 years in prison for using confidential information to gain over \$50,000, prosecutors allege

By Arden Margulis

Menlo Park resident and former Robinhood engineer Hefu Chai was arrested on Tuesday, Sept. 15 on commodities fraud and wire fraud charges, the U.S. Department of Justice announced.

Chai, 36, and fellow engineer Huaisong "Jerry" Xiang, 30, are accused of using confidential information obtained through their work at Robinhood to trade cryptocurrency-linked futures contracts on Hyperliquid.

From March 2025 through February 2026, prosecutors allege, the pair bought futures contracts before Robinhood publicly announced it would add certain cryptocurrencies to its platform. Those announcements typically drove up the cryptocurrencies' prices, according to a recently unsealed indictment.

Chai and Xiang allegedly made more than \$50,000 in profits from the trades, the DOJ said in a news release.

"Misappropriating confidential information to trade in the derivatives markets for personal benefit is illegal," U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Jamie McDonald said in a news release. "That is exactly

what we allege Hefu Chai and Huaisong Xiang have done. (Tuesday's) charges make clear that corporate insiders cannot evade the securities and commodities laws by trading based on misappropriated information in derivatives like perpetual futures, tokenized securities, or other similar financial instruments."

Both defendants were scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday, Sept. 16, Chai in the Northern District of California, and Xiang — a New Jersey resident — in the Southern District of New York, the Justice Department said.

Each man faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison if convicted.

As part of his role at Robinhood, Chai was responsible for listing new cryptocurrencies. He was among a select group of employees with access to a confidential Slack channel that disclosed when cryptocurrencies would be added to the platform, prosecutors said.

Robinhood and its subsidiary, Robinhood Crypto, are headquartered at the former Sunset Magazine offices in Menlo Park. Together, the companies are Menlo Park's third-largest employer,

See **CRYPTO TRADING**, page 7

Woodside Fire hosts evacuation drill in Portola Valley

Event coincides with commemoration of 9/11

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The Woodside Fire Protection District hosted a large-scale evacuation drill on Sept. 11 as concerns over evacuation routes and wildfire risks continue to grow in Portola Valley. The drill began with a simulated vehicle fire on Buck Meadow Drive.

The small town, notable for its open space and equestrian culture, also has challenges with narrow roadways, thick vegetation and limited egress points.

"It's beautiful here, but there's

a lot of density, a lot of underbrush, dry, dead vegetation at different times of the year, and this is a challenge knowing that when something happens, (there are) threats that surround us," said Woodside Fire Marshal Kim Giuliani.

Woodside Fire was joined by multiple agencies to host the drill, including Redwood City Fire Department and Menlo Park Fire Protection District along with volunteers from the Woodside-Portola Valley Community Emergency Response Team. Dozens of first

responders participated in the exercise.

Giuliaci said data and feedback on the evacuation drill will be collected from all agencies and will be used to identify gaps and areas of improvement for communication and traffic control. She will also be reaching out to residents to gather information on their experience, she said. A report will be developed from collected data and released in the future.

The drill was conducted on Sept. 11 to commemorate Emergency Preparedness

Month and the events of 9/11 by reminding the community of the importance of preparing themselves for emergencies.

In the exercise, a simulated 911 call reported an overheating vehicle that ignited dry vegetation and sparked a wildfire. Soon after, law enforcement responded and began evacuating people in the area. Woodside Fire also had a Hi-Lo siren playing, the universal sound used for emergency evacuation, said Giuliani.

Evacuees were directed to drive down Alpine Road toward

Interstate 280 to leave the area entirely. Participants were advised to react to the drill as if it were real.

"We want people to get out of Portola Valley, not stay here. We are too small of a district to stay in this place," Giuliani said.

In preparation for the evacuation drill, Woodside Fire also used Ladris Technologies, an artificial intelligence software modeled to assist emergency management. Ladris is able to create evacuation models using

See **EVACUATION**, page 9



RESOLUTION NO. 2493 (2026)

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

Lands of Todd C. Scheuer and Marjel M. Scheuer of The Scheuer Family 2011 Trust dated May 24, 2011

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:

- 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.
- 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: September 23, 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.

- 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.).
- 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.
- 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

APPROVED
SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION
455 COUNTY CENTER
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

EXHIBIT "A"
ANNEXATION TO WEST BAY SANITATION DISTRICT
LANDS OF SCHEUER AND A PORTION OF SHAWNEE PASS

EXHIBIT A PAGE 2 OF 2

All that certain real property situate in the Town of Portola Valley, County of San Mateo, State of California, being all of Lot 12, Block 4 and a portion of Shawnee Pass as said Lot, Block and right-of-way are shown on that certain Map entitled "Tract No. 774 Arrowhead Meadows Unit No. 4", filed for record in the Office of the Recorder of said County on March 17, 1959, in Volume 50 of Maps at Pages 45 through 48; being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the northerly right-of-way of Shawnee Pass as shown on said Map, said point being the southerly corner of said Lot 12;

Course 1:
Thence along the southwesterly line of said Lot 12 North 39°15'00" West, 327.70 feet to the westerly corner of said Lot 12;

Course 2:
Thence along the northwesterly line of said Lot 12 North 24°30'00" East, 54.09 feet to the northerly corner of said Lot 12;

Course 3:
Thence along the northeasterly line of said Lot 12 South 65°30'00" East, 386.75 feet to the easterly corner of said Lot 12, said corner being a point on said northerly right-of-way line of Shawnee Pass;

Course 4:
Thence South 48°23'26" East, 25.00 feet to a point on the centerline of Shawnee Pass, said point also being the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the right being concave to the northwest, having a radius of 400.00 feet and to which point a radial line bears South 48°23'26" East;

Course 5:
Thence southwesterly along said centerline of Shawnee Pass and said curve through a central angle of 9°08'26" a distance of 63.81 feet;

Course 6:
Thence South 50°45'00" West, 50.00 feet to the northeasterly line of the lands annexed to Westbay Sanitary District as described in Resolution No. 1171;

Course 7:
Thence along said northeasterly line North 39°15'00" West, 25.00 feet to said northerly right-of-way of Shawnee Pass and the northerly line of said Resolution 1171;

Course 8:
Thence along said northerly right-of-way of Shawnee Pass and the northerly line of said Resolution 1171 South 50°45'00" West, 110.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

As shown on the plat attached hereto and made a part hereof,
Containing an area of: 49,660 sq. ft. or 1.140 acres, more or less.

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 AS THE BASIS FOR AN OFFER FOR SALE OF THE LAND DESCRIBED

Description prepared by Dains Land Surveying, Inc.

Robert J. Dains L.S. 8227
Date April 30, 2026

APPROVED
SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION
455 COUNTY CENTER
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

EXHIBIT A PAGE 2 OF 2

Exhibit B

WESTSIDE DRIVE
GRAY ANTES
MEADOWOOD DR.
SHAWNEE
ROAD
SITE
PASS
SOLIX WAY

VICINITY MAP
NOT TO SCALE

DISCLAIMER:
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 AS THE BASIS FOR AN OFFER FOR SALE OF THE LAND DESCRIBED.

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EXHIBIT B PAGE 1 OF 3

SHAWNEE PASS
(50' - R/W)

LANDS OF GURTNER
LOT 4, BLOCK 2
57 MAPS 5
A.P.N. 077-240-190

LANDS OF SCHEUER
LOT 12, BLOCK 4
50 MAPS 45-48
DOC. NO. 2015-112082
A.P.N. 077-331-080

LANDS OF YOUNG
PARCEL "A"
57 MAPS 5
A.P.N. 077-240-350

LANDS OF ROBINSON
LOT 4, BLOCK 4
50 MAPS 45-48
A.P.N. 077-331-090

LANDS OF HOLMSTROM
LOT 9, BLOCK 4
50 MAPS 45-48
A.P.N. 077-331-050

LANDS OF OMAND
LOT 10, BLOCK 4
50 MAPS 45-48
A.P.N. 077-331-080

LANDS OF WARD
LOT 11, BLOCK 4
50 MAPS 45-48
A.P.N. 077-331-070

COURSE: 1
N 24°30'00" E
54.09'
COURSE: 2

COURSE: 3
S 65°30'00" E
386.75'

COURSE: 4
S 48°23'26" E
25.00' (RADIAL)

COURSE: 5
R=400.00'
D=9°08'26"
L=63.81'

COURSE: 6
S 50°45'00" W
50.00'

COURSE: 7
N 39°15'00" W
25.00'

COURSE: 8
S 50°45'00" W
110.00'

POINT OF BEGINNING

LEGEND
PROPOSED ANNEXATION AREA
EXISTING ANNEXATION AREA
ADJACENT PROPERTY LINES

GRAPHIC SCALE
1 inch = 60 ft.

EXHIBIT "B" - PLAT TO ACCOMPANY LEGAL DESCRIPTION
WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ANNEXATION - 245 SHAWNEE PASS
PORTOLA VALLEY
SAN MATEO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

PLAT: R.D. SCALE: 1" = 60' DATE: 04/30/2026 JOB #: 26-1701

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Atherton OKs resident parking permits near Menlo-Atherton High School

Homeowners said students are creating safety concerns

By Arden Margulis

In a cordial meeting Wednesday, Sept. 9, the Atherton City Council approved a resident-only parking program for Maple Manor after neighbors said student parking from nearby Menlo-Atherton High School had spilled onto their streets.

Once signs are installed in the small neighborhood, only vehicles displaying resident or guest permits may park on De Bell Drive between Oak Grove Avenue and Middlefield Road or on Maple Leaf Way from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays, excluding holidays.

In addition to parking restriction signs, Atherton plans to install unenforceable "No Through Traffic" signs as a deterrent.

At a 20-minute special meeting Sept. 9, the council unanimously approved weekday parking restrictions and sign installation — a decision Mayor Stacy Holland called a "no-brainer."

On May 4, 23 Maple Manor residents submitted a petition asking the City Council to consider restricting parking during school days. Maple Manor is a small neighborhood off Middlefield Road that includes De Bell Drive and Maple Leaf Way.

Residents said Menlo-Atherton students parking on the neighborhood's narrow streets had created safety concerns and affected their quality of life.

After receiving the petition, the town put "No Student Parking" signs at the neighborhood's entrances. While the signs

were temporarily successful, the underlying lack of parking for Menlo-Atherton students meant the town needed a permanent solution, town staff said.

The town found that overgrown vegetation meant that if cars are parked on both sides of the roughly 18-foot-wide streets, it may not be safe for passing cars and could impede emergency vehicles.

The town manager will establish criteria for issuing permits.

The permit program will be modeled after a similar program approved in 2025 near the Atherton Civic Center after residents said the remodeled facility and library were causing an increase in street parking. ■

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

Parent group calls for Sequoia high school district superintendent to be fired

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

A small group of parents in the Sequoia Union High School District gathered to call for the removal of its superintendent at a press conference on Sept. 9. The parents shared concerns about Superintendent Crystal Leach's leadership and accused her of a lack of transparency, responsiveness and accountability.

While the movement is being driven by parents of former TIDE Academy students, which the district closed in June, the group is working to spread its message to communities at Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools. A parent described it as a grassroots effort. The group is also collecting signatures to recall members of Sequoia's board of trustees

whose terms expire in 2028.

