

Weekly

Palo Alto gym project gets some Friends

Page 5

IN
FEASTS
OUR
FAMILY



ART CENTER SHOW CHEMIS ON DEEPER MEANING BEHIND WHAT WE EAT

PAGE 21



Donate to the **HOLIDAY FUND** Page 16

Read up-to-the-minute news on PaloAltoOnline.com

- **Upfront** Real or fake? Bill targets AI content Page 5
- **Upfront** Community mourns 'remarkable' youth leader Page 8
- **Eating Out** Just say cheese...cake: Basuku pop-up returns Page 25



Save yourself a trip. Visit your doctor by video.

Doctor appointments have never been so easy. Most Stanford Health Care clinics offer video visits for your convenience. Whether you are a first-time or established patient, a video visit can be appropriate for both primary and specialty care appointments to diagnose and treat many conditions.



Stanford
MEDICINE

Health Care

To schedule a video visit appointment or learn more, contact our clinics directly or go to stanfordhealthcare.org/videoappointments

470 El Capitan Place, Palo Alto

Spacious and Updated Greenmeadow Eichler

Midtown
SINCE 1958 Realty



Desirably located at the end of a tree line cul-de-sac!

- 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms
 - two private primary suites
- Light-filled open floor plan with vaulted ceilings
- Expanded, remodeled kitchen with abundant storage and counter space
- Large living room with floor to ceiling windows yielding loads of natural light and promoting indoor/outdoor integration
- Dual pane windows throughout
- Upgraded, multi-zone heating and air conditioning
- Spacious grounds with areas for entertainment, relaxation and play
- Desirably located in the Greenmeadow community with access to the community pool, park and so much more. A unique and special neighborhood like no other!
- Centrally located near schools, parks, Mitchell Park Library, Magical Playground, pickleball courts, shopping, transportation and more!
- Home Size: 1,953 square feet (approx.)
- Lot Size: 7,523 square feet (approx.)

Midtown Realty, Inc. • 2775 Middlefield Road • Phone: 650.321.1596 • www.midtownpaloalto.com



Listing Agent: Tim Foy
CalBRE# 00849721
Cell: 650.387.5078
tim@midtownpaloalto.com

OFFERED AT \$3,500,000

Open Saturday & Sunday 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM



YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS

Notice to Buyers:

Although a good buyer's agent can add significant insight and value, you are not required to use one to purchase a DeLeon listing. If you would like to submit an offer to us directly, please contact the DeLeon Buyer's Team at **650.543.8528** and we will waive 100% of the buyer's-side commission.

1726 FULTON STREET
PALO ALTO

\$5,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
1726Fulton.com

848 EDGEWOOD ROAD
REDWOOD CITY

\$3,288,000 | 20,494 Sq.Ft. Lot
848Edgewood.com

3 OLIVER COURT
MENLO PARK

\$2,598,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth
3OliverCt.com

695 S KNICKERBOCKER DR #19
SUNNVYALE

\$898,000 | 2 Bd | 2 Bth
695SKnickerbocker.com

13850 PASEO DEL ROBLE DRIVE
LOS ALTOS HILLS

\$5,988,000 | 5 Bd | 7 Bth (5 Full, 2 Half)
13850PaseoDelRoble.com

ESTATE SALE

25 LAS PIEDRAS STREET
PORTOLA VALLEY

SAT & SUN, JANUARY 20 & 21, 2023
10 AM - 1 PM



REAL ESTATE SEMINAR

REAL ESTATE TAXATION: REDUCING YOUR TAX BURDEN

Presented by Michael Repka, Esq., LLM (Taxation)

Thursday, February 8, 2024
Seminar: 6:00 - 7:00 PM
followed by Q & A

ShowPlace ICON Theatre
2575 California St. #601
Mountain View



Scan the
QR code to
RSVP or Call
650.543.8500

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com | Equal Housing Opportunity
中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

New group forms to build Palo Alto gym

Friends group looks to raise more than \$30M for a new wellness center

By Gennady Sheyner

A new coalition that includes former mayors, philanthropists, athletes and civic volunteers is spearheading a \$33-million campaign to revive a popular project: building Palo Alto's first city-owned gym.

The project has been on the city's radar since early 2022, when developer John Arrillaga proposed funding and building a new gym, a project that city officials had identified as a high priority when it comes to recreation

needs. Arrillaga, who is known for constructing athletic facilities at Stanford University and in Menlo Park, was also planning to design, construct and spend about \$30 million on the project.

But Arrillaga died shortly after making the proposal and Palo Alto's gym project has been in limbo since, with plenty of community support but no financial backing or real plans to advance it.

Now, things may be turning around. At a Jan. 17 community meeting, city staff and volunteers with the new group Friends of Palo Alto Recreation & Wellness Center offered some uplifting news for local gym advocates. The city and the Friends group have already identified two potential locations for a gym: Greer Park and Cubberley Community Center. The fundraising drive is now

kicking off. And the city's negotiations with the Palo Alto Unified School District, which owns much of Cubberley, are now speeding up after years of disagreements about the center's redevelopment.

The demand for a new gym has not diminished since Arrillaga's offer, according to Kristen O'Kane, director of the Community

(continued on page 18)



Rendering courtesy Studio T Square/city of Palo Alto

A new development proposed by Acclaim Companies calls for a seven-story building with 198 apartments.

HOUSING

Nearly 200 apartments proposed for San Antonio

Proposal from Acclaim Companies and Globe Investments calls for seven story building at 762 San Antonio Road

By Gennady Sheyner

Acclaim Companies, the Menlo Park-based builder whose seven-story apartment complex at the site of The Fish Market represents Palo Alto's most ambitious "builder's remedy" application, is now pitching a project with nearly 200 apartments near the city's border with Mountain View.

Much like its 380-apartment plan for The Fish Market site at 3150 El Camino Real, the new proposal for the property 762

San Antonio Road is invoking the builder's remedy provision, a legally murky measure that developers are now relying on to overcome zoning rules in cities that have not adopted a compliant housing plan, so long as developers earmark at least 20% of new units for lower-income residents.

Palo Alto is one such city. Even though the City Council had approved its Housing Element last May, the state Department of Housing and

Community Development subsequently rejected the city's submission. Palo Alto is now making additional revisions to the document, which lays out the city's plan to add 6,086 residences by 2031.

A major component of the city's plan is to loosen zoning standards in commercial corridors, with a special focus on San Antonio Road and El Camino Real. And even builder's remedy projects are often a source

of tension between builders and cities (Palo Alto is one of several cities that maintains that the builder's remedy does not apply to them), both Acclaim projects generally hew to the city's strategy of upzoning these two south Palo Alto corridors.

The Acclaim proposal for San Antonio Road would bring 198 residences to the site, according to a proposal that Acclaim and Globe Investments LLC submitted this week. This includes 112 one-bedroom apartments, 66 two-bedroom apartments and 20 studios. Forty apartments would be designated as below-market-rate units, the plans note.

The seven-story building would include two levels of parking under five levels of apartments. The building would replace three existing commercial buildings, according to the

(continued on page 12)

TECHNOLOGY

Real or fake?

Becker bill would force tech companies to 'watermark' AI-generated content

By Gennady Sheyner

Pope Francis decked out in a white puffer jacket. Mahatma Gandhi beaming in a selfie.

"The Mona Lisa" zoomed out, its bemused subject staged against a backdrop of wispy clouds and jagged rocks.

These viral images, all fake, have inspired awe, amusement and mockery over the past year as the field of generative artificial intelligence continued to surge in popularity. The rise of AI-generated images has also sparked debates among policymakers about the best way to protect people from fraud and deception.

U.S. President Joe Biden highlighted the challenges posed by AI in late October, when he signed an executive order that, among other things, required developers of powerful AI models to share information with the government; established an AI-focused cybersecurity program; and directed the Department of Commerce to develop guidance for watermarking so that AI-generated content is clearly labeled.

Biden also held meetings in the summer with seven leading AI companies — Amazon, Anthropic, Google, Inflection, Meta, Microsoft, and OpenAI — and secured their voluntary commitment to developing watermarking systems, mechanisms that add an invisible (but detectable) mark to photos or videos to identify them as AI-generated.

Now, state Sen. Josh Becker,

(continued on page 12)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ We’re not really excited to wait until 10 years from now.

— **Anne Cribbs**, *Parks and Recreation* Commissioner, on the drive to build a Palo Alto gym soon. See story on page 5.

Around Town

SOARING UP THE RANKS ...

Three Palo Alto High School students climbed the ranks of their local Boy Scout Troop, and now they're ready to fly off after the three were promoted to Eagle Scouts at an awards ceremony on Dec. 30. Seniors **Beau Revenaugh** and **Adam Hugh** and junior **Andrew Kassel** recently completed local service projects to earn the achievement that only 6% of Boy Scouts attain. Beau designed and built a guinea pig house for Animal Assisted Happiness in Sunnyvale, a nonprofit that offers “barnyard animal interactions” to local kids. Adam assembled four planter boxes for the All Five preschool in Menlo Park. And Andrew painted the foul poles and helped install a yellow safety cover along the outfield fence of the Ravenswood Little League field in Martin Luther King Jr. Park in East Palo Alto. He also cleared out the park’s equipment storage and donated the extra gear to youth baseball leagues in Latin America. The youth said they wanted to thank their friends, mentors and family who helped support them along their scout journey.

to seven members. The move was championed by council member **Lydia Kou** and Mayor **Greer Stone**, who penned a memo last year supporting the change. Commission Chair **Hsinya Shen** told the council on Dec. 4 that restoring two seats would “promote inclusivity, diversity of views, continuity of institutional knowledge and greater representation and coverage for our public art events.” Staff is also on board. Community Services Director **Kristen O’Kane** noted in a report that, while a larger commission would increase demands on city staff, staff will be “positively impacted” because there will be more opportunities for ad hoc committees to advance the commission’s work. It is also expected to improve diversity. “A larger decision-making body will allow for diverse perspectives in the selection of the public art including commissioned artists and locations for temporary and permanent art within Palo Alto,” O’Kane wrote.