"I respect the right of the community to express their opinion. The decisions that have generated the strong feelings expressed by some in our community were not made lightly," said Leach in an email, referring to the closure of TIDE Academy.

On Sept. 9, about 10 parents stood in front of the district office holding signs that read: "Replace Superintendent Leach," "New leaders now" and "Retirar," which means "remove" in Spanish. Several gave speeches.

"I am demanding a superintendent who is engaged and not performative, that actually cares about the students and doesn't just do that for show once a month at a board meeting," said Johanna Mahal, who is leading the recall.

In her speech, Mahal criticized

the board for what she called its unquestioning agreement with the superintendent's suggestions, and accused board members of frequently ignoring community concerns, failing to ask challenging questions or holding the superintendent accountable.

Other speakers raised concerns about all the taxpayer dollars the district has spent on attorney fees, litigation and settlements, funds that could go to support students and teachers in classrooms.

After two years of litigation, the district agreed to spend \$400,000 to settle a Menlo-Atherton student's lawsuit alleging the release of confidential records and excessive force during his arrest in March. The Atherton Police Department also

See **SUPERINTENDENT**, page 14

CRYPTO TRADING

continued from page 5

behind Meta and Snowflake.

"Robinhood takes market integrity seriously and has zero tolerance for insider trading. We have robust insider trading policies and procedures in place, including for new crypto listings," a Robinhood spokesperson said in a statement. "We immediately investigated and reported this matter to law enforcement and regulators, and will continue to cooperate with the investigations."

FBI agents were seen Sept. 15 on the Menlo Park street

where Chai lives, near Hillview Middle School. Menlo Park Police Department spokesperson Nicole Acker said the department had been notified that the FBI was conducting an operation in the city but was neither involved in it nor aware of its details.

Chai left Robinhood in May 2026, according to the

indictment. A LinkedIn profile appearing to belong to Chai states that he began working at OpenAI in June 2026. Before joining Robinhood in 2021, Chai worked as an engineer at Meta for six years, beginning in 2015. ■

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

CORRECTION

In the Sept. 11 article, "Candidates in uncontested races set to serve on school boards in Woodside, Portola Valley, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto," the name of a school board candidate for Woodside Elementary School district was spelled incorrectly. The correct spelling is Amanda Peiffer.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Little Things Can Cause Delays

Dear Monica: I want to put new appliances in my house before it goes on the market but I've been told that the new appliances may be off by a slight amount and thus not fit the space. Any comment? **Amy F.**

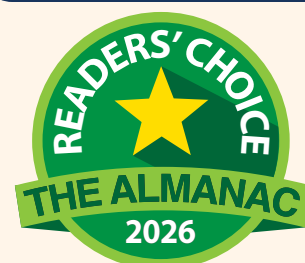
Dear Amy: This issue comes up often and while it seems like a small item, it can cause big consequences. New appliances don't always fit old spaces, even if the replacements are the same brand and style. Getting correct measurements is essential and sometimes either spaces need to be adjusted or another brand selected. Buyers love new appliances so it's worth doing things well.

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



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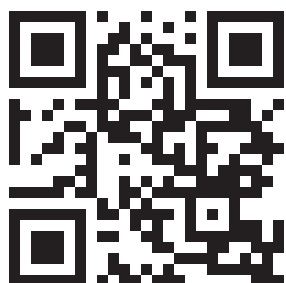
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"Our data and observations indicate that these businesses have operated responsibly without generating any notable increase in police calls, complaints or incidents compared to other commercial areas in the city," Bell said in an email.

Despite some initial trepidation, Embarc CEO and co-founder Lauren Carpenter said the business has been largely well-received. Embarc is a California-based cannabis dispensary with 17 stores around the state, and Carpenter said the business works closely with city officials to ensure it complies with the city's cannabis regulations.

"Generally speaking, in Redwood City, we are working well with the city and the government there," said, "I think the city is a partner in wanting to see these businesses be successful. The city's been communicative."

Hudson Moore, chief financial officer of Airfield Supply Company, also said the company's relationship with the city has been positive, though he said the company has not performed as well as hoped amid an overall downturn.

Complicating the picture is the financial situation of the parent company of the company is in receivership, a legal mechanism in which a court takes control of a company to avoid bankruptcy. The situation does not affect the company's operations, and is "doing fine in the city," Anthony said. Airfield Supply appeared to support the company, with several customers lining up to make purchases. The company could not be reached for comment by press time.

The five Redwood City businesses are subject to Redwood City's local 4% cannabis tax, which goes directly into the city's general fund and can be used for city services. In addition, the state levies a 15% cannabis business tax — a rate that was set to increase to 19% until Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill in September delaying the tax hike until 2025.

In fiscal year 2024-2025, the five cannabis businesses generated \$206.9 million in revenue. In a survey of respondents to a city survey indicated their support for allowing cannabis retailers to open shops in the city according to a staff report. Still, during public comment on the issue and after cannabis stores initially opened, some community members raised concerns about safety. But Redwood City Police Chief Kristina Bell said the department has not observed any increase in drug-related crime or overall criminal activity near the cannabis businesses since permits were issued in 2020.

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"On a microscopic level, if cannabis businesses perform better than projected, that certainly would help," said Goldberg, discussing the city's budget and projected deficit.

"But it's a very small piece of our overall revenue picture. Cannabis performance, in and of itself, is not going to swing it one way or another," said Goldberg, discussing the city's budget and projected deficit.

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legislation.

"What that means is they may say, 'Yes, we're open for business,' but they set up these zoning laws that are so restrictive that no cannabis operator could operate in these jurisdictions," said Whitney.

With many cities along the Peninsula banning retail sales, some advocates have referred to the Peninsula as a "cannabis desert."

In Redwood City, the city's cannabis businesses expressed a mixed picture of how business is going, yet both said they have a strong working relationship with the city and the state's cannabis regulations.

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of \$1.2 billion in the second quarter of 2021 to about \$1.2 billion four years later, according to data from the state Department of Tax and Fee Administration.

Redwood City's cannabis cluster is also unique on the Peninsula, as the city's five storefronts make up the only brick-and-mortar cannabis retailers between San Bruno in San Mateo County and San Jose, though many nearby cities allow delivery.

Facing a state that has low taxes, strong competition and a market that underperforms, California-based cannabis businesses in San Francisco have struggled financially, some are not viable.

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per year," said Finance Director Beth Goldberg.

Even so, the revenue generated by the local cannabis tax accounts for a small portion of the city's budget. In June, the Redwood City Council approved a \$201 million spending plan for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and anticipates \$206.9 million in revenue.

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EVACUATION

continued from page 5

topography and data to predict clearance times, identify fire mitigation strategies and effective crisis response.

The model for the drill estimated that it would take 1 hour and 34 minutes to evacuate 272 addresses, 397 cars and 99 heavy vehicles, including large trucks and trailers.

“Communications are always the weakest link, especially here (where) we have challenges because of our topography,” Giuliani said.

As residents began to gather at Portola Valley’s Town Center during the practice evacuation, the CERT team was holding its own drills across Russ Miller Field at its command center. Located at the edge of the field are two trailers powered by solar and batteries, equipped with medical supplies, emergency gear, radios and other technology.

During the drill, volunteers in green vests were taking simulated radio calls and inputting the information into an incident management system. Calls were coming in about stroke victims at The Sequoias and gas leaks. In a real-life scenario, these incidents would be recorded, organized by the team based on priority and



Left: Woodside Fire Protection District EMS battalion chief Jonathan Francisco uses a radio outside the district’s Station 8 during a community evacuation exercise in Portola Valley on Sept. 11. During the exercise, residents practiced evacuating their homes while multiple fire departments practiced their response to a theoretical fire. Right: Community Emergency Response Team volunteers give out information during the evacuation exercise.



CERT members would be dispatched to respond.

“We are volunteers, so we don’t replace first responders. We augment them and we’re the eyes and ears of the community,” said CERT volunteer Robert Seidl.

CERT teams are intended to support the community when 911 is overloaded with calls, Woodside Fire and mutual aid are busy responding to other incidents, he added.

“We’re supposed to catch the things that they don’t have time for,” Seidl said.

How residents can prepare

Woodside Fire recommended the community sign up for SMC Alerts, San Mateo County’s emergency notification system. Members of the public can sign up for the alerts on smcalert.info.

Residents of Portola Valley can also tune into the town’s emergency radio station at 1680 AM for essential information in the event of an emergency and sign up for breaking news alerts at almanacnews.com. Woodside Fire suggests keeping a battery-powered or hand-crank radio to tune in when cell networks are

congested or down.

Downloading the Watch Duty app is also recommended by Woodside Fire to keep track of wildfire progressions in real-time.

WPV CERT also has a guide that community members can use to pack a go-bag, create defensible space around homes and create a plan to prepare households before an emergency. For more information visit wpv-ready.org.

Essential items that should be packed in a go-bag include 1 gallon of water per person for a 3-day supply, non-perishable foods for 3-days, flashlight, batteries, first

aid kit, 7-day supply of prescription medications and more.

Residents interested in joining the WPV CERT can register for the fall training program which runs from Sept. 30- Nov. 11. Training sessions will take place on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and will include one Saturday class from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. For more information visit tinyurl.com/WPVCERTtraining. ■

Email Staff Writer
Jennifer Yoshikoshi at
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Fourth Friday: Music in Menlo Park

Live music spread across Santa Cruz Ave

September 25 | 6-9PM

Find bands near the following businesses:

Camper, Roma, Mademoiselle Colette, Cafe Vivant,
Bistro Vida, (NEW STAGE FOR SEPT) Middle Plaza/Eylon,
Gallery House, Gitane and more!

Presentd by Downtown Menlo Fund



Downtown lot measure gathers almost \$478,000 before ballots go out

Measure P opponents hold \$67,000 fundraising lead over “Yes on P”

By B. Sakura Cannestra

Nearly half a million dollars has been raised in November’s ballot measure over whether Menlo Park should have housing on its downtown city-owned parking lots.

Menlo Park’s Measure P would bar the city from selling or otherwise changing its downtown parking lots without voter approval. The measure would apply to all eight city-owned lots downtown, including three for which the city has received housing development proposals.

With almost two months before the Nov. 3 elections, opponents of the measure have revealed deeper pockets, raising more than \$272,000. The measure’s supporters are close behind, with more than \$205,000 in their coffers two weeks before ballots go out. Thousands of dollars are listed as “nonmonetary,” which is when organizations or people donate goods or services in lieu of cash.

The measure was brought on by a signature-gathering campaign largely organized by downtown business and property owners, who argued that developing the parking lots would impair customers’ ability to access

businesses and reduce foot traffic downtown. On the other hand, opponents to the measure say it would imperil future developments downtown when the city needs more affordable housing.