AN AWARD FOR THE DIRTY BIRDIES ...

When the **Palo Alto Players** open their live performance of “Misery” this weekend, they won’t just be acting out the nationally recognized horror production, they’ll also be wearing a badge honoring their local efforts. Theatre Bay Area recently gave “Misery” the Homegrown Achievement for its 100% local cast, design team, director, crew and stage management, said **Melissa Momboise**, the group’s marketing associate. She said Palo Alto Players have previously won the award for their “Wizard of Oz” and “Matilda” shows, but the latest mark is just another part of the theater company’s ongoing efforts. “A part of our mission at Palo Alto Players is that we are theater for the community by the community,” Momboise said. Between Jan. 19 and Feb. 4, the group will be putting on “Misery,” a 90-minute adaptation of Stephen King’s horror book about an author who gets in a car accident and wakes up trapped in a remote cabin with his number one fan. The R-rated show is playing at Lucie Stern Theatre on 1305 Middlefield Road (they recommend you be 17+ to see it), and tickets cost \$20-\$60. ■

THE ART OF GOVERNING ...

When the Palo Alto City Council moved to reduce the sizes of its advisory commissions in spring 2020, council members and staff who supported the idea argued that having fewer members would reduce the burden on the city staff who have to support these advisory bodies. That decision — as well as a related action to similarly scale back the size of the **Human Relations Commission** — turned out to be an unequivocal dud. The **Parks and Recreation Commission**, which was also up for a seat trimming, strongly pushed back against the proposal and convinced the council to retain the seven-member status quo. The Human Relations Commission, whose broad mandate includes police oversight, diversity, inclusion and social services, wasn’t as lucky. After three years with five members, its members convinced the council to revert its ranks to seven. This week, it was the **Public Art Commission’s** turn. At its Jan. 16 meeting, the council quickly restored two seats to the commission, bringing it back

A LIMITED ENGAGEMENT OF THIS HIT SHOW ABOUT ONE OF AMERICA’S GREATEST COMPOSERS.

Hershey Felder as **GEORGE GERSHWIN ALONE**

FEB 7 - 11

MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTER for the PERFORMING ARTS

ADDED ONE NIGHT ONLY FEB 12
Hershey Felder's Great American Songbook Sing-Along

Theatre Works SILICON VALLEY

theatreworks.org | 1.877.662.8978

“ A MASTERFUL PERFORMANCE!” — Bay City News

AUGUST WILSON’S **HOW I LEARNED WHAT I LEARNED**

CO-CONCEIVED BY TODD KREIDLER
DIRECTED BY TIM BOND

PHOTO: STEVEN ANTHONY JONES BY JENNY GRAHAM, COURTESY OF OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Theatre Works SILICON VALLEY

NOW-FEB 3 MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTER for the PERFORMING ARTS

theatreworks.org | 1.877.662.8978

Palo Alto Weekly

450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306
(650) 326-8210 | PaloAltoOnline.com

PUBLISHER
Adam Dawes (223-6588, adawes@paweekly.com)

EDITORIAL
Editorial Director Jocelyn Dong (223-6514, jdong@paweekly.com)
Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner (223-6513)
Audience Engagement Editor Jamey Padojino (223-6524, jpadojino@paweekly.com)
Home/Real Estate Editor Linda Taaffe (223-6511, ltaaffe@paweekly.com)
Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman (223-6515, hzimmerman@paweekly.com)
Features Editor Julia Brown (223-6531, jbrown@paweekly.com)
Food Editor Adrienne Mitchel (223-6539, amitchel@paweekly.com)
Audience Engagement Assistant Editor/Visual Journalist Magali Gauthier (223-6530, mgauthier@paweekly.com)
Audience Engagement Assistant Editor Zoe Morgan (223-6519, zmorgan@paweekly.com)
Lifestyle Assistant Editor Karla Kane (223-6521, kkane@paweekly.com)
Embarcadero Media Staff Writers Emily Margaretten (223-6517)
Nicholas Mazzoni (223-6533)
Zoe Morgan (223-6519)
Contributors Carol Blitzer, Karla Kane, Elizabeth Lorenz, Sheryl Nonnenberg

ADVERTISING
Vice President of Sales Gina Channell Wilcox (925-621-1171)
Major Accounts Sales Manager Connie Jo Cotton (223-6571)
Multimedia Advertising Sales Elaine Ogden (223-6572)
Real Estate Advertising Sales Neal Fine (223-6583)
Digital Advertising Sales Lori Mikuls (223-6585)

ADVERTISING SERVICES
Advertising Services Manager Kevin Legarda (223-6597)
Sales & Production Coordinator Diane Martin (223-6584)

DESIGN
Design & Production Manager Kristin Brown (223-6562)
Senior Designers Linda Atilano, Paul Llewellyn
Designers Mary Watanabe, Douglas Young

BUSINESS
Business Associate Suzanne Ogawa (223-6541)

ADMINISTRATION
Courier/Circulation Assistant Ruben Espinoza

EMBARCADERO MEDIA
Chairman William S. Johnson (223-6505)
President & CEO Adam Dawes (223-6588)
Vice President Michael I. Naar (223-6540)
Vice President & Chief Technology Officer Frank A. Bravo (223-6551)
Director of Finance and Operations Nico Navarrete (223-6582)
Director of Marketing & Audience Development Heidi Hartley (223-6560)
Marketing Design Manager Shannon Corey
Major Accounts Sales Manager Connie Jo Cotton (223-6571)
Senior Web Developer Chris Planessi
Computer System Associate Mike Schmidt

The Palo Alto Weekly (ISSN 0199-1159) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306, (650) 326-8210. Periodicals postage paid at Palo Alto, CA and additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for Santa Clara County. The Palo Alto Weekly is delivered to homes in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley, East Palo Alto, to faculty and staff households on the Stanford campus and to portions of Los Altos Hills. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to PaloAltoOnline.com/subscribe to start supporting the Palo Alto Weekly today.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Palo Alto Weekly, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306. ©2023 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

Our email addresses are: editor@paweekly.com, letters@paweekly.com, digitalads@paweekly.com, ads@paweekly.com

Missed delivery or start/stop your paper? Email circulation@paweekly.com.

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM
Become a Paid Subscriber for as low as \$12 per month
Sign up online at PaloAltoOnline.com/subscribe

MEDIA

Embarcadero Media Foundation to launch new websites

By Palo Alto Weekly staff

Embarcadero Media Foundation is set to unveil brand-new websites for all seven of its newsrooms along the Peninsula and in the Tri-Valley on Wednesday, Jan. 24.

The dynamic and user-friendly platform is designed to provide news consumers with a better experience through a simple navigation bar, photo-rich layout and at-a-glance presentation of news, lifestyle articles, blogs, event listings and more.

Embarcadero Media Foundation is the nonprofit parent organization of The Almanac, the Mountain View Voice, Palo Alto Weekly, Redwood City Pulse, Danville/San Ramon, Livermore Vine and Pleasanton Weekly.

The new websites' modern design guides users through a wealth of news, information and resources. Key features include:

Enhanced navigation: A sim-

plified menu structure makes it easier to find information, from reading the latest breaking news in your city to browsing the latest regional lifestyle coverage to contacting customer support.

Rich content: Embarcadero journalists' award-winning reporting on everything from community and breaking news to in-depth investigations to arts, food and real estate is displayed with a clean design and eye-pleasing visuals.

Mobile-first design: Optimized for all devices, the websites deliver a seamless and enjoyable experience whether you're browsing on your phone, tablet, laptop or desktop."

The new websites are going to make reading the news and staying on top of what's happening in your community an even more enjoyable experience," said Adam Dawes, CEO of Embarcadero

Media. "We undertook this huge, year-long project in order to better achieve our mission of providing quality journalism that improves and enriches the lives of local residents and organizations."

As part of the migration to the new platform, Embarcadero's current websites will be closing Town Square, its commenting feature, for two days starting on Monday, Jan. 22. Comments will be moved and the commenting function will relaunch as the new websites come online on Jan. 24. Registered users of the current websites will be able to sign in either by using a "magic link" emailed to their email addresses or resetting their passwords for password-based access.

On the day of the launch, various sites will be turned on as the day progresses. As a result, the sending of our daily Express newsletters may be delayed. If you have questions about the



A screenshot shows the design for the desktop version of the Palo Alto Weekly's new website homepage.

new websites, contact info@embarcaderomedia.org.

The launch of the new websites is the latest transformation for Embarcadero Media Foundation. On Jan. 1, the 43-year-old media company became a nonprofit organization, allowing it to accept philanthropic contributions to support its work and further

enable it to fulfill its mission of serving the community. Go to EmbarcaderoMedia.org to learn more about the nonprofit. To donate to the Foundation, go to EmbarcaderoMediaFoundation.org/donate. ■

Email Editor Jocelyn Dong at jdong@paweb.com.

ENVIRONMENT

Palo Alto relaxes rules for tree removal

City adds more exceptions for people looking to cut down trees

By Gennady Sheyner

When Palo Alto passed an ambitious tree-protection law in 2022, its aim was to shield the city's treasured canopy from destruction.

But after a year of heavy storms and scary episodes involving trees falling on top of homes and park visitors, the City Council on Tuesday, Jan. 16, took a step in the other direction. By a 5-2 vote, with City Council members Julie Lythcott-Haims and Greg Tanaka dissenting, the council modified the 2022 law to give property owners and developers more flexibility in removing trees.

The revisions seek to address some of the recently discovered flaws in the 2022 law, which roughly tripled the number of trees that are deemed "protected" and require a permit for removal. The law added four new tree species — bigleaf maple, incense cedar, blue oak and California black oak — to a protected roster that previously included only the coast live oak, the valley oak and the coast redwood. More significantly, trees of all species would be deemed protected if their diameter is 15 inches or greater (the only exception is the redwoods, which would have an 18-inch threshold).

The 2022 provisions increased the number of protected trees from 81,720 to 224,100, according to Peter Gollinger, the city's urban forester. Palo Alto has about 600,000 trees, which does not include its open space preserves.

But as city officials learned over the past year, people also

need protection from trees. Numerous residents had trees fall on or next to their homes and one Barron Park homeowner had a giant branch from a toppling Douglas fir pierce her roof and damage her bedroom during a March storm. The resident, Leah Russin, had requested the city's permission to remove Douglas fir several months before the storm. Then, the new law kicked in, and permission was denied.

Even sunny weather is no guarantee that a tree won't topple on you, as resident Ben Lenail learned on Oct. 24 when an oak tree at Rinconada Park landed on him while he was out with his dog, Hazel (they were both caught up in the canopy and got out with some scrapes but no major injuries).

Russin urged the council to rethink the new law, which she argued represents a restrictive "command and control" approach. Rather than prohibiting tree removal, the city should give homeowners more latitude to remove trees on their properties and provide residents with incentives to plant new trees.

"We need flexibility; we need adaptation; we need mitigation," Russin told the council. "Preserving and locking in the landscaping decisions made by wildlife and people over a century ago are not going to protect us in the future."

But while Lythcott-Haims and Tanaka both supported Russin's position and recommended a broad overhaul of the

tree-protection law, the council opted for only mild pruning. Much like the city's Parks and Recreation Commission and the Planning and Transportation Commission, which both reviewed the new law, the council agreed that the past year has been particularly wet and wild and that it would be premature to

dramatically change the new law after just 18 months.

The changes they approved give the planning director more discretion to remove trees in development projects. Newly approved language also allows for tree removal in cases where a tree is at risk for "retrenchment" or does not conform to "right tree in the right place" principles, which pertain to a tree's location relative to utility facilities and other public infrastructure.

Gollinger said retrenchment occurs when a tree gets old and starts to "conserve resources."

"They bring their resources closer to their trunk. Sometimes they lose limbs," Gollinger told the council. "They can survive for a long time, but it's not necessarily a safe scenario in an urban environment. Out in the open space, it's fine, they can continue on for many, many years. But here in the urban environment, we want to prevent these limbs from failing."

The new law also allows removal if a tree represents a significant barrier to development, as determined by the 25% rule: The tree

(continued on page 13)

2024 BOARDS & COMMISSIONS RECRUITMENT

DEADLINE: MARCH 17, 2024

2 POSITIONS	ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD	4 POSITIONS	HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD
2 POSITIONS	HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION	4 POSITIONS	PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
1 POSITIONS	PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION	3 POSITIONS	STORMWATER MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
2 POSITIONS	UTILITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION	<h3 style="margin: 0;">APPLY NOW</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">www.cityofpaloalto.org/BCRecruit</p>	

COMMUNITY

Community mourns the loss of 'remarkable' youth leader

Christian Sbragia, founder of CoolineKids, was 19

By Angela Swartz

Christian Sbragia, an educator in the East Palo Alto community who started the nonprofit CoolineKids, died on Jan. 5 at the age of 19 from a suspected blood clot, according to his mother, Nicole Sbragia. The purpose of CoolineKids was in line with what would become his personal motto: "service above all else."

Born in Redwood City on June 2, 2004, Christian was a mere 9 years old when he noticed a dire need in his East Palo Alto neighborhood: there weren't safe places for kids to play outside of school. So he took it upon himself to start after-school programs at elementary schools in the area and summer camps. The organization also serves students from East Menlo Park and Redwood City.

"I had seen a lot of the kids in the community roaming around the streets," he told *The Almanac* in 2022 when he was profiled as one of the area's most promising high school graduates.

His high school alma mater, East Palo Alto Academy, created the Positive Impact award in

2022 to recognize his work for the community.

East Palo Alto Academy Principal Amika Guillaume said in an email to the high school community that "Christian will be remembered for far more than his many accomplishments."

"He was compassionate and wise beyond his years, thinking of others and always considerate of peers and teachers alike. He is someone who continues to inspire so many of us," she said. "He gave many of us tremendous hope for a future led by young people like him. Though he left us too soon, Christian will forever be a light reminding us of the power in our youth. He will be missed, and even as we grieve, we know his enduring impact and light-filled spirit will drive all of us to continue the work in his memory."

Christian served as the East Palo Alto representative for the San Mateo County Youth Commission and served as the education chair in his high school years, according to CoolineKids' website. As a commissioner he drafted and led

the Commission in passing the 'Equitable Education Declaration' that pushed for school districts to adopt anti-racist education approaches. He was also trained in conflict resolution.

He served as a lead intern at a neurodiverse school and helped train police to better respond to those in mental health crises.

Christian was in his second year at California State University, East Bay, where he was majoring in ethnic studies, with a concentration in genders & sexualities in communities of color. He lived in the dorms his freshman year, but moved home to take online courses thereafter.

"This child loved East Palo Alto," Nicole told this news organization. Although overwhelmed with grief, she said she is taking solace in the fact she was with her son, and comforting him, when he died. "He was never going to leave East Palo Alto."

In addition to CoolKids, was a substitute teacher at the Primary School in East Palo Alto. He also led a program at Peninsula Bridge, a nonprofit program that



Courtesy Nicole Sbragia

Nicole, Coletton and Christian Sbragia.

supports low-income students in fifth grade through college.

Memories of Christian

The East Palo Alto City Council recognized Christian for his work during its Jan. 9 meeting with a proclamation, honoring "his memory as a brilliant light, a true leader, and a source of inspiration for our community."

Christian worked with upwards of 1,500 children and teens, according to CoolineKids' website.

Several East Palo Alto residents attended the meeting and shared memories of Christian, including Stuart Shiraishi, vice principal of

Belle Haven Elementary School in Menlo Park, where Christian went to elementary school.

Shiraishi said that Christian had the ability to make people feel special.

"The world is a better place for having him but unfortunately a worse place in that we lost him so early," Shiraishi said.

Nicole said she's heard the word "light" a lot in the days following Christian's death to describe her son.

"It's overwhelming, it's heart-warming, it's like a gift from

(continued on page 19)



SEASON 2 WOMEN'S WORK



Artistic Directors
Susan Freier & Stephen Harrison



Elizabeth Schumann



Kay Stern



Friday, January 26, 2024, 7:30PM
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
600 Colorado Ave, Palo Alto

Sunday, January 28, 2024, 4:00PM
Old First Church
1751 Sacramento St, San Francisco

Mélanie Bonis
Matin et Soir for Piano Trio
Dame Ethyl Smyth
String Trio (1887)
Mélanie Bonis
Piano Quartet No.1 in Bb Major, Op.69 (1905)
Artists: Kay Stern, violin; Susan Freier, violin/viola
Stephen Harrison, cello; Elizabeth Schumann, piano

Tickets available online or at the door | www.ivescollective.org



Castilleja School in Palo Alto on Oct. 28, 2020.

Magali Gauthier

DEVELOPMENT

Castilleja faces scrutiny over easement relocation

Palo Alto council scheduled public hearing on proposal to shift public utility easement to accommodate new garage

By Gennady Sheyner

When the Palo Alto City Council approved the expansion and reconstruction of Castilleja School in June 2022, it strived to resolve a six-year tussle between the school and its neighbors, many of whom opposed the project.

But as the private all-girls school proceeds with the redevelopment, which includes the replacement of most academic buildings and the construction of an underground garage, it is required, as part of the approval, to relocate a 25-foot public easement on its campus at 1310 Bryant St. And that requirement, formerly seen as routine, is thrusting Castilleja back into the public spotlight.

The strip of land is associated with a deal that the city made with the school in 1992, an agreement under which the school claimed a portion of Melville Avenue, between Bryant and Emerson Street, for its campus while the city reserved the easement for public utility purposes.

In approving the project, the council attached a condition requiring Castilleja to relocate the

public easement to be within the boundaries of the school's new driveway near the intersection of Emerson Street and Melville Avenue. According to the environmental analysis for the Castilleja project, the easement would be shifted 15 feet to the southwest to accommodate the construction of the new garage.

In December, Castilleja's Acting Head of School Kathy Layendecker signed an agreement that relocates the public utility easement to the driveway location.

But much like everything relating to the Castilleja project, what staff had hoped would be a routine item is now turning out to be less so. Last August, City Manager Ed Shikada postponed a planned vote on the easement because the description of the item on the City Council's agenda did not actually mention Castilleja.