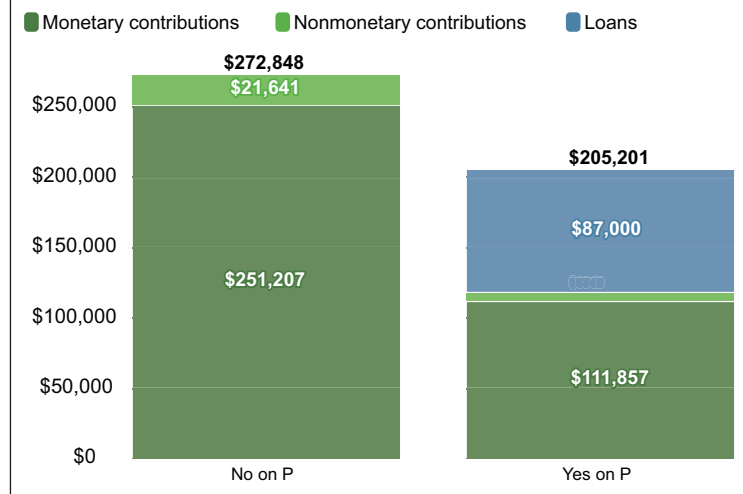
Top contributors to the “No on P” campaign include John Matthew Sobrato, director of impact and learning at the Sobrato Organization, who donated \$49,900; former OpenAI executive Robert McGrew, who donated \$25,000; and local housing advocate Karen Grove, who donated \$20,000 from the “Grove Action Fund.”

Grove, who is also a co-chair for the “No on P” campaign, said she’s proud of the campaign’s broad coalition supporters, from Sobrato, who donated in his personal capacity as an advocate for affordable housing, to dozens of donations of less than \$100. She said the campaign’s lowest donation is \$9.25.

“I can tell we have really, really deep support,” she said. “So many of us are really invested as donors, as investors, as volunteers, in defeating the measure and investing in the future of downtown.”

Grove also touted a handful of notable organizations that have endorsed and are financially supporting the measure,

Parking lot ballot fight raises more than \$478K



Source: Menlo Park campaign finance reports / Graphic by B. Sakura Cannestra

Monetary contributions assessed on Sept. 14, 2026.

including the ACLU of Northern California, which donated \$5,000, and Midpen Housing, whose \$5,000 donation will be listed in a future filing. Some notable figures in Menlo Park politics also appeared in the campaign’s financial disclosure forms, such as former mayor and councilmember Jen Wolosin, who gave \$250.

The Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County also donated about \$20,150 worth of staff time, according to the committee’s nonmonetary contribution filings. The nonprofit’s politically active branch — Housing Leadership Action — is

sponsoring the committee, and Executive Director Evelyn Stivers personally sent the campaign \$250.

Alex Beltramo, a chair for the “Yes on P” campaign, said he’s unsurprised that opponents are leading the fundraising race.

“With big developers on their side, we’ve never expected to raise more money than our opposition,” Beltramo said in an email. “What’s important is that we raise enough to communicate to all voters what Measure P is and why it’s so important.”

Beltramo and his family are among the campaign’s top donors, having donated a

combined \$3,759 and loaned the campaign \$48,000. Alongside him is Richard Draeger and his family’s supermarket chain, which together have donated a combined \$11,551 and loaned the campaign \$39,000. Beltramo said they’re both proud to be top donors, and that loans give the campaign more flexibility in the future.

Other top donors include Mickles Enterprises, a business representing a downtown property owner, which donated \$50,000; James Boettcher, who donated \$6,418 and Nadine Pfluger, who has donated \$4,000.

A notable number of businesses and limited liability companies also donated to the “Yes on P” campaign. This includes Elf Realty Corp., which has donated \$2,500; Baciocco Enterprises LLC, which has donated \$2,000; and WTA Burgess LLC on behalf of Michelle Dillabough, which has donated \$1,605. Marnie Foody, founder of the Downtown Menlo Fund revitalization nonprofit, also gave \$1,303 to the campaign.

The next pre-election financial disclosure deadline is Sept. 24. Follow more coverage of this year’s elections at almanacnews.com/election/. ■

Email Staff Writer

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New Stanford grad students pass first test as football fans

By Clay Lambert

Andrew Luck is a football legend. He is a former All-American quarterback for the Stanford Cardinal who went on to NFL stardom. A four-time Pro Bowler, today he is the general manager of football at his alma mater and perhaps the most recognizable face on

campus. He’s a household name. Just not in William Nguyen’s house.

“No, I didn’t know that,” the Stanford graduate student said on Sept. 14 as he ate a mammoth slice of cheese pizza while gazing at the university’s football practice fields. Forgive Nguyen for any ignorance of Stanford football lore. He grew up 7,000

miles away, in Vietnam, and had been on campus for less than a week.

Learning about Luck was just his first lesson in a Stanford tradition known as “Football 101.” For about a decade, the athletic department, in conjunction with the university’s Graduate Life Office, have been bringing graduate students — many from distant homelands with only the vaguest notion of the most American of sporting obsessions — together with Stanford football luminaries to have some fun, meet new people and touch a pigskin for the very first time.

“I’ve mostly seen it in the movies,” Nguyen said. “I want to learn the rules.”

Eun Jo came from South Korea to study music. She said the opportunity to attend sporting events was part of the appeal of Stanford. She came to the event to meet new people, but also out of curiosity about one of America’s cultural touchstones.

“I wanted to try football and get to know what it is,” she said. “It’s a very strong sport. To me it feels like a combination between

fighting and a sport.”

Everyone in attendance passed Football 101. In fact, passing — and catching — the football were among the highlights for the dozens of grad students who turned out to the football practice field between Maples Pavillion and El Camino Real.

Luck brought the students into a midfield huddle. He introduced the student managers who support the program as well as former Stanford players who made the trip back to The Farm to help out. They included former wide receiver Sam Knapp, kicker Joshua Karty, linebacker Craig Jones and quarterback Ryan Burns, who is now the special assistant to Stanford head coach Tavita Pritchard.

“Congratulations,” Luck told wide-eyed students. “It’s awesome you are here.”

After some quick warm-up drills, participants were split into rotating groups. They hit tackle dummies, shoved blocking sleds, learned a play, attempted field goals and caught Luck’s perfect spirals — or tried to, anyway.

The football program wants to make fans of these new students. Many said they planned to attend the next home game, Sept. 26, against Georgia Tech.

Electrical engineering student Jacob Alvarsson came to Stanford from his native Sweden. He didn’t know much about American football when the night began, but Stanford students are quick learners. On his cheeks, he affixed black stickers meant to resemble eye black, though he admitted to being a little confused about their utility on the field.

“I asked,” he said. “They told me it will make me stronger.”

New friends laughed along with him.

“It’s also a bit intimidating,” said Bryan Park, who knew a lot about football after undergraduate work at the football-crazy University of Florida.

“I could use that,” Alvarsson said with a wink. “I don’t think I scare people that much.” ■

Email Editorial Director

Clay Lambert at clambert@almanacnews.com.

Employment

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San Mateo County acquires apartment building for educator housing

By Neil Gonzales

A San Mateo County collaborative effort has acquired an apartment complex for \$54.8 million to provide housing for teachers and other education staff.

The purchase of the 74-unit Azara community at 1650 S. Delaware St. in San Mateo marks the first educator workforce housing project for the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE).

"We've been working on this for about three years," Hugo Torres, president of the San Mateo County Board of Education, told The Almanac. "We viewed multiple properties before getting to this point, and

we are just so excited to finally reach the finish line of making this possible for educators in the county."

The acquisition, announced Tuesday, Sept. 15, during a press conference at the SMCOE headquarters in Redwood City, involved the countywide group Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART).

Under the agreement, HEART bought the apartment building, with SMCOE providing a loan from a fund account reserved only for facilities. HEART issued bonds to cover the project's remaining cost.

"The property was offered for sale by the owner and HEART submitted an offer," Armando Sanchez, the group's executive

director, said in an email to The Almanac. "The sale price was \$54,750,000. HEART is the owner of the property and will operate it for the long-term benefit of SMCOE. HEART received an \$8 million loan from SMCOE and issued bonds for the balance."

The building was built in 2021 and does not need renovations, Sanchez added.

It will provide housing for teachers, paraeducators, counselors and other school employees who serve students in SMCOE programs, HEART and county education leaders said in a news release. ■

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Courtesy San Mateo County

The 75-unit Azara apartment community at 1650 S. Delaware St. in San Mateo was purchased for \$54.75 million as the San Mateo County Office of Education's first educator workforce housing project.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Portola Valley's annual Zott's to Tots and Town Picnic

The town of Portola Valley will be hosting its Zott's to Tots fun run and bike event at 10 a.m. followed by the Town Picnic from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19. Starting at 9:45 a.m., portions of Alpine and Portola roads between Rossotti's Alpine Inn and Town Center near Westridge Drive will be closed.

The Town Picnic will feature live music, a barbecue, a taco truck, a dunk tank, petting zoo and more. Town committee members will also be in attendance to share information on the work they are doing for the community. For more information about the picnic visit, portolavalley.net/community/town-sponsored-events/town-picnic.

East Palo Alto tennis tournament planned

East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring is hosting its inaugural EPATT Cup Doubles Tournament at the EPATT Center on Saturday, Sept. 19. The tournament is a fundraiser to support free tutoring and tennis programs for K-12 students in East Palo Alto. The event is currently sold out, but EPATT has a waitlist for players if spaces become available.

The event will take place from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. From 2:30-5 p.m., there will be a tennis exhibition featuring former professional and college players and local teaching pros. EPATT will also host a reception from 5-6:30 p.m.

"Every match played during the EPATT Cup and every donation to EPATT helps fund a season of tutoring and tennis for a student from EPA and the surrounding community," said EPATT Executive Director Keshia Weekes in a press release.

Reservations for the reception can be made at forms.gle/3Ne7kXhA2vBCqYA29.

Menlo-Atherton High School students win scholarships

The Kiwanis Club of Menlo Park awarded 10 graduating seniors from Menlo-Atherton High School a total of \$60,000 in scholarships. Six students received the award during a luncheon at Allied Arts Guild.

The students are Lea Tatiana Martinez, Ruby Stone, Diana Villegas, Juritzi Ines Rodriguez Gonzalez, Zach Quintana, Charlotte Anthony, Noah Ludwig Jacobi, Juliana Kha, Akemi Kwan and Elizabeth Maldonado Solorzano.

At the event, students were introduced by the Kiwanis Club Scholarship Chair John Martin. Each shared where they are attending college and what they plan to study.

The Kiwanis Club of Menlo Park was founded in the early 1950s and has provided more than \$1 million in scholarships to M-A students.

Democracy and Disagreement series at Ladera Church

Ladera Community Church is hosting a community-wide presentation on the history of the First Amendment and consequences of Christian Nationalism with former federal judge Stephen Trott from 7-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 22.

The event will be hosted in person at Ladera Church, 3300 Alpine Road in Portola Valley, and on Zoom. For more information, go to ladera.org/event/social-justice-discussion-with-judge-trott/. ■

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

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SUPERINTENDENT

continued from page 7

paid \$160,000 in the settlement.

In June, the district paid \$335,000 to settle a lawsuit alleging it discriminated against Jewish students. Two additional settlements were also approved in August for undisclosed amounts.

"If the district could engage and listen to parents and work through practical solutions instead of stonewalling, the world would be a better place. That's what leadership looks like," said parent Jason Primuth.