The item was then returned to the council in December with a proper description, but it was on the council's "consent calendar," which is typically reserved for

(continued on page 19)



PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL CIVIC CENTER, 250 HAMILTON AVENUE

This is a summary of tentative City Council agenda items. The agenda with complete titles including reports can be viewed at the below webpage: <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/agendas/default.asp>

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

MONDAY JANUARY 22, 5:30 PM COUNCIL CHAMBERS & HYBRID

<https://zoom.us/join> Meeting ID: 362 027 238 Phone: 1(669)900-6833

CONSENT CALENDAR (5:50 - 5:55 PM)

1. Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2024 Meeting
2. Approval of Purchase Order With Siemens Inc. in the Amount of \$489,527 for FY 2024 to Purchase Sixteen (16) 12KV Circuit Breakers for Hanover and Hansen Way Substations. CEQA Status: Exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 (Replacement of Existing Structures)
3. Adopt a Park Dedication Ordinance for the Tower Well site, 0.19 acres of land (8,437 square feet) at 201 Alma Street and approve the proposed name "Tower Well Park" as Recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission. CEQA status - not a project.
4. Adoption of an Urgency Ordinance and an Ordinance Amending Palo Alto Municipal Code Title 18 (Zoning) Chapters 18.14 (Housing Incentives), 18.76 (Permits and Approvals), and 18.77 (Processing of Permits and Approvals) to Implement Housing Element Program 1.3 Creating By-Right Zoning Approval for Specific Housing Element Inventory Sites. CEQA Status: An Addendum to the City's Comprehensive Plan Environmental Impact Report was Prepared for the 2023-2031 Housing Element.
5. Adoption of an Ordinance Authorizing the Improvements to the Palo Alto Baylands as Part of the Horizontal Levee Pilot Project and Approval of a Cooperative Agreement with the Association of Bay Area Governments to Construct the Horizontal Levee Pilot Project (WQ-22001); CEQA - exempt under Section 15133
6. QUASI-JUDICIAL. 949 Scott Street [22PLN-00410]: Request for City Council Hearing on the Director's Decision to Approve a Variance application to Allow a New Single-Story, Single-Family Home with a Basement to Encroach into the Front, Side, and Rear Setbacks and Deviate from Standards for Below Grade Patio Side and Rear Setbacks, and Number of Parking Spaces. Zoning District: R-2. Environmental Assessment: Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per Section 15303.
7. QUASI-JUDICIAL. 420 Acacia [23PLN-00059]: Request for Approval of a Vesting Tentative Map to Allow for a Condominium Subdivision to Create 16 Units on a Single 35,573 Square Foot Parcel. The Subdivision map Would Facilitate Construction of the Previously Approved 33,833 Square Foot Mixed-use Development Project (23PLN-00058). Environmental Assessment: Exempt from the Provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act in Accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15332 (In-fill Development) and 15315 (Minor land Divisions). Zoning District: Split Zoning Designation of RM-30 and R-1 (Multi-Family and Single-Family Residential).
8. Approval of the Office of the City Auditor's Wastewater Treatment Plant Agreement Audit Report as Recommended by Policy & Services Committee (CEQA Status - Not a Project)
9. Approval of Office of City Auditor Risk Assessment and Audit Plan (CEQA Status - Not a Project)

ACTION ITEMS (Item 10: 6:20 - 6:25 PM, Item 11: 6:25 - 6:55 PM, Item 12: 6:55 - 7:55 PM, Item 13: 7:55 - 8:55 PM)

10. Approval of an Employment Agreement and Approval of Resolution to Appoint Mahealani Ah Yun to the Position of City Clerk at an Annual Salary of \$165,000. CEQA Status - Not a Project
11. Adoption of a Resolution and Approving an Easement Relocation Agreement Relocating and Vacating a 25 Foot Public Service Easement at the Castilleja School at 1263 Emerson Street and 220 Embarcadero Road (also commonly known as 1310 Bryant Street), Assessor Parcel Numbers 124-12-033 & 124-12-034; CEQA status - categorically exempt.
12. Review and Accept the FY 2025 - FY 2034 Long Range Financial Forecast (LRFF) and FY 2025 Budget Development Guidelines as Recommended by the Finance Committee, CEQA Status - Not a Project
13. Update regarding State and Federal Legislation and Approval of the Annual Legislative Guidelines and Legislative Platform as Recommended by the Policy & Service Committee. CEQA Status - Not a Project

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RAIL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024 @ 2:30 pm Community Meeting Room & Hybrid
<https://cityofpaloalto.zoom.us/j/86388142528> Meeting ID: 863 8814 2528 Phone: 1(669)900-6833

Verbal Update on Interagency Activities

1. Caltrain
2. VTA
3. City Staff

Action Items

1. Review and discuss comments received from Caltrain staff on the grade separation alternatives and provide feedback/direction to staff.

CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE HELD IN-PERSON AND BY TELECONFERENCE

City Council meetings will be held as hybrid meetings with the option to attend by teleconference/video conference or in person. To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can choose to participate in the meeting from home or attend the meeting in person.

Public Comments will be accepted both in person and via Zoom Written public comments can be submitted in advance to city.council@cityofpaloalto.org and will be provided to the Council and available for inspection on the City's website. Please clearly indicate which agenda item you are referencing in your email subject line.

The meeting will be streamed live on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/c/cityofpaloalto>, and Midpen Media Center <https://midpenmedia.org> and broadcasted on Cable TV Channel 26. PowerPoints, videos, or other media to be presented during public comment are accepted only if emailed to: city.clerk@cityofpaloalto.org at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Once received, the City Clerk will have them shared at public comment for the specified item. To uphold strong cybersecurity management practices, USB's or other physical electronic storage devices are not accepted.

CityView

A roundup of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council (Jan. 16)

Trees: The council revised the tree-protection ordinance to create more exceptions for when trees can be removed. **Yes:** Burt, Kou, Lauing, Stone, Veenker **No:** Lythcott-Haims, Tanaka

Tesla: The council approved an agreement with Tesla to rebuild a city substation on Hanover Street, near Tesla's new engineering headquarters at 1501 Page Mill Road. **Yes:** Burt, Kou, Lauing, Lythcott-Haims, Stone, Tanaka **Recused:** Veenker

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to appoint Mahealani Ah Yun to serve as city clerk; consider an easement relocation at Castilleja School to accommodate the school, proposed underground garage; discuss the city, long-range financial forecast for fiscal years 2025 to 2034; and hear and update about state and federal legislation. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 22, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 362 027 238.

COUNCIL RAIL COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to hear Caltrain, feedback about the city, grade separation alternatives. The meeting will begin at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 23, in the Community Meeting Room at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 863 8814 2528.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 23, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 999 3789 9745. The agenda was not available by press deadline.

HISTORIC RESOURCES BOARD ... The board plans to consider its recommendations for nomination of properties to the city, historic inventory, with a focus on those sites that were subject to homeowners, objections. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 968 0019 7512.

NONPROFITS

Downtown Streets Team names new CEO

Julie Gardner will take over the nonprofit on Jan. 29

By Nick Pasion

One of Palo Alto's most well-known homelessness organizations, Downtown Streets Team, has named a new CEO, according to a news release.

Julie Gardner will take the helm of Downtown Streets Team on Jan. 29 after being picked to lead the nonprofit by its board of directors. Gardner joins the organization from the College of San Mateo, where she worked as the director of Crisis Relief Programs and SparkPoint, a family living assistance organization.

"I am thrilled to be invited into the organization and hope to leverage my expertise in scaling equity-centered initiatives to complement DST's legacy of community action and transformative impact," Gardner said in a release.

Downtown Streets Team offers unhoused people jobs in which they help clean city streets in exchange for personalized case management, housing and food vouchers and employment services. Since its founding in 2005,

in partnership with the Downtown Association of Palo Alto, the now-San Jose-based nonprofit has expanded to 20 cities around the Bay Area.

The Palo Alto branch works with the city and other nonprofits to provide services like outreach and the Downtown Food Closet (the former Palo Alto Food Closet), which offers groceries to lower-income and unhoused people, the Streets Team's website states.

Gardner will take the helm from interim CEO Jim Rettew, who replaced former CEO and founder Eileen Richardson. She retired from the nonprofit in 2022, two years after former employees accused Richardson and other executives of sexual harassment and creating a drinking culture at the organization.

Gardner earned a bachelor's degree in 2013 and a master's in public health in 2017 from San Francisco State University, according to her LinkedIn. From 2013 to 2017, she worked at



Courtesy Downtown Streets Team

Julie Gardner will take over as CEO of Downtown Streets Team at the end of the month.

Alameda Family Services before heading to Health Promotion & Wellness at San Francisco State from 2017 to 2022. Gardner also lectures part-time at her alma mater.

At the College of San Mateo, where she's spent the past two years, Gardner helmed PATHS, a college-focused rapid rehousing program. Her work at the two colleges has served "over 5,400 individuals facing food insecurity, housing instability, and financial hardship," the release states. ■



U.S. House of Representatives Candidates' Debate

Wednesday, Jan. 31 7-9 p.m.

Palo Alto City Council Chambers | City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave. | Palo Alto

► FEATURING



Joby Bernstein (D)



Peter Dixon (D)



Rishi Kumar (D)



Sam Liccardo (D)



Evan Low (D)



Julie Lythcott-Haims (D)



Ahmed Mostafa (D)



Peter Ohtaki (R)



Joe Simitian (D)



Greg Tanaka (D)

*Karl Ryan (R) is unconfirmed

Who will fill the U.S. House of Representatives District 16 seat after U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo retires this year?

Come hear from the candidates, live and in person. The event will also be live streamed on YouTube by the Midpeninsula Media Center.

California's open primary election is Tuesday, March 5. Voters can vote for any candidate regardless of party affiliation. The top two in the primary will face off in November unless one candidate receives more than 50%.

The 16th District runs from Pacifica to Los Gatos and includes the Midpeninsula.

► MODERATORS

Gennady Sheyner, Reporter, Palo Alto Weekly

Zoe Morgan, Reporter, Mountain View Voice

► LEARN MORE

PaloAltoOnline.com/debate/



Got questions for the candidates?

Email them to editor@paweb.com by Jan. 29.



Hosted by Palo Alto Weekly, Palo Alto Online, Mountain View Voice and The Almanac, in partnership with Palo Alto Neighborhoods and Midpeninsula Media Center.



695 S KNICKERBOCKER DRIVE #19 SUNNYVALE



LIGHT-FILLED CONDO IN A PRIME SETTING

A prime location in the sought-after Cherry Chase community close to vibrant shopping and dining options, scenic parks, prominent tech companies, and transportation options highlights this bright and inviting 2-bedroom condo. Everything the area has to offer is at your fingertips – from downtown Sunnyvale and its Historic Murphy Avenue to leading companies like Amazon, Google, and Meta, along with major commute routes such as Highway 85, and eco-friendly options such as Caltrain and VTA light rail. Situated on the ground level, this home offers top-notch amenities, a spacious living room, a well-appointed kitchen with granite finishes, and two comfortable bedrooms, including a primary suite. Additionally, you will enjoy a private balcony, ample storage space, and parking in the secure underground garage. And as a finishing touch, children may attend acclaimed schools including Cherry Chase Elementary and Homestead High (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE

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

[695Sknickerbocker.com](https://www.695Sknickerbocker.com)

Listed at \$898,000

Notice to Buyers:

Although a good buyer's agent can add significant insight and value, you are not required to use one to purchase a DeLeon listing. If you would like to submit an offer to us directly, please contact the DeLeon Buyer's Team at **650.543.8528** and we will waive 100% of the buyer's-side commission.

Listed by the DeLeon Team

Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 精通中英文和粵語 | Equal Housing Opportunity
Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

AI

(continued from page 5)

D-Menlo Park, is preparing to tackle the challenge on the state level. Becker plans to introduce a bill that would require generative AI companies to watermark the images, videos and audio that are created from their models. These companies would also be required to provide a platform for consumers to ask about whether the content was created by them.

Becker said in a Jan. 12 statement that the bill is intended to “champion transparency and empower consumers.”

“Artificial intelligence has become an integral part of our daily lives, influencing the products we use,” Becker said. “It is crucial that consumers have the right to know if a product has been generated by AI.”

For Becker, the new AI bill is the second piece of legislature that targets technological trickery and opaqueness. Last year, he authored the Delete Act, which establishes a

system that will allow consumers to opt out of having their information collected by data brokers. Earlier this month, state Sen. Steve Padilla, D-Chula Vista, introduced a pair of bills to regulate AI with privacy and safety standards and to create an AI research hub to support universities.

Becker said in a statement that it became clear to him through conversations with experts that “the ability to distribute high-quality content made by generative AI creates concerns about its potential misuse.”

The introduction of what Becker is calling the California Artificial Intelligence Transparency Act “marks a significant step toward establishing clear guidelines for AI-generated products,” he said.

“AI-generated images, audio and video could be used for spreading political misinformation and creating deepfakes,” Becker said. “My legislation will aim to advance provenance, transparency, accountability and empower individuals to make choices aligned with their values.” ■

San Antonio

(continued from page 5)

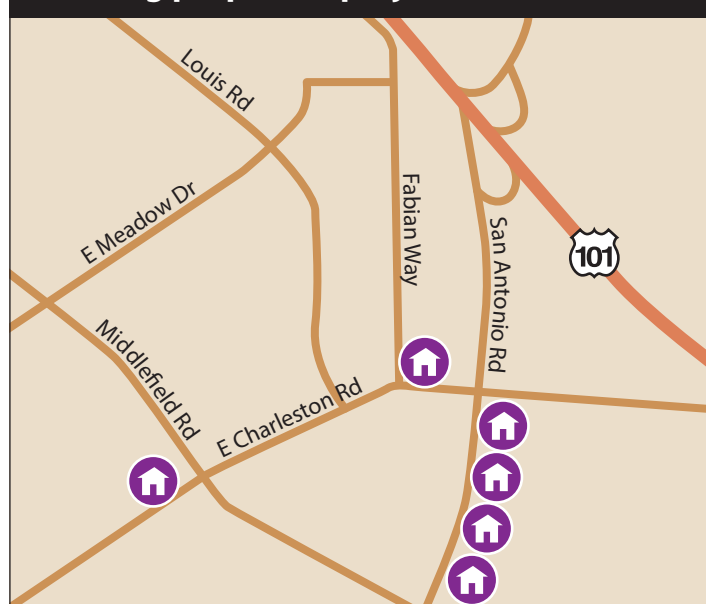
application. The site is currently occupied by Hendgehold Trucks, which sells and rents trucks.

Project plans note that the development near Leghorn Street will include a south-facing courtyard and a roof deck. The building’s façade on the San Antonio Road site will be set back 25 feet from the curb and will serve as the “focal point of the project,” according to the plans.

“The facade is broken into smaller elements with the use of vertical breaks, plane changes, and increased setbacks on both the ground and upper levels,” the plans state, arguing that this will create a “distinctive base, middle, and top” in the new building.

The project is one of several targeting this segment of San Antonio Road, an area that the City Council has identified as ripe for development. Other recent projects in the area include 788 San Antonio Road, a

Housing proposals, projects in Palo Alto



Paul Llewellyn

Nearly 800 housing units could be added in an area of south Palo Alto.

102-apartment development that the council approved in 2020, and 800 San Antonio Road, a 76-condominium project that is currently

going through the city’s approval pipeline.

Overall, the city hopes to see about 2,000 new residences — or nearly a third of the city’s total allocation — in the largely commercial and industrial zones along San Antonio Road, Fabian Way and East Meadow Circle. Last year, council members changed various zoning standards in this area to enable taller and denser developments. Sites on which building heights had been historically limited to 35 or 50 feet now have 60-foot height limits. By applying the State Density Bonus Law, developers can claim an additional 35 feet of height.

In revising these zoning standards, council members acknowledged that they would be transformational for San Antonio Road. To help guide the redevelopment of the area, the council is preparing to launch an area plan in the coming months — a precursor to further zone changes, development proposals and infrastructure improvements.

Some council members, including Julie Lythcott-Haims and Vicki Veenker, have been enthusiastic about the potential transformation of San Antonio Road. Lythcott-Haims supported in November a further loosening of density limits, while Veenker argued that the new zoning rules would enhance Palo Alto.

“People are worried it will have some harmful effects,” Veenker said at the November meeting. “I actually think we’ll be really proud when we see these new units up and around, and hopefully, it will contribute to our economic developments as new residents come and shop in our business districts.”

Others, including Mayor Greer Stone, framed the upzoning effort as a necessary — if not ideal — measure to meet an aggressive mandate from the state.

“A point to keep in mind is we really have no choice here,” Stone said. ■

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly.com.



**AKIRA TANA
TANA &
FRIENDS**

Saturday, January 27, 7:30pm

Menlo-Atherton High School Center For The Performing Arts

555 Middlefield Road, Atherton

Akira has assembled a dream quintet

CLAIRDEE – vocals

JAMES MAHONE – saxophone

KEN FRENCH – piano

DOUG MILLER – bass

AKIRA TANA—drums



“Praise for Clairdee: “In sassy, solidly assured crowd-pleasing form, a whole lot of interpretive brilliance.” – Jazz Times

The highly acclaimed Menlo-Atherton HS Jazz Ensemble will perform an opening set.



TICKETS: \$50 general, \$40 PAJA members, \$5 students

Available online: pajazzalliance.org

Or by mail from Fox, PAJA Tickets, 294 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto 94306. (Send check and SASE.)

Or at the door the evening of the performance – cash or check only.

Information: harvey.mittler@gmail.com

Proceeds to the Education Fund of the Palo Alto Jazz Alliance (an IRC 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.)

Trees

(continued from page 7)

protection zone takes up 25% or more of the buildable lot.

But even if trees can be hazardous, the council majority generally agreed that that's a price worth paying for the joys they bring. While the Jan. 16 changes provide additional flexibility to homeowners for removing trees, most council members did not support any of the more sweeping proposals for revising the tree-protection ordinance.

Vice Mayor Ed Lauing made the case for retaining much of the new tree-protection law. He said he experienced the risk trees can pose first-hand during last winter's storm, when a giant branch from a redwood tree on a neighbor's property broke off and flew about 40 feet before landing on the second story of Lauing's house.

"That was pretty bizarre, but I wouldn't want him to take down his beautiful tree for that. To me, that's just a risk that you take," Lauing said. "Same thing as when you walk through the park.

"Trees fall and we can't predict all that. So we have to live with some of that uncertainty, and I don't know how we can legislate that."

Critics of the Tuesday revisions argued that these changes fail to fix some of the gaps that have recently been exposed in the tree

ordinance. The law, for instance, requires confirmation from a certified arborist that a protected tree is failing before the city issues a permit to allow the removal. But even a certified arborist can have a hard time identifying a failing tree, as Russin found out when two different certified arborists told her that her Douglas fir seemed safe.