The only time the district will engage is when they are threatened by litigation, he alleged.

Other parents shared their disappointment with what they called the superintendent's and trustees' "false promises" after the closure of TIDE Academy, the 6-year-old alternative STEM-based high school on a newly built campus in Menlo Park.

Leach said that the board's decision was made through a "transparent process" involving community engagement sessions, public board testimony and information made available to the public. Parents argue that the decision to close the school was made before the community meetings began, based on emails they've obtained through the Public Records Act.



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Sequoia Union High School District parent Johanna Mahal speaks during press conference on Sept. 9 calling for the district to fire Superintendent Crystal Leach.

After the board decided to close the school in February, parents were told they would receive regular updates during the transition, TIDE students would stay with their cohorts and all classes available at TIDE would be offered at Woodside High School, where TIDE's programs would be moved. Parents told this news organization that none of these promises were kept.

The school board said that its decision to close TIDE was due to the district's declining enrollment and budget deficit. But former TIDE parent Lara Chamness

said that three months after the school closed, the community still has not received any financial breakdowns justifying the closure. Financial reports requested by parents still haven't been shared, which the district is legally obligated to do, she added.

"I understand that community members will not always agree with governance decisions, yet I hope some level of understanding for the decision will grow with time," Leach said. "I remain deeply committed to this community, to our students and to the work of building a district

where all students have access to the opportunities they deserve."

Most of TIDE's 120 or so remaining students chose to attend Menlo-Atherton, but some are finding the transition hasn't been an easy process. The small school of about 200 students fostered a safe and effective learning space for students with learning disabilities, according to student testimonies.

One TIDE parent said that her son transferred out after just three weeks at Sequoia High. The overwhelming transition caused the sophomore to have a nervous breakdown at school, said the parent, whom this news organization is not naming in order to preserve the teen's privacy.

The student, who grew up attending schools with smaller cohorts, was not prepared for a campus of over 1,800 at Sequoia High. In the second week of September, he started at Carlmont High School. His mother said she hopes that this will be a better fit because "there's nowhere to run after Carlmont."

"This school board has taken so much of our mental health," she added. "For our kids, TIDE was their identity. They are still dealing with the side effects (of the closure)."

Some parents of Menlo-Atherton and Woodside students said they are supporting

the recall due to the lack of action and response from district and campus administrations on issues around bullying, student safety and discrimination.

Mahal said parents are still working on collecting signatures for the recall of trustees Rich Ginn, Mary Beth Thompson and Maria Cruz, all of whom have terms ending in 2028.

She thanked incumbent Sathvik Nori for dropping out of this fall's race for the board's District D seat. Although Nori's name will remain on the ballot, he announced in August that he's endorsing his opponent, Michael Deksheniks. Mahal said that the recall group supports Alan Shiran, who is running against incumbent Amy Koo for the District A seat on the Nov. 3 ballot.

If recall supporters can collect signatures from 20% of voters in each district of the trustees they are attempting to remove, they can place the recall on an upcoming election ballot. Signatures are being collected in District B, C and E, which includes East Palo Alto, Woodside, Portola Valley, West Menlo Park and parts of San Carlos, Belmont and Redwood City. ■

Email Staff Writer
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Henry Joseph Blommer, Jr.

March 3, 1932 – September 14, 2026

Henry Joseph (Hank) Blommer, Jr. lived with passion, curiosity, and courage – a man who embraced life fully, whether exploring the wilderness as a boy, flying his plane across the West, carving down ski slopes with his family or fighting to preserve his family business that carried the Blommer name. Hank died peacefully in his home in Atherton, California, on September 15, 2026, at the age of 94.

Born on March 3, 1932, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Henry and Viola Blommer, Hank was the eldest of four children. From an early age, he was drawn to adventure and the outdoors. Summers spent exploring Lake Michigan and canoeing the Canadian Boundary Waters with his childhood friend helped shape the independence, confidence, and love of nature that would remain with him throughout his life.

Athletic, competitive, and endlessly energetic, Hank developed passions that became lifelong pursuits: skiing, tennis, golf, fishing and flying. He attended Milwaukee Country Day School and graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in 1955 before serving two years in the United States Navy as a Lieutenant Junior Grade. As a young man, he earned his pilot's license, which began decades of flying adventures that reflected both his love of freedom and his willingness to chart his own course.

In the late 1950s, Hank joined the chocolate business founded by his father Henry and uncles Al and Bern and immersed himself in the business. After nearly a decade managing operations at the Chicago plant, he moved his young family west to the San Francisco Bay Area to build and lead a new production facility. There, Hank significantly expanded the company through his instinct for innovation, his ability to build enduring customer relationships, and his deep loyalty to his employees.

The defining chapter of Hank's business life came in 1992. Following the death of his father, another branch of the family sold its ownership stake to Cargill, creating what many believed was an impossible situation: a hostile takeover by one of the largest private companies in America. Advisors and industry experts warned that the Blommer family could not prevail. Hank refused to accept that outcome. Hank took on the challenge with the same determination that was characteristic of the company's founders. Against the odds, he ultimately succeeded in convincing Cargill to sell back the shares to the Blommer family, preserving the company's independence and paving the way for decades of future growth. Under family leadership, Blommer would go on to become the largest cocoa processor and ingredient chocolate manufacturer in North America.

Hank possessed a sharp intellect, a voracious appetite for reading and history, and an instinctive belief that challenges were meant to be confronted, not avoided. He approached life with boldness and enthusiasm and encouraged others to do the same. On the ski slopes, his children often heard his favorite advice: "You've got to have thunder in your chest and lightning on your skis." It was more

than a skiing lesson; it was a life lesson. His best life lesson though, was to "have fun every day and to laugh every day!"

For all his business accomplishments, Hank's greatest joy was found with family and friends – especially outdoors. Lake Tahoe became his happy place, where weekends and holidays were filled with skiing, boating, laughter, and the constant gathering of children and grandchildren. Whether carving down the ski slopes, creating the biggest rooster tail he could while water skiing, making the biggest splash when doing his daily cannonball into the pool, catching and releasing the biggest fish while fly fishing with his sons,

or hitting the ball as far as he could on the golf course, he never lost his playfulness. As a member of Sharon Heights Country Club and Menlo Circus Club, Hank enjoyed the camaraderie of his golf and tennis friends, particularly his weekly gatherings of the "Z Group" for tennis, lunch, and laughter. Those who knew him best remember not only his determination and strength but also his warmth, humor, generosity, and deep love for the people around him.

Of all the roles he held in life, none meant more to him than being a father. His seven children were his greatest pride, his deepest joy, and the most important part of his life.

Raised in a strong Catholic family and shaped by his Jesuit education, Hank had a strong faith that brought him a sense of peace and gratitude.

Hank was a loving husband to his wife Judy for 50 years. They enjoyed making a stable home for the children and traveling the world. They learned to appreciate contemporary art through the Contemporary Collectors Group at Stanford University and went on many art trips. After retirement, they joined The Reserve in Palm Desert, and Hank enjoyed playing golf in the winter and going to Lake Tahoe in the summer.

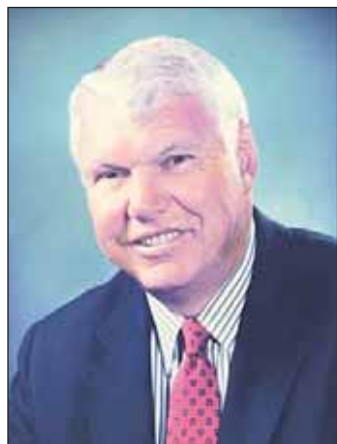
Hank is predeceased by his parents, Henry and Viola, his brother Joseph, and sister Ann. He is survived by his wife Judith Nellign (Judy) Blommer, his brother Peter Herman Blommer (Sally), and his children, Janet Blommer Jennings (Jeff McPhail), Henry Joseph (Joe) Blommer III (Ann Tozier), Ann Story (Tori) Blommer-O'Malley (Tom), Mary Blommer Carreno (Michael), Peter William Blommer (Ellen), Stephen Johnston (Steve) Blommer (Chuck Holzwarth), and Katherine Ann (Katie) Blommer, as well as 15 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

The family would also like to express their heartfelt gratitude to his devoted caregivers, Jose, Martha, and Katie, who brought kindness, compassion, friendship, loving care, dignity, and comfort to his final years.

Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at St. Denis Catholic Church at 2250 Avy Avenue, Menlo Park, CA. Reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to:

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Fund for Aged and Sick Priests
Attn: Father Sam Bellino
Los Gatos, CA 95050



Michael Molcsan

Two hikers look at an information sign posted along the Skyline Watershed Ridge trail in Redwood City.

TRAIL

continued from page 5

Boulevard, a slew of cars were parked on the right shoulder of the road on Saturday, Sept. 12. Visitors, including children, could be spotted crossing the highway and navigating around traffic to get to the trailhead.

There are no marked pedestrian crossings on the roads.

While parking on the side of highways is not illegal, some areas of Skyline are too narrow to accommodate it. California Highway Patrol Lt. Daniel Hill said SFPUC has requested that CHP and Caltrans conduct a survey to determine where it would be best to install no-parking signs. The final decision will be up to Caltrans, but CHP will be responsible for enforcement if no-parking zones are established, Hill said.

"Our interest here is to make sure that the roadway is kept open and free of obstruction, and that if people decide to park on the highway, that they park in a place that's safe," Hill said. "We all have to understand that there is an inherent danger with walking on the roadway, especially with the limited sightlines."

San Mateo County Supervisor Ray Mueller recently sent a letter to SFPUC pointing out issues with "troubling behavior" from trail users including vehicles parked over the right shoulder line, people walking dangerously along the road and running across it, parking in vegetation and littering.

Mueller questioned whether the Public Utilities Commission's permit system is drawing more people to the area than they can reasonably accommodate by allowing permit holders to bring additional visitors. He wanted to know how many permits are issued and how often staff are confirming visitors have permits.

Mueller recommended the SFPUC include warnings about parking, walking along the road

and crossing highways on its website.

"I think one of the things that has to be done is that all the entities that have trails, (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District), now SFPUC, county parks and state parks, have to work together when they're opening trails to have a managed parking approach," said Kathleen Lê Moazed, Mueller's legislative aide and La Honda native.

She said she believes the current permit system is "too permissive" and if staff are not actively checking, "word gets out really quickly that you don't need a permit."

Moazed said that dozens of local residents have been sending her photos and videos of the parked cars and children running across Highway 92, where the speed limit is marked at 55 mph, according to CHP.

SFPUC advises permit holders to visit on a weekday and to be prepared to go to another trail if the parking lot is full, according to Bay City News.

"What we're trying to do is figure out where we can balance out guaranteeing access to the roadway to park legally, while at the same time balancing out where it would be safe to park and walk on the road," said Hill.

Caltrans officials said that they are aware of the concerns regarding parking in the area and are currently investigating the situation. So far, no specific changes or signage have been finalized.

"Our traffic safety staff are conducting an assessment of the area and are coordinating with the partner agencies to better understand the parking conditions and identify potential safety considerations and solutions," said Caltrans Public Information Office Nawel Tahraoui. ■

Email Staff Writer
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School staff extinguish battery fire at Menlo-Atherton High

By Christina Casillas

A lithium-ion battery was to blame for a fire at Menlo-Atherton High School's Performing Arts Center Friday afternoon.