The oak at Rinconada also seemed fine, even to City Hall's top tree expert.

"From the ground there was no obvious issue," Gollinger told the council. "And once the tree fell, there was a flaw that was discovered where it broke. I don't think it's something that we could have anticipated unless we were up in the tree at that time to see it."

Tanaka suggested that the ordinance, even after revisions, fails to go far enough in boosting safety for residents, which he argued should be the council's top priority. Lythcott-Haims supported giving homeowners more power to remove trees but requiring them to plant two or three trees — or contribute to a city fund dedicated to tree planting — to mitigate the removal.

"I'm worried that our ordinance binds property owners in a way that is too controlling and transfers risk in a way I'm not comfortable with," Lythcott-Haims said.

Others, however, argued that trees are a precious resource and that the city should do whatever it



Courtesy of Ben Lenail

This oak fell on resident Ben Lenail as he and his dog, Hazel, were out in Rinconada Park on Oct. 24.

can to protect and grow its canopy. Jean-Paul Renaud, executive director of the nonprofit Canopy, was among those who supported the fairly limited changes that were brought forward by city staff and that had already been endorsed by the city's Parks and Recreation Commission and its Planning and Transportation Commission.

"We believe it would be premature and counterproductive to

contemplate additional changes when this ordinance is still in its infancy," Renaud said.

Former Mayor Karen Holman, who had strongly advocated for the tree-protection ordinance, also supported giving the ordinance more time, notwithstanding the risks that naturally accompany having a world-class canopy.

"The only way to eliminate the possibility of a tree falling is to eliminate all the trees," Holman

said. "Likewise, the only way to eliminate the possibility of car crashes is to take all the cars off the street.

"Neither is practical, and in fact, trees' very presence helps to mitigate the negative impacts of cars," she said. ■

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweeekly.com.



4 MONTHS of RENEWAL

YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH DESIGN BUILD

(AN INTERACTIVE EVENT)

4 DIFFERENT PRESENTATIONS, 4 EXPERTS, 1 AFTERNOON.

- Get an Inside Look at Elevations and the Magic of 3D Renderings
- Stay Ahead with Up and Coming Design Trends and Innovative Materials
- Get a Sneak Peek Behind the Drywall: What to Expect During Construction
- Discover Our Unique Approach that Sets Us Apart from the Rest



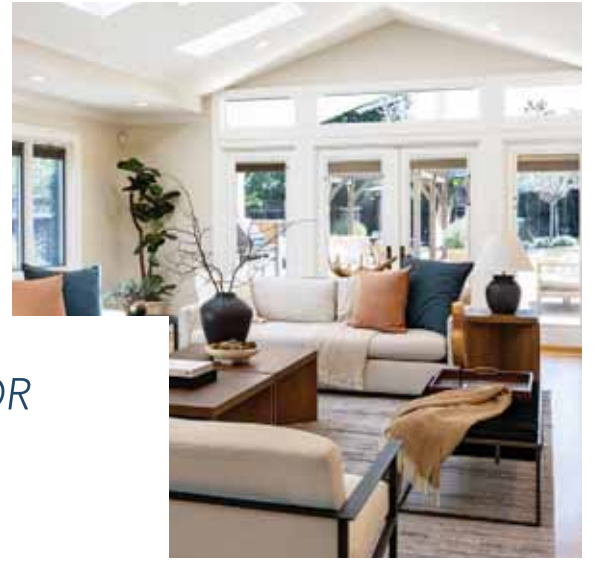
SCAN THE QR CODE TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT!

Explore the advantages of design build for your next remodel at Harrell Design + Build! Meet our team, learn about our streamlined process, and enjoy a happy hour with live music, drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Join us for an afternoon of education, inspiration, and celebration! FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SIGN UP AT HARRELLDESIGNBUILD.COM.

LICENSE B479799

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 • 2-5:30 PM

HARRELL DESIGN + BUILD • 2284 OLD MIDDLEFIELD WAY IN MOUNTAIN VIEW



LIST WITH THE DELEON TEAM FOR

3.5% OR LESS

Total Commission

And still get COMPLIMENTARY access to our vast experience and industry leading:


- Marketing
- Home Prep
- Inspections
- Staging
- Legal Services through Integra Law Group, LLP

... And so much more!

We have entered a new era in real estate in which Sellers do not have to pay 2.5% or more for the Buyer's Agent. Most of our Sellers are electing to offer **only \$10,000 to the Buyer's Agent**. If the agent wants more, then the Buyer can pay the difference – if not, the DeLeon Buyer's Team will represent that Buyer on our listings at no charge. That's right, we will even waive the \$10,000!

This client-centric business model saves our Sellers money and attracts more Buyers to our listings. It's no wonder we are the #1 Listing Team in Silicon Valley!

Caution: Some other agents continue to push for high commissions despite a recent court case.



Michael Repka
DRE #01854880
650.488.7325



Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com | Equal Housing Opportunity | 中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224





13850 PASEO DEL ROBLE DRIVE LOS ALTOS HILLS



NEARLY 3 ACRES OF LAND AND PALO ALTO SCHOOLS

Nearly three acres of land in peaceful Los Altos Hills play host to this remarkable home that radiates joy and hospitality at every turn. With 5 bedrooms and almost 6,700 square feet of living space, including separate guest quarters, this home offers thoughtfully designed, captivating venues that cater to a variety of lifestyle needs. Luxurious finishes abound, showcased by a multi-level floorplan that features expansive gathering areas, the chef's kitchen, convenient elevator access, and cozy bedrooms. The extraordinary lower level offers seemingly boundless entertainment options with a lounge, theater, gym, and game room, while an incredible backyard pool waits for when festivities move outdoors. Though you will feel a wonderful sense of privacy here, you will still be within easy reach of all the area has to offer – from nature preserves, to a country club, Stanford University, and Interstate 280, everything is just a short drive away. And as a finishing touch, this home provides access to esteemed Palo Alto schools including Nixon Elementary, Fletcher Middle, and Gunn High (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE

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

13850PaseoDelRoble.com

Offered at \$5,988,000

Notice to Buyers:

Although a good buyer's agent can add significant insight and value, you are not required to use one to purchase a DeLeon listing. If you would like to submit an offer to us directly, please contact the DeLeon Buyer's Team at **650.543.8528** and we will waive 100% of the buyer's-side commission.

Listed by the DeLeon Team

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com | Equal Housing Opportunity
中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224



PALO ALTO WEEKLY HOLIDAY FUND

GIVE BACK LOCALLY

Give to the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund and your donation is doubled. You give to nonprofit groups that work right here in our community. It's a great way to ensure that your charitable donations are working at home.

Last Year's Grant Recipients

Able Works	\$10,000
Acterra	\$15,000
Ada's Cafe	\$25,000
Adolescent Counseling Services	\$7,500
Art in Action	\$10,000
Art of Yoga Project	\$5,000
Aspire East Palo Alto Charter School	\$5,000
Bay Area Friendship Circle	\$5,000
Beyond Barriers Athletic Foundation	\$5,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bay Area	\$5,000
Blossom Birth and Family	\$5,000
Canopy	\$5,000
CASA of San Mateo County	\$5,000
Christmas Bureau of Palo Alto	\$7,500
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto	\$10,000
Counseling and Support Services for Youth (CASSY)	\$15,000
Downtown Streets Team	\$15,000
DreamCatchers	\$15,000
East Palo Alto Academy Foundation	\$10,000
East Palo Alto Kids Foundation	\$15,000
East Palo Alto Razorhawks Rugby Football Club	\$5,000
Eastside College Preparatory School	\$7,500
Ecumenical Hunger Program	\$10,000
Environmental Volunteers	\$7,500
EPACENTER	\$25,000
EPATT (East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring)	\$20,000
Family Connections	\$7,500
Fit Kids Foundation	\$5,000
Foundation for a College Education	\$15,000
FRESH APPROACH	\$5,000
Fresh Lifelines for Youth	\$5,000
Friends for Youth	\$5,000
Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo	\$10,000
Heart and Home Collaborative	\$10,000
Hidden Villa	\$10,000
Hope Horizon East Palo Alto	\$7,500
Jasper Ridge Farm	\$5,000
Kara	\$15,000
Lauren's House 4 Positive Change	\$5,000
Learning Home Volunteers	\$10,000
Mannakin Theater & Dance	\$5,000
Music in the Schools Foundation	\$7,500
My New Red Shoes	\$5,000
Nuestra Casa de East Palo Alto	\$10,000
Palo Alto Art Center Foundation	\$10,000
Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC)	\$20,000
Palo Alto Players	\$10,000
Peninsula Bridge	\$10,000
Peninsula College Fund	\$10,000
Peninsula Healthcare Connection	\$10,000
Peninsula Volunteers	\$15,000
Pursuit of Excellence Scholarship Foundation	\$20,000
Ravenswood Classroom Partners	\$20,000
Ravenswood Education Foundation	\$10,000
Rebuilding Together Peninsula	\$7,500
REEL2e	\$5,000
Rich May Foundation	\$5,000
Riekes Center	\$5,000
Rise Together Education	\$15,000
Rosalie Rendu Center	\$5,000
Sager Family Farm	\$5,000
Science is Elementary	\$5,000
Silicon Valley Urban Debate League	\$7,500
StreetCode Academy	\$10,000
The Circuit EPA	\$5,000
TheatreWorks Silicon Valley (United Nations Association Film Festival)	\$10,000
Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$10,000
WeHOPE	\$15,000
WomenSV	\$7,500
Youth Community Service	\$25,000

Child Care Grants

AbilityPath	\$10,000
All Five	\$10,000
Children's Center of the Stanford Community	\$5,000
Children's Preschool Center	\$5,000
Covenant Children's Center	\$10,000
Grace Lutheran Preschool	\$10,000
Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC)	\$10,000
Palo Alto Friends Nursery School	\$10,000
Parents Nursery School	\$10,000
The Learning Center	\$10,000



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE HOLIDAY FUND

For the past 30 years, the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund has raised money from the community to support programs serving families and children in Palo Alto and East Palo Alto. Last year, the campaign raised and granted a record \$793,000. Since the Weekly and Silicon Valley Community Foundation cover all administrative costs, every dollar raised goes directly to support community programs through grants to local nonprofit organizations.