No one was injured during the incident, which originated in the center's control booth, Principal

Karl Loosekoot said in an email to the school community. Three school staff members discovered the source of the smoke shortly after the fire alarm went off around 4:20 p.m. and "extinguished the fire immediately."

Students had already evacuated when fire crews arrived at the scene at 4:26 p.m., according

to Dan Coyle, Menlo Park Fire's deputy chief. When firefighters entered the building, they found an off-gassing lithium-ion battery pack. This prompted a consult with the district's hazmat team, he said.

"We always do a hazmat consult when we deal with battery fires, just because of the nature

of those incidents," Coyle said. Because the battery had cooled off and was outside of any buildings, the fire district left the battery for the school to dispose of.

The staff members who extinguished the fire were medically evaluated at the scene because they potentially inhaled gas. One of them elected to be transported

to a local hospital, Coyle said.

"We are immensely proud of our staff who responded quickly and we are glad that all students are safe," Loosekoot said in the email. ■

Email Staff Writer
Christina Casillas at
ccasillas@almanacnews.com.

SKYSCRAPER

continued from page 1

project inconsistent with design standards.

N17 notified the city that it would sue if the project is not approved by Oct. 27, 90 days after the state's letter.

Nash said the city's lack of a certified housing element resulted from delays beyond its control. While Menlo Park submitted its housing element before the deadline, she said the state Department of Housing and Community Development required several revisions, leaving the city subject to builder's remedy while they were being completed.

Nash, who attended Thursday's protest, sent Bonta a personal letter dated Aug. 25 asking him to visit the 80 Willow Road site after his office issued the warning.

"Much of the delay was caused by turnover in the state reviewer for our file. A new reviewer introduced new positions requiring new revisions. Slow response times by the state reviewer further delayed approval, despite our best efforts to comply," Nash wrote. "We were actually one of the earliest cities in San Mateo County to have our Housing Element approved."

"I ... feel so disappointed with your team's recent impact on our city's efforts to promote affordable housing and to resist exploitation by a greedy commercial developer," she wrote.

Nash said the July 29 notice improperly characterized Menlo Park as "NIMBYs," or people who oppose development in their own neighborhoods.

"I believe our record shows quite the opposite," she wrote.

The notice from the attorney general has legal implications: It triggers Government Code Section 65914.2, which says that if a public agency is sued for violating housing reform laws after the Attorney General has notified it of the same violation, courts must impose additional penalties, including a \$10,000-per-unit fine.

Nash told this news organization that the city is working to build more housing.

"I think that we've done everything we can to promote housing, to entitle housing. We've entitled thousands of housing units over the last few years, and we are on track to entitle hundreds more this year," Nash said.

Palo Alto resident Michael Henehan said he sees the proposal as "an unintended consequence of Sacramento's effort to

force cities to deal with the lack of affordable housing."

"It's a well-intentioned idea to have affordable housing, and we need it, but I think this project in particular is so out of whack with what the state's intentions were," Henehan said.

Supporters of a proposal to build affordable housing on the city-owned downtown parking lots also attended Thursday's demonstration.

Karen Grove, who co-founded Menlo Together, which advocates for more affordable housing in Menlo Park, said that the 80 Willow Road project is a result of the city not supporting housing development.

"It's a perfect metaphor for how far behind we allowed ourselves to get in producing the housing that we need," she said. Grove says that if the city does not go through with the parking lot development, it may be subject to builder's remedy again.

Opponents of the development argue that the city has other ways to remain in compliance.

Nash said she is also concerned that the state wants Menlo Park to process the application without an environmental impact report. In her letter, she asked Bonta to join her for a tour of San Francisco Creek, which

borders the 80 Willow Road site and is the boundary between San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

Nash said Bonta's office told her it is reviewing her letter. The Attorney General's Office did not respond to a request for comment.

Menlo Park resident Will Oursler, who is chair of the city's Housing Commission but spoke in his personal capacity, said he hopes that the city and developer can work together on a proposal that the community can support.

"As much as possible, we should find ways to get the developer to the table," Oursler said, pointing to how Palo Alto found ways to incentivize the developer of the Mollie Stone's market on California Avenue to scale down the size of its development.

"I don't know what that looks like in this case," he said. "I don't see how we get to that point. But that's what I would ask the city to aim for: How can we get to the table and make it worth the developer's time to negotiate with us?"

The Menlo Park City Council has met several times in closed session to discuss how to proceed in light of the developer's litigation threat and the Attorney General Office's admonishment.



Seeger Gray

A protester holds a sign opposing a planned development at 80 Willow Road.

Nash said the council will take up the project in open session later this month. In the meantime, she said councilmembers have received a flood of emails from Menlo Park and Palo Alto residents concerned about the project.

The council discussed the project again in closed session on Sept. 15, but did not report any action taken. ■

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

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Edith Twombly Eddy, 94, of Palo Alto, who was born in New York City, who attended Swarthmore College and Harvard Graduate School of Education, who moved to Palo Alto in 1971, who was an educator who taught in classrooms in Germany and the Philippines, who supported partnerships between student researchers at Stanford University and nonprofits in Palo Alto, who championed career opportunities for working mothers and played a central role in launching the CCSC childcare center on the Stanford campus, who worked at numerous philanthropic foundations and supported grants in fields such as environmental conservation and restorative justice, who loved birds and served on the boards of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, the Coyote Point Museum and the National Wildlife Refuge Association, and who loved

singing, dancing, painting and gardening, died on Sept. 4.

Alfred Aguilar Santana, 81, of Mountain View, who was born in Woodlake, who was a Vietnam veteran, and who cherished his time with his daughters, grandchildren and sons-in-law, died on July 26.

Mary Cheek McCullough, 89, of Palo Alto, who was born in Middletown, Ohio, who as a youth played tennis in Kentucky and Virginia, who later moved to New York City and San Francisco before she got married and moved to Menlo Park, who was involved in the Junior League of Palo Alto, who led field trips to Foothills Park and the Baylands as a member of Environmental Volunteers, who became passionate about Gamble Garden and helped create the Roots and Shoots program that partnered seniors with children, who was a huge fan of Stanford University basketball and football, who played golf and who loved to spend time

with her family at Fallen Leaf Lake, died on Aug. 17.

Lindsay Chambers, 48, of Malibu, who was born in Indianapolis, who traveled widely throughout her childhood and lived in seven different cities in her first 13 years, who earned a master's degree from Stanford University in 2008 and pursued a career in interior design and custom homebuilding, working in San Francisco, Palo Alto and Los Angeles, who had built more than 40 homes in about 15 years and whose work appeared in Architectural Digest, Better Homes & Gardens, the New York Times and other publications, who was named California Home & Design's Emerging Designer of the Year in 2015, who helped build a farmer's market that served about 3,000 people each week, who advocated for disaster response and environmental protection, who had built lifelong relationship in the many places where she worked and lived, and who loved dogs,

sushi and her electric truck, died on Aug. 26.

Henry Joseph (Hank) Blommer, Jr., 94, of Atherton, who was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who spent his childhood exploring Lake Michigan and canoeing in the Canadian Boundary Waters, who earned his pilot's license as a young man, paving the way for decades of flying adventures, who joined his family's chocolate business, Blommer, and later moved to the Bay Area to lead a new production facility, who saw Blommer go on to become the largest cocoa processor and ingredient chocolate manufacturer in North America, who loved to ski, spend weekends and holidays in Lake Tahoe, play golf and tennis and spending time with his seven children, died on Sept. 14.

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



38 BISHOP LANE MENLO PARK



SOPHISTICATED LIVING IN A SERENE SETTING

Nestled amid the rural, rustic charm of Stanford Weekend Acres, this beautifully remodeled and expanded home, comprehensively updated to current building codes and modern finishes from the original frame, offers more than 2,500 square feet of sophisticated living in a setting that feels worlds away from it all. Inside, light moves easily through the open floorplan, illuminating wide-plank hardwood floors, high ceilings, expansive glass, and the fine craftsmanship found throughout. The living room centers on a striking fireplace, while beyond it, the great room forms the natural heart of the home, bringing together a comfortable family room, dining area, and beautifully appointed kitchen with Thermador appliances. Folding glass doors open to the backyard, extending the living space outdoors and drawing the peaceful setting into the home. Four comfortable bedrooms include a main-level guest suite with its own outdoor entrance, while upstairs, the primary suite opens to a private balcony and a luxurious bathroom. Outside, the secluded backyard offers a hot tub and a quiet place to unwind, with air conditioning and a two-car garage with epoxy flooring adding everyday convenience. Though wonderfully removed from the bustle of Silicon Valley, the home is close to Stanford University, downtown Palo Alto, Stanford Shopping Center, and Sand Hill Road, with the Stanford Dish Trail just moments away and easy access to Interstate 280. Served by the acclaimed Las Lomas School District, with a convenient school bus stop at the end of the street (buyer to verify eligibility).

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Public Notices

CORE CONSTRUCTION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304501
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CORE CONSTRUCTION , located at 2000 Powell Street #1600, Emeryville, CA 94608.
Registered owner(s):
CORE WEST, INC.
1410 Rocky Ridge Drive #180
Roseville, CA 95661
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 22, 2026.
(ALM Sep 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2026)

CUSTOMIZED ELECTRICAL SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304712
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CUSTOMIZED ELECTRICAL SERVICES , located at 941 TAFT ST, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061.
Registered owner(s):
JOSUE VIDANA
941 TAFT ST
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/26/2009.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 19, 2026.
(ALM Sep 18, 25, Oct 2 and 9, 2026)

TRAILS & STEAM
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304834
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) TRAILS & STEAM , located at 1307 Portola Road, Woodside, CA 94062.
Registered owner(s):
CORINNE COOLEY
1307 Portola Road
Woodside CA 94062
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 01, 2026.
(ALM Sep 11, 18, 25 and Oct 2, 2026)

BEAM LEADERSHIP STUDIO + APOTHECARY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304855
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) BEAM LEADERSHIP STUDIO + APOTHECARY , located at 2995 Woodside Road #110, Woodside, CA 94062.
Registered owner(s):
BEAM LEADERSHIP, LLC
2995 Woodside Road #110
Woodside, CA 94062
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
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 September 03, 2026.
(ALM Sep 18, 25, Oct 2 and 9, 2026)

HYUNDAI OF SAN BRUNO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304769
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) HYUNDAI OF SAN BRUNO , located at 1010 ADMIRAL COURT, SAN BRUNO CA 94066. Mailing Address: 3239 IMJIN RD MARINA, CA 93933
Registered owner(s):
BAY AREA AG INC
3239 IMJIN RD

MARINA, CA 93933
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 26, 2026.
(ALM Sep 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2026)

BAY AREA SERVICES: PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304910
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) BAY AREA SERVICES: PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL , located at 533 Airport Blvd, Ste. 400, Burlingame, CA 94010.
Registered owner(s):
CHRIS PLUMBING BAY AREA SERVICES CORP.
533 Airport Blvd, Ste. 400
Burlingame, CA 94010
State of Incorporation/Organization: California
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 11, 2026.
(ALM Sep 18, 25, Oct 2 and 9, 2026)

SALTY DOG GROOMING COMPANY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304697
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SALTY DOG GROOMING COMPANY , located at 1485 El Camino Real Suite 202, Belmont, CA 94002. Mailing Address: 4190 Sierra Road San Jose, CA 95132
Registered owner(s):
SD GROOMING COMPANY LLC
4190 Sierra Rd
San Jose CA 95132
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 August 17, 2026.
(ALM Aug 28, Sep 4, 11 and 18, 2026)

BRITISH SWIM SCHOOL OF SAN JOSE-FREMONT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304689
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) BRITISH SWIM SCHOOL OF SAN JOSE-FREMONT , located at 2329 Ensenada Way, San Mateo, CA, 94403.
Registered owner(s):
ANDERSEN SWIM, LLC
2329 Ensenada Way
San Mateo, CA, 94403
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 August 14, 2026.
(ALM Sep 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2026)

PROPERTY SHERLOCK
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304713
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PROPERTY SHERLOCK , located at 504 Elm St, San Carlos, CA, 94070.
Registered owner(s):
ROOSTHAVEN INC.
504 Elm St
San Carlos, CA, 94070
State of Incorporation/Organization: DE
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business

name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 19, 2026.
(ALM Aug 28, Sep 4, 11 and 18, 2026)

REVEAL GLOSS AUTO DETAILING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304826
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) REVEAL GLOSS AUTO DETAILING , located at 423 Larkspur Dr, East Palo Alto, CA, 94303.
Registered owner(s):
JORGE TAFOLLA HERNANDEZ
423 Larkspur Dr
East Palo Alto, CA, 94303
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 01, 2026.
(ALM Sep 11, 18, 25 and Oct 2, 2026)

DC AUTO COLLISION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304889
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) DC AUTO COLLISION , located at 140 SOUTH LINDEN AVE UNIT D, SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080.
Registered owner(s):
SSF AUTO CENTER INC
140 SOUTH LINDEN AVE UNIT D
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080
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 07/15/2014.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 09, 2026.
(ALM Sep 18, 25, Oct 2 and 9, 2026)

GENESIS OF SAN BRUNO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304770
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) GENESIS OF SAN BRUNO , located at 1010 ADMIRAL COURT, SAN BRUNO CA 94066. Mailing Address: 3239 IMJIN RD MARINA, CA 93933
Registered owner(s):
BAY AREA AG INC
3239 IMJIN RD
MARINA, CA 93933
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 26, 2026.
(ALM Sep 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2026)

PENINSULA PROBUILD CONSTRUCTION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304727
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PENINSULA PROBUILD CONSTRUCTION , located at 3585 Hoover st , Redwood City CA 94063 .
Registered owner(s):
SEBASTIAN CHITIC
3585 hoover st
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 08/21/2026.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 21, 2026.
(ALM Aug 28, Sep 4, 11 and 18, 2026)

BG DIGITAL SOLUTIONS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-304749
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) BG DIGITAL SOLUTIONS , located at 3788

Fabian Way, Palo Alto, Ca 94303. Mailing Address: 2826 McGARVEY AVE REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061
Registered owner(s):
FRANK BARKLEY GOODELL
2826 McGARVEY AVE
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on MAY 17, 2021.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 24, 2026.
(ALM Sep 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 26CIV05596
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Diane Marie Webster filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
DIANE MARIE WEBSTER to DIANE MARIA FERREIRA
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: October 7, 2026, 9am, Southern Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 455 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: August 14, 2026
Stephanie G. Garratt
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Aug 28, Sep 4, 11 and 18, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO COUNTY
Case No.: 26-CIV-05972
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Ramiro Macias filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
RAMIRO BARRAGAN MACIAS to RAMIRO MACIAS
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 10/7/26, 9:00 am, 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: August 6, 2026
Stephanie Garratt
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Aug 28, Sep 4, 11 and 18, 2026)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 26CIV06287
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Yung Ja Sandra Yu filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
YUNG JA SANDRA YU to SANDRA YUNG JA YU
SANDRA Y YU to SANDRA YUNG JA YU
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 10/19/2026, 9:00 am, M/C of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
ALMANAC
Date: August 19, 2026
Anthony Berini
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Sep 4, 11, 18 and 25, 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-06409
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Paul Daniel Parell filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
PAUL DANIEL PARELL to PAUL PARELL REDDY
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 10/20/2026, 9:00 AM, Southern Branch: Hall of Justice and Records of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
ALMANAC
Date: 08/20/2026
Stephanie Garratt
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Sep 11, 18, 25 and Oct 2, 2026)

The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.

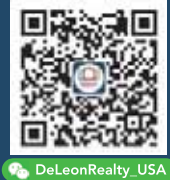
- Fictitious Business Name
- Abandonment of Fictitious Business Name
- Name Change
- Partnership Withdrawal or Dissolution
- Petition to Administer Estate - Probate Hearing
- Notice of Bulk Sale
- Legal Summons
- Trustee Sale

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The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 p.m.



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1037DelNorte.com



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\$3,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
38Bishop.com



1127 HILLSLOPE PLACE
LOS ALTOS

\$7,688,000 | 6 Bd | 7 Bth
1127Hillslope.com



545 PINE LANE
LOS ALTOS

\$3,988,000 | 4 Bd | 2.5 Bth
545Pine.com



285 ESCOBAR ROAD
PORTOLA VALLEY

\$5,488,000 | 5 Bd | 3.5 Bth
285Escobar.com



537 SEVENTH AVENUE
MENLO PARK

\$2,198,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth
537Seventh.com



61 OAK HAVEN WAY
WOODSIDE

\$4,788,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
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AG Bonta, come see for yourself why Menlo Park skyscraper project is wrong for Willow Road site

Mayor Betsy Nash responds to the Attorney General's letter to the city

By Betsy Nash,
Menlo Park mayor

GUEST OPINION

On July 29, the California Attorney General's Office sent Menlo Park a notice about the builder's remedy development proposal at 80 Willow Road, claiming the city has violated state law in processing the project.

I'm deeply frustrated that the Attorney General has put our community in this position. They instructed us to process a project that worsens our housing crisis and has no environmental mitigation, and

threatened millions in financial penalties for Menlo Park.

On August 25, I sent the following letter to the Attorney General:

Dear Attorney General Bonta,

I am Menlo Park Mayor Betsy Nash and felt compelled to reach out to you after watching a news segment last night. You were featured fighting to preserve mail-in voting and halting negotiations over the Paramount-Warner Bros. merger after the

acquiror inappropriately leaked information about settlement talks. I felt proud watching you speak on these issues. So it is regrettable that I also feel so disappointed with your team's recent impact on our City's efforts to promote affordable housing and to resist exploitation by a greedy commercial developer. These incongruous feelings compelled me to write to you today.

I refer to the builder's remedy project at 80 Willow Road in Menlo Park. On July 31, 2026, Deputy Attorney General Matthew Struhar sent Menlo Park a letter stating that our city violated state housing law in processing this application. He implies that we are all NIMBYs who just don't want housing. I believe our record shows quite the opposite.

First of all, we submitted our Housing Element on time but two resubmissions in response to agency comments opened the door to builder's remedy projects. Much of the delay was caused by turnover in the state reviewer for our file. A new reviewer introduced new positions requiring new

revisions. Slow response times by the state reviewer further delayed approval, despite our best efforts to comply. We were actually one of the earliest cities in San Mateo County to have our Housing Element approved.

Our City Council are housing advocates who have leaned into housing, especially affordable housing, in our community. We implemented SB 79 as written to encourage density and height of development within a quarter mile of our train station. We proposed affordable housing development on city-owned parking lots downtown and are united in opposition to a resident-sponsored ballot measure that would make that impossible. Also, Menlo Park has never been subjected to SB 35 restrictions.

As for the 80 Willow Road project specifically, I invite you to be my guest for a visit to Menlo Park, and to tour the site on the banks of the environmentally-sensitive and flood-prone San Francisquito Creek. The project includes three towers up to 39 stories and 461 feet tall — the

tallest building between San Francisco and Los Angeles. This project only creates 665 housing units (only 100 affordable units) but includes over 530,000 sq. ft. of commercial space, a hotel and other uses that add so many jobs that the project actually worsens the existing jobs/housing imbalance in our community. Of course, it is so large a project that it would overwhelm local infrastructure.

Finally, your office instructed the City to process this project without any environmental review and threatened potentially catastrophic financial penalties for Menlo Park. I hope you will look into it and help us find a productive way forward. Please do come visit so I can show you in person.

Respectfully,
Betsy Nash

Nash provided The Almanac with a copy of the letter sent Aug. 25. It is being published with permission.

Menlo Park Mayor Betsy Nash was elected to the Menlo Park City Council to represent District 4 in 2018. She is not seeking reelection.

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LETTERS

Our readers write

Lutticken's will be missed

Editor,

A sad and fond farewell to a Menlo Park institution: Lutticken's on Alameda de Las Pulgas in West Menlo Park (and its other locations). The upcoming closure on Sept. 30, after over 40 years in business, was reported by The Almanac, but its fame was widespread: Even Al Gore and his retinue stopped by when he was running for president. Sen. Josh Becker gave Lutticken's a Small Business of the Year award. Lutticken's patrons ranged from construction workers to Sand Hill Road entrepreneurs.

Not only will Lutticken's Deli and Bar be missed, the "After 5" lively entertainment, which already closed, will be impossible to replace.

Bob Lutticken himself is a great human being who has

been involved in multiple civic and charitable organizations. Even his choices of coffee beans are labeled according to local schools!

Bob and his very competent manager, Judy, deserve some peace in their senior years. Bob's regular staff reflect his values and ethics. Maria, Minor and Carlos are friendly, very competent, hard-working and trustworthy. Unfortunately for them, they now need new employment. I hope that in the next few weeks people can stop by, eat their great sandwiches, salads, burritos etc., and leave handsome tips.

Janet Davis,
West Menlo Park

A part of Almanac history

Editor,

I have belatedly enjoyed reading the Aug. 7 celebration of 60 years of The Almanac. My late wife Mary, who died in 2014, would have enjoyed it even

more, because she had a small part in "the early days."

Mary, who was a career newspaper reporter, knew Almanac co-founder Hedy Boissevain from when they both worked for the old Palo Alto Times.

From when Mary left the Times for the birth of our first son until she returned to regular work in the mid-1980s, first on the copy desk for the old *Redwood City Tribune* and then as a reporter for The Peninsula Daily News, she had time on her hands. As a correspondent for UPI and the old San Francisco Examiner, she was called upon only intermittently.

Hedy was friends with Mary and knew she was a solid reporter with paste-up experience. Thus, she came to call on Mary from time to time for advice and, in due course, occasionally in getting the paper out when Hedy could not be available.

Those were the days!

Jim Madison,
Menlo Park

What's on your mind?

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

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 2345 Yale St., 1st floor, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

You can also submit a longer piece of 450 to 600 words for consideration to publish as a guest opinion column.

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

The Almanac

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Peninsula-raised writer releases debut novel, 'Firewalkers'

Tyler Hanley's sci-fi and fantasy tale follows four siblings in a post-apocalyptic adventure

By Karla Kane

In a society devastated by climate change, disease and war, four siblings reunite following the murder of their father. The eldest of the Walkers, twins Blain and Miranda, have been using their unique skills to work as bounty hunters. Little brother Thomas has been making a life for himself in the wilds of Alaska until his father tasks him with saving the family. Younger sister Bo, meanwhile, is an artistic free spirit. As they reconnect, they learn more about their father's ties to a nefarious scientist and a whole gaggle of odd characters.

Over the course of their adventures, they're immersed in danger and discovery while reaffirming their familial bonds and encountering friends and foes (and even some good old-fashioned animal sidekicks).

Welcome to the world of "Firewalkers," the debut novel from Peninsula-raised writer Tyler Martin Hanley.

"I've always kind of been drawn to adventure stories where there's a group of characters that have different skills that have to come together to face some challenge," he said. "I really wanted those characters to be a family because I felt if you make them be family, it ups the stakes a little bit."

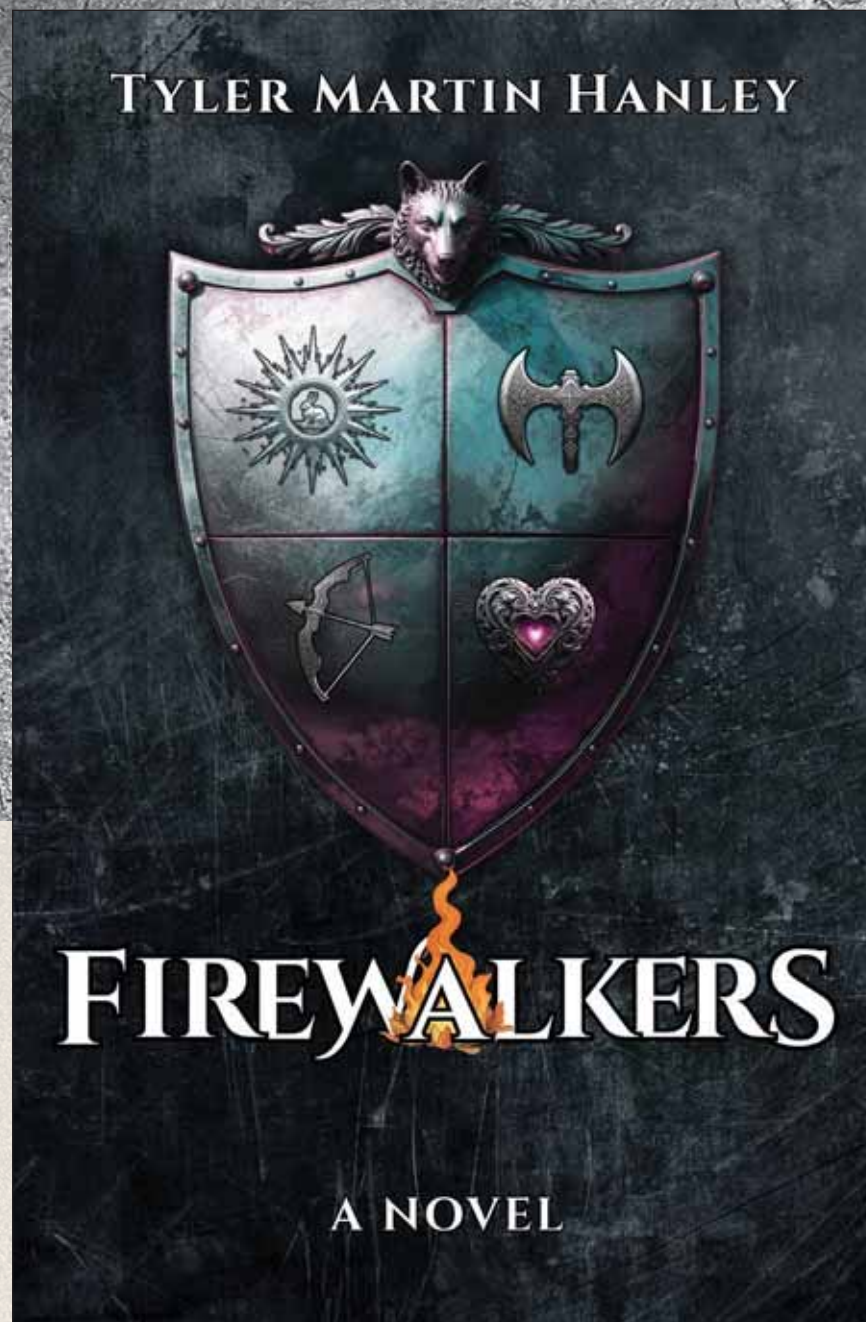
Hanley's own family ties helped inspire some elements of the story.

"I've got an identical twin brother, we're very close, we're super tight and I think being a twin obviously influenced the characters of Blain and Miranda. The whole family dynamic is based a little bit on my close relationship with Nathan (Hanley)," he said. It also helped influence Hanley's interest in genetics, which informs some of the story.

"That kind of science element definitely came from being an identical twin," he said.

"Firewalkers" has something of an old-fashioned epic about it while also incorporating some intriguing technology in a post-apocalyptic setting, with a mix of fantasy and sci-fi components. Blain, who lost his vision years ago, uses specially engineered goggles that grant him some sight, while his twin Miranda has mystical, magical powers. And everyone is struggling to make their way in a time when the social order has largely broken down.

"I did want some kind of modern, tech-related futuristic stuff but mostly I wanted to present a world that had kind of gone backwards a little bit," Hanley said. "I wanted to paint a world



Courtesy Tyler Hanley

"Firewalkers" tells of a group of siblings navigating a post-apocalyptic world. Author Tyler Hanley took some inspiration for the family dynamic from his close relationship with his twin brother, Nathan.

where television and politics and even law enforcement are not there and it's up to what few citizens are left to remake the world, in a way."

Citing "The Princess Bride" and the work of author Stephen King as among his influences when crafting the fantasy/sci-fi tale, Hanley said the seeds of the story were first planted around 25 years ago.

"I was originally thinking of it as a six-issue comic book series, with issues dedicated to each sibling," he recalled. "Over the years, I decided this is going to work better as a novel, so I dropped the comic book aspect but kept some of the themes and the tones."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, he fully committed. "That's when I really kind of fleshed it out and took the ride," he said.

Hanley, currently based in the South Bay, was a longtime staff member of the Palo Alto Weekly. He said he's grateful for the sage mentorship of former Weekly editor Jay Thorwaldson in developing as a writer and editor.

In fact, Thorwaldson, who died in

2025 and who shared with Hanley a love of the work of J.R.R. Tolkien, edited a draft of "Firewalkers." While writing and fine-tuning the book, "I kind of felt like that shadow was there, in a good way," he recalled.

Hanley has studied acting and creative writing, including at Foot-hill College, American Conservatory Theatre and through Stanford Continuing Studies. He also has experience as a film critic, and in filmmaking with his brother. (The twins founded their own production company — Mirror Image Entertainment.) He said his love for the movies also likely shines through in his writing.

"There are a lot of cinematic scenes, and a lot of films that I saw growing up that influenced the story a little bit, whether it was subtly or purposefully," he said. And while he doesn't have plans to do so himself, "If someone wanted to make a movie out of 'Firewalkers,' I'd be over the moon."

"Firewalkers" is currently available via Barnes and Noble and Amazon.

See **FIREWALKERS**, page 24



Courtesy Tyler Hanley

Tyler Hanley had originally planned to tell the story of "Firewalkers" through a comic book series before deciding that a novel would be a better fit.

Review: Palo Alto Players stage hilarious musical 'Guide' to cutting the family line

A newly minted heir seeks shortcuts to getting relatives' fortune in 'A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder'

By Michael Vaughn

With "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder," director Lee Ann Payne and the Palo Alto Players' company have concocted a production that is brilliantly theatrical, beautifully musical and belly-laugh hilarious. The bonus is getting to see a bunch of toxic rich people buy the farm, which these days is vastly therapeutic.

The setup for this musical by Steven Lutvak and Robert L. Freedman centers around Monty Navarro (Andrew Cope), an ambitious young Edwardian Englishman who is mourning the passing of his mother. A mysterious woman (Sarah Jebian) knocks at the door and informs him that his mother was a member of the wealthy D'Ysquith clan. She was disowned for marrying for love over station. Monty writes to his newly discovered family to inquire about a job but is immediately rejected and denied.

Adding to Monty's anxiety is Sibella Hallward (Brenna Silva), who adores Monty but has ruled out a future with him. In fact, she freely describes her dates with wealthy men, oblivious to his feelings.

Monty does a little math and realizes he's only a handful of D'Ysquiths away from having the family fortune all to himself, and thereby a shot with Sibella.

One of the show's central conceits is having one actor play (almost) every single D'Ysquith. In "Kind Hearts and Coronets," the 1949 film based on the same Roy Horniman novel that inspired this show, these duties fell to Alec Guinness. Here, the roles are taken on by Brandon

Savage, with side-splitting results.

It's hard to pick a favorite among Savage's creations, but certainly the pivotal D'Ysquith is Lord Adalbert, Eighth Earl of Highhurst. Adalbert is an utter loon, who engages in hateful but slightly erotic arguments with his wife, Eugenia (Alea Selburn), while brandishing a variety of weapons. His introduction number, "I Don't Understand the Poor," is a gem of silver-spoon cluelessness, backed by singing ancestral portraits.

Another favorite is Henry D'Ysquith, who joins Monty in the sublimely innuendo'd "Better With a Man," before receiving the tragic news that the handsome young stranger is actually his cousin.

Cope does a remarkable job of convincing us to root for him — even though, in a certain light, technically speaking, he could be seen as a serial killer. It doesn't hurt that he has a gorgeous, free-floating tenor, best exhibited in his tribute song, "Sibella."

Another charming presence is Chesney Evert as Phoebe D'Ysquith, who has managed to distill the family eccentricity into an irresistible incarnation. She is kind and beautiful, but it also seems that she might not be of this planet. Evert also has an excellent soprano, which serves to accentuate the Gilbert & Sullivan aspects of Steven Lutvak's score. This comes through in "I've Decided to Marry You," during which Sibella and Phoebe sing matching phrases in tight harmony as Monty works frantically to keep them in separate rooms.

That sort of physical humor supplies most of the laughs,



Courtesy Scott Lasky

Monty Navarro (Andrew Cope) cozies up to his cousin, Henry D'Ysquith (Brandon Savage), in "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder."

especially in the various death throes of Savage's D'Ysquiths. (Not to give anything away, but watch for sprays of ice water and a tribute to Hitchcock.) Subtler but certainly more mesmerizing are the two act-openers by the backing ensemble, who perform small, precise movements and sublime vocals laced with sardonic lyrics ("Dying is a very distasteful way of showing off."). Director Payne, also listed as choreographer, must have drilled these scenes for hours.

Patrick Klein's set is an ingenious creation, centered on a play-within-a-play proscenium with its own curtain. This allows Monty to narrate from the forward space (the present tense) while he relates his story. A few of the

merry fatalities take place in the background, augmented by vivid projections.

The costumes by Raven M. Manalo are just one vintage stunner after another. My particular favorite was Phoebe's sky-blue gown with a see-through drape outlined in sparkling ornaments. Manalo also had to facilitate Savage's many costume changes, some of which seemed too rapid to be possible.

Lutvak's score is an enjoyable melange of Gilbert & Sullivan and English music hall, tied together with more modern musical theater devices. He and Freedman made generous use of Modern Major General patter, which must leave their performers a little sore in the jaw. Lutvak, who died in

2023, was a voice coach to both director Payne and Sarah Jebian, who played Miss Shingle. Tony Gaitan and orchestra handled the music with aplomb, playing in an orchestra pit that has now become an orchestra cave. He also had time to hand Monty an ax, but that's another story. ■

Email Contributing Writer
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The Palo Alto Players stage
"A Gentleman's Guide to Love and
Murder," through Sept. 27, Lucie
Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield
Road, Palo Alto. 650-329-0891,
paplayers.org, \$24-\$70.

FIREWALKERS

continued from page 23

While at first he queried agents with the goal of finding a publisher, Hanley ultimately decided to go the self-published route, valuing the autonomy he had over all aspects of the creative and production process.

"The independence of it became more important to me than getting with a traditional publisher," he said.

He hopes to plan some book signings and other events, including with his twin, Nathan Hanley, the Peninsula-based author of the graphic novel "Truth & Consequence." Tyler Hanley already has a

"Firewalkers" sequel in the works, among other projects.

His advice for would-be novelists is, don't let a desire to be perfect or a fear of criticism — self or otherwise — stop you from creative pursuits.

"Believe in yourself," he said. "It's so important when you're an artistic person to believe in yourself and not worry about what other people are going to think about it." ■

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

More information is available at
tylertmartinhanley.com.



Courtesy Tyler Hanley

Author Tyler Hanley was a longtime Palo Alto Weekly staffer and considered late Weekly editor Jay Thorwaldson a mentor. Thorwaldson edited a draft of "Firewalkers."

Food & Drink



Double matcha layer cake at Bonbon Matcha, a matcha cafe with plans to open in Palo Alto in October. Courtesy Bonbon Matcha.

The exterior of Coffeabar in downtown Los Altos, expected to open in early October. Courtesy Coffeabar.

Cafes coming soon

Here's when these 10 highly anticipated eateries plan to open along the Peninsula

By Adrienne Mitchel

If you're craving a sweet treat or an afternoon pick-me-up, there's an abundance of new cafes and bakeries coming soon to the Peninsula. Cult-favorite bakeries such as Pineapple King and Arsicault are expanding south to the Peninsula, and matcha spots including Bonbon Matcha and Maruwu Seicha are continuing to broaden their Silicon Valley footprint.

Auntea Jenny, Palo Alto: Late September

With more than 10,000 tea stores globally, Auntea Jenny is making its Peninsula debut in downtown Palo Alto by late September. The Shanghai-based tea brand specializes in fruit teas and milk teas, with menu options including the Classic Mango Grapefruit Sago (a mango smoothie with red grapefruit pulp, coconut milk, crystal pearls and sago), Jasmine Green Fresh Milk Tea (jasmine green tea with milk) and Green Grape Jasmine Milk Tea (muscat grape juice, milk and jasmine tea).

Auntea Jenny is also planning to open in the former space of Hereetea in downtown San Mateo. The tea chain's Bay Area debut comes about as a variety of Chinese tea brands — including Mixue, HeyTea, Charlie's Tea and Molly Tea — are expanding their presence along the Peninsula.

Auntea Jenny, 328 University Ave., Palo Alto; 253 S. B St., San Mateo; Instagram: @aunteajennyusa.

Coffeabar, Los Altos: Early October

The Italian-inspired cafe is continuing its Peninsula expansion with a fourth outpost in State Street Market in downtown Los Altos. Founded in Truckee in 2010 by former competitive skier Greg Buchheister, Coffeabar planted Peninsula roots in Menlo Park in 2018, followed by Redwood City, and Sunnyvale.

Expect classic coffee beverages, such as lattes, cappuccinos and cold brew, made from beans roasted in Coffeabar's Reno facility. Seasonal beverages rotate onto the menu, with current options including a pistachio rose mocha, marzipan latte and yuzu caramel latte.

The new Los Altos Coffeabar will eventually act as the main pastry production facility for all Bay Area Coffeabar locations, but during its soft opening, pastries will be coming in from the Menlo Park cafe.

Coffeabar, 170 State St., Los Altos; Instagram: @coffeabar.

Bonbon Matcha, Palo Alto: Early to mid-October

Tantalizingly green beverages and desserts await at Bonbon Matcha, which made its debut in Cupertino in June and is already expanding to Palo Alto in the former Gong Cha space.

Created by Emily Niu, Bonbon Matcha offers strawberry, mango and yuzu matcha lattes, as well as matcha lattes topped with sea salt cheese foam, banana cream or strawberry cloud. For dessert, find matcha cake layered with matcha cream, matcha crepe roll cake, matcha tiramisu and various types of Basque cheesecake slices.

A variety of matcha cafes recently opened in downtown Palo Alto, including Maruwu Seicha and Rikyu.

Bonbon Matcha, 439 Waverley St., Palo Alto; Instagram: @bonbon_matcha.

Continued on next page



Tong Sui, which specializes in coconut puddings, fruit smoothies and tea beverages, plans to open in Mountain View in October. Courtesy Tong Sui.

San Francisco cult-favorite Arsicault Bakery is planning on opening a new Palo Alto location early next year. Courtesy Arsicault Bakery.

San Francisco-founded Pineapple King Bakery is planning to open a San Mateo outpost in December. Courtesy Pineapple King Bakery.

Continued from previous page

Tong Sui, Mountain View: October

Created by Debby Wang in 2019, Tong Sui now has seven locations and hopes to grow to 12 in the next year, according to Judith Xiao, vice president of sales. In addition to Mountain View, Tong Sui has plans to expand to Santa Clara and Berkeley.

The Sunnyvale-born brand is known for its jiggly coconut pudding laden with fresh fruit, as well as specialty fruit smoothies and tea beverages. Top sellers include the Mango Mochi Coconut Pudding, Mango Sticky Rice Coconut Pudding and Coco Mango, made with mango puree, whole milk, green tea and crystal boba.

Tong Sui also owns Mian Sichuan Noodles, Pink Pink Tea Shoppe and Bloom & Vine, a sit-down restaurant that debuted in downtown Mountain View in June.

Tong Sui, 747 W. Dana St., Mountain View; Instagram: @tongsui.us.

Millbrae's Cafe, Millbrae: Late October

A neighborhood cafe with a touch of Latin flair is planned to open later this month. Seasonal specialties include lattes flavored with cajeta (sweetened, caramelized goat milk), mazapan (a peanut candy) and rompopo (a sweet and creamy eggnog-like alcoholic beverage). Matcha lattes will come in flavors such as strawberry, blueberry and ube.

In addition to specialty beverages, expect homemade tiramisu, acai

bowls, sandwiches and mimosas made with freshly squeezed orange juice. Millbrae's Cafe will be owner Maria Davalos debut coffee shop.

Millbrae's Cafe, 1663 El Camino Real, Millbrae; 650-534-6661, Instagram: @millbraes_cafe. Beginning in late October, open daily from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Croissante, Palo Alto: Late November

The former Antonio's Nut House space likely won't stay vacant much longer, according to Croissante owner Sean Kang. Replacing the beloved Cal Ave dive bar, which closed in 2020, is another outpost of local bakery chain Croissante.

Founded in Santa Clara in 2023, Croissante is known for its inventive pastries, including cube-shaped croissants, croissants stuffed with fresh mango and danishes filled with spinach artichoke dip. Croissante opened a Los Gatos outpost in 2024.

Croissante, 321 California Ave., Palo Alto; Instagram: @croissante_bakery.

Pineapple King Bakery, San Mateo: December

Cult-favorite pineapple buns, croissant egg tarts and freshly brewed milk tea is expected to arrive in San Mateo later this year. Created by sisters Jennifer and Stephanie Leung in San Francisco in 2015, Pineapple King Bakery has become somewhat of an institution for Hong Kong-style baked goods and beverages.

In 2024, Pineapple King Bakery expanded to Fremont, and soon it

will expand to the former space of Shabuway in San Mateo.

Pineapple King Bakery, 145 E. 3rd Ave., San Mateo; Instagram: @pineapplekingbakery.

Arsicault, Palo Alto: Early 2027

Considered by many to be the best croissant in San Francisco, Arsicault is expanding to Palo Alto in the first quarter of 2027.

CEO Armando Lacayo, who hails from France, created the bakery in 2015. Arsicault is rooted in the traditional, with a menu featuring classic croissant flavors such as chocolate, almond and ham and cheese. The Palo Alto outpost will be located in a brand new mixed-use development near California Avenue.

Arsicault Bakery, 388 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto; Instagram: @arsicaultbakery.

Backyard Brew, Palo Alto: To be announced

A staple of Palo Alto's California Avenue since 2016, Backyard Brew temporarily closed in February 2025 due to permit violations. Owner Ryan Khalil said he originally hoped to reopen the coffee shop during the summer, but permitting has taken longer than estimated. Khalil hopes to reopen two months after permits are issued. Backyard Brew is known for its casual outdoor ambiance, plentiful seating and crafted coffee drinks, including its Nutella mocha.

Backyard Brew, 444 California Ave., Palo Alto; 650-704-7785, Instagram: @backyardbrew.paloalto and @backyardbrew_

Maruwu Seicha, Mountain View: June 2027

Matcha cafe Maruwu Seicha is continuing its Peninsula footprint with a new outpost expected to open along Castro Street in downtown Mountain View next year. The company made its Peninsula debut in 2024, expanding to Campbell in June.

Maruwu Seicha is known for matcha and hojicha lattes, various flavors of cheese tarts and matcha-flavored gelatos. Matcha cafes are rapidly proliferating in Mountain View, with Matcha Mori and Junbi recently opening, and Unique Green coming soon. ■

Maruwu Seicha, Castro Street, Mountain View; Instagram: @maruwuseichausa.

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



Matcha cafe Maruwu Seicha plans to open in downtown Mountain View next summer. Photo by Adrienne Mitchel.

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

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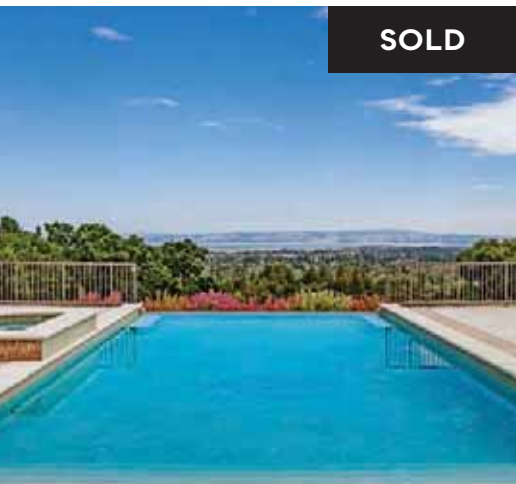
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