And with the generous support of matching grants from the Packard, Hewlett, Peery and Arrillaga foundations, as well as several anonymous family foundations, your tax-deductible gift will be doubled in size. A donation of \$100 turns into \$200 with the foundation matching gifts.

Whether as an individual, a business or in memory or honor of someone else, help us reach this year's goal of \$800,000. With your generosity, we can give a major boost to the programs in our community helping kids and families.

Donate online at



PaloAltoOnline.com/holiday_fund



As of January 18th, 347 donors have contributed \$639,578 to the Holiday Fund.

64 Anonymous.....\$133,211	Joan Norton.....*	Ann and Don Rothblatt.....500	William Debord.....2,000	Rich Hlava.....*	
Glenda & Gordon Hughes.....2,500	Stuart & Carol Hansen.....100	Lynn and Andrew Newman.....*	Bruce & Jane Gee.....1,000	Walter Dean.....345	
Teresa Roberts.....1,000	Elizabeth & Mark Moragne.....100	Robert & Micki Cardelli.....*	Richard Johnsson.....500	Bob Donald.....300	
Susan Osofsky.....200	Romola Georgia.....*	Boyce & Peggy Nute.....*	Ken Bencala & Sally O'Neil.....100	Jim and Dottie Mellberg.....*	
Vic & Carla Befera.....100	Hoda Epstein.....*	Diana Diamond.....500	Ted & Ginny Chu.....*	Andre Jones.....*	
Vic & Norma Hesterman.....200	Lynnie Melena.....100	Jean MacDonell.....100	Dixie Storkman.....100	Ray Bacchetti.....300	
Alan & Cathy Wachtel.....*	Susie Richardson and Hal Luft.....*	The Ely Family.....1,000	Greg & Penny Gallo.....500	Jackie Boner.....*	
Angelo Family Foundation.....5,000	Merele McClure.....250	Charles Smith & Ann Burrell.....*	Andrea B. Smith.....200	Leo and Sylvia Breidenbach.....*	
Bobbie & Jerry Waggener.....*	Carolyn Williams & Mike Keeler.....*	Sally & Craig Nordlund.....500	Scott and Jan Kilner.....500	Thomas and Louise Phinney.....*	
Stephen and Nancy Levy.....500	Herbert Fischgrund.....50	Chris & Anne Saccheri.....5,000	Ted and Ginny Chu.....*	Jack Sutorius.....750	
Mary & John Schaefer.....200	Steve Weinstein and Phyllis Kayten.....500	Donna Bohling & Doug Kalish.....100	Penny Barrett.....*	Jenna Hilleary.....750	
Dong Family Fund.....200	Nancy Wong and Robert Lipshutz.....250	Margo Sensenbrenner.....*	Kay Remsen.....*	E Yanosh ALT.....20	
Georgie Gleim.....1,000	Jeny Smith.....100	David Kalkbrenner.....*	Jody Maxmin.....*	Werner Graf.....*	
Elgin and Elizabeth Lee.....500	Larry Klein.....500	Daniel & Janis Tuerk.....*	Roger V. Smith.....500	Aaron O'Neill.....*	
Pat Burt and Sally Bemus.....500	Tom & Pat Sanders.....*	Alan Cooper.....100	Marcia & Michael Katz.....*	Dan Logan.....100	
Jill and Brian Bicknell.....250	Katie & Eric Seedman.....*	Roy & Carol Blitzer.....*	IN MEMORY OF		
Reed and Judith Content.....*	J. Platt & S. Murphy.....*	Barbara & Charles Stevens.....*	Tom Osborne.....300	Darla Tupper.....3,922	
Adrienne Dong.....50	Christine and Bob Buss.....*	Elizabeth Salzer & Richard Baumgartner.....500	Nancy Little.....*	Bob Kirkwood.....*	
Karen & David Backer.....500	Jeanette E. Kennedy.....750	Betsy & George Bechtel.....200	Bob Simoni.....500	Kathy Morris.....*	
Kathleen & Tony Hughes.....1,000	Debby Roth.....200	Karen and Dick Olson.....500	Tinney Family.....250	Bob Donald.....*	
Ed & Linda Selden.....*	Debby and Tom Martin.....200	Thomas Rindfleisch.....*	Cecily Wagstaff Arellanes.....200	Nancy & Robert Lobdell.....*	
Yvonne Yamanaka & James Zou.....*	Don and Anne Vermeil.....*	Bruce & Mary Beth Train.....500	Bob Markevitch.....*	Ruth & Chet Johnson.....*	
Charles Katz and Gina Signorello.....250	Constance Crawford.....200	Fran Codispoti.....250	Anne Steinberg.....250	IN HONOR OF	
Shirley & Marc Feldman.....100	Richard and Deanna Walston.....250	Desmond Lee & Carl Jukkola.....150	Our son, Michael Pearl.....*	Lily & Philip Gottheiner.....*	
Dudley & Elaine Andersen.....250	Bill Reller.....*	Jane Paulson.....3,000	Gary Richards, "Mr. Roadshow".....50	Charlie and Peter Hughes.....*	
Joanne Koltnow.....200	Steve & Gayle Brugler.....1,000	Michelle and Omar Baldonado.....100	Marta Garr.....50	Brian Chancellor.....*	
Nancy & Jim Baer.....*	Diane and Branimir Sivic.....*	Larry Hyde.....*	Our son, Samuel Kushland.....*	Mandy Lowell.....*	
Tom & Darlene McCalmont.....2,500	Tony and Priscilla Marzoni.....*	Jeanne Ware.....*	Betty Meltzer.....*	Jill and Brian Bicknell.....*	
Margaret Krebs.....*	Kim Harvey.....1,000	Judy Ousterhout.....*	Mary Floyd.....*	The Liggett Family.....*	
Gavin & Tricia Christensen.....*	Stephanie Klein & Larry Baer.....*	Faith Braff.....500	Marie Groffie.....200	Marilyn Sutorius.....750	
Gwen Luce and family.....*	Harriet Benson.....10,000	Keith and Linda Clarke.....*	Suzanne Shipley.....750	Bill Johnson.....*	
Elizabeth Lillard-Bernal.....*	Edward Kanazawa.....300	Tess & Eric Byler.....100	George Young.....*	AS A GIFT FOR	
Alex and Mary Nemerov.....250	Janice Bohman and Eric Keller.....250	Bonnie and Bryan Street.....*	Ruth C. Satterthwaite.....*	Alexandra Hsieh.....200	
Monica Engel Williams.....200	Ruby Zefo.....1,000	Kroymann Family.....250	Tracy & Alan.....*	Sally Werling.....100	
Susan Elgee and Steve Eglash.....500	Roxy and Michelle Rapp.....1,000	Martha Shirk.....1,300	Pam Grady.....250	BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS	
Diane Finkelstein.....*	Sheila Botein & David Oaks.....250	Charles Williams.....200	Gary Zweig.....*	Palo Alto Weekly	
Annette Isaacson and Paul Heft.....200	Bill Johnson & Terri Lobdell.....2,500	Jesse Dorogusker and Jennifer DiBrienza.....1,000	Robert Spinard.....*	Moonlight Run.....39,064	
Jean Doble.....*	Leo and Marlys Keoshian.....250	Arthur Keller.....500	Bob and Ginny Dillon.....*	Packard Foundation.....25,000	
Elizabeth Shepard.....*	Graceann and Bob Johnson.....*	Jean Dawes.....1,000	Phillip Zschokke.....200	Hewlett Foundation.....25,000	
Elizabeth and John Herb.....*	Anne & Laurent Coudrelle.....1,000	Marjorie Bridges.....25	Y.C. & Er-Ying Yen.....*	UMOC Charitable Fund.....175,000	
George Lu.....250	Freddy & Jan Gabus.....250	Sallie and Jay Whaley.....*	Franklin.....*	Herbert Fischgrund.....50	
Tom & Nancy Fiene.....*	Susan & Doug Woodman.....200	Joyce & Gerry Barker.....*	Ted Linden.....*	Alta Mesa Cemetery & Funeral Home.....2,500	
Richard Glendening.....150	Jan Thomson and Roy Levin.....250	Ed & Linda DeMeo.....500	Carol Berkowitz.....*	Judd Properties.....*	
Rod & Peggy McCalley.....100	Jerry & Linda Elkind.....250	Julie & Jon Jerome.....*	Florence K. Ho.....4,000	Agile Physical Therapy.....1,500	
Beth and Chris Martin.....*	Eileen & Rick Brooks.....1,000	Leif and Sharon Erickson.....500	Gary Fry.....150	Harker School.....1,500	
Kieschnick Family.....1,000	Carol & Mahlon Hubenthal.....*	Cynthia Costell.....150	Dr. Gerald Berner.....500	Bank of the West.....1,500	
Karen Latchford.....*	Peter & Beth Rosenthal.....1,000	Veronica Tincher.....*	Beverly Aarts.....250	Chan Zuckerberg Initiative.....5,000	
Steve & Noel Beitler.....150	Linda & Steve Boxer.....*	Chris Kenrick.....1,000	Don & Marie Snow.....200	Kaiser Permanente.....5,000	
Stephen Monismith & Lani Freeman.....100	Kate & Marvin Feinstein.....2,000	R Zuanich.....200	David Mitchell.....*	Stanford Federal Credit Union.....5,000	
Susan Yee.....*	Nina & Norman Kulgein.....250	Judy & Tony Kramer.....*	Robert O. Jack.....500	Stanford Medicine.....10,000	
Debbie Mytels.....100	Alicia Newman.....50	Barbara Riper.....*	Ian Halliday.....*	Wealth Architects.....5,000	
Karl Garcia.....*	Laurie Hunter & Jonathan MacQuitty.....1,000	A.C. & Kathryn Johnston.....250	Bertha Kalson.....*	DeLeon Realty.....5,000	
Gary & Dee Rosewood.....100	The Havern Family.....10,000	Steven Feinberg.....10,000	Abe and Helene Klein.....*	Wilson Sonsini Foundation.....5,000	
Fruchterman Family.....250	Trish Mulvey.....100	Bonnie Packer & Robert Raymakers.....1,000	August L. King.....*	Delores Eberhart DDS.....*	
Callie and John Turk.....500	Delle Maxwell.....1,000	Ellen Turbow.....500	Lew Silvers.....*	Peery Foundation.....10,000	
Jack and Susan Thomas.....*	Richard Johnsson.....5,000	Dan Pappas.....250	Arden Down.....250	Arrillaga Foundation.....10,000	
Lawrence Yang & Jennifer Kuan.....*	Chris Logan.....100	J. W. Morton.....100	Michele Wilson.....50		
Becky & Ted Baer.....300	Bruce & Jane Gee.....500	Barbara Klein.....*	Hannah & Helen Peterson.....100		
			Paul Seaver.....*		

* Donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.

Gym

(continued from page 5)

Services Department. By all accounts, Cubberley remains in shoddy shape. Some of its gym spaces have been unusable for more than year because of water damage caused by leaking pipes. And even if they were functional, that part of Cubberley is the property of the school district, which owns 27 acres of the 35-acre center on Middlefield Road.

“We do rent gyms from the school district at Cubberley but we do not own any,” O’Kane said. “And the need for gym space is increasing for youth sports, for adults, seniors and therapeutic recreation, which produces programming for people with disabilities.”

The new Friends group is hoping to expand gym capacity by following the model that has been used in other local projects that leaned heavily on private donations, including the recently renovated Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo and the soon-to-be-completed Palo Alto Museum on Homer Avenue.

Former mayors Bern Beecham, who worked on the Junior Museum and Zoo project and Tom DuBois, who strongly advocated for the history museum, are both members of the new Friends group. The team also includes former Mayor Judy Kleinberg as well as Parks and Recreation Commission members Anne Cribbs (a past Olympian), Jeff

LaMere and Nellis Freeman. Other members include retired banker Roger Smith, former Deputy City Manager Steve Emslie, Tim Stitt, Yudy Deng, and Marc Guillett.

Cribbs said a key goal is to get a gym built sooner rather than later.

“We’d like to see shovels in the ground as soon as we raise the money to build the gym and get permits,” Cribbs said. “We’re not really excited to wait until 10 years from now for another master plan.”

For that reason, Greer Park is now emerging as the top choice for some group members. Unlike Cubberley, which has been subject to numerous master plans and false starts over the past two decades, the park is owned by the city. It also has the benefits of being centrally located and of being large enough to accommodate a new gym.

According to O’Kane, the city has already analyzed four possible Greer Park locations for the new gym. Two are on the north side of the park, near the intersection of Amarillo Avenue and West Bayshore Road. Though they have the advantage of being close to utilities, they were removed from consideration because they are also near existing sports fields and would effectively result in one recreational facility replacing a portion of another.

Also discarded was a site on the south side of the park, near West Bayshore. Staff noted that this site is far from both utilities and the parking lot, which made it a



This diagram shows the proposed location of a Greer Park gym.

weaker candidate.

The most suitable Greer Park location for a new gym, according to the city, is along the western edge of the park, near baseball fields and immediately adjacent to the parking lot, which would be expanded under this alternative. Known as Site C, this option is now the preferred option for some members of the fundraising group.

Beecham said he believes Greer Park is the best place for a new gym. The Cubberley plans, he noted, are proceeding on their own timeline, subject to negotiations between the city and a broader debate about redevelopment of the community center. Given the

larger scale of a Cubberley redevelopment, it would also likely entail a bond measure, he said.

“It won’t be with private money there because you won’t have someone in the private sector to contribute something on a scale of that nature,” Beecham said.

By contrast, if the city wants to build a gym with private funds, Greer Park is “the only place it’ll go,” Beecham said at the meeting.

Others, however, see a new Cubberley gym as exactly the type of project that could jumpstart the long delayed and endlessly debated redevelopment of the community center. Just about everyone at the meeting agreed that Cubberley, a

bustling hub that includes nonprofit spaces, classrooms, art studios and other uses, desperately needs to be fixed up.

“We have such smart people in Palo Alto and great designers and planners,” Cribbs said. “And I believe we could use the gym to kickstart and be the catalyst for the whole project and design around it or do what you have to do and get it started.”

To date, planning for a Cubberley redevelopment has been an arduous slog for everyone involved. In 2019, the city and the school district partnered on a master plan for the community center that envisioned a jointly developed campus with new athletic facilities, performing centers, park spaces and other amenities. That vision, however, was quickly scuttled after the school district indicated that it has no desire to tear down existing facilities and it cannot help fund construction of any project that does not directly relate to education. The district also indicated that it wants to preserve land for a future school, should a need arise.

While that position effectively killed the master plan, the city and the school district are now once again discussing a property sale. And things are now moving forward very rapidly, said Council member Pat Burt, who serves on a subcommittee charged with negotiating with the district over a

(continued on page 19)



We’re counting down to launch.

Get ready for a whole new online experience.



Palo Alto
online

A newly designed PaloAltoOnline.com is coming soon.

Looks great. Easy to navigate. Better mobile capabilities.

— And powered by the same team of award-winning journalists.

Support your local nonprofit newsroom today.
EmbarcaderoMediaFoundation.org



Gym

(continued from page 18)

possible property sale.

Burt said the city and the school district have each held closed sessions on the topic in recent weeks and representatives from the two bodies are now preparing for another meeting. He also noted the board has indicated that it wants the issue resolved in the next few months, a radical departure from its historic wait-and-see approach.

“So we have a partner who is very interested in coming up with what we all wanted for a long time — a long-term agreement on Cubberley that would give us the latitude to do the sorts of things that we are envisioning,” Burt said at the meeting. “That’s very likely to happen very quickly. That’s what makes Cubberley a possibility for a gym location.”

While the question of where to build the gym remains unresolved, some residents argued Wednesday that Cubberley would clearly be their preferred location. Among them was Joe Hirsch, who works at the Cardiac Therapy Foundation, a Cubberley-based

organization that provides rehabilitation programs for individuals with cardiac disease.

“We need a facility here in south Palo Alto,” Hirsch said at the Jan. 17 meeting. “We always seem in south Palo Alto to be trying to catch up when facilities are placed elsewhere in the city and having a wellness center or a gym on West Bayshore Drive, near (U.S. Highway) 101 is not the best place.”

Penny Ellson, who lives close to Cubberley and who has been involved in master planning efforts for the community center, said she was concerned that placing a gym at Greer Park would make it harder to build momentum for the Cubberley redevelopment because it may remove gym advocates from the existing coalition that supports the project.

“I like the idea of using a gym to inspire and bring people to the idea that Cubberley can go somewhere,” Ellson said. ■

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweeekly.com.

Castilleja

(continued from page 9)

routine items that are approved in bulk. Three council members — Pat Burt, Lydia Kou and Ed Lauing — declined to take it up on consent and voted to remove the item, setting up a Jan. 22 public hearing on the easement relocation.

Burt told this publication Monday that he voted against approving the item on consent because he wanted a public discussion of the issue.

The existing 25-foot wide Public Utility Easement (PUE) located along the old alignment of Melville Avenue through the campus would be retained but shifted 15 feet to the southeast to accommodate construction of the proposed below-grade garage. There is an existing sewer line within the PUE; the garage walls would be placed a minimum of 5 feet from the sewer line so that the sewer line would not be affected

by the project.

The easement issue came up only sporadically during the dozens of public hearings on the Castilleja project, which many neighbors argued is out of scale with the single-family neighborhood. Critics of the project specifically objected to Castilleja’s planned underground garage, which they claimed does not belong in a residential setting, and the school’s proposal to gradually expand student enrollment.

To address these concerns, the City Council imposed a “no net new trips” standard that required Castilleja to adopt or expand a host of transportation programs, including shuttles, carpools and bike amenities. It also established a three-member committee of nearby residents to oversee Castilleja’s traffic reports and ensure the school complies with its conditions of approval.

The school and city staff see the easement relocation as a relatively routine action. The environmental analysis that the City

Council approved in June concluded that relocating the public utility easement “would not result in a significant impact” and thus does not require any mitigation measures.

Rob Levitsky, a Castilleja neighbor who serves on the citizen committee, has spoken out repeatedly against approving the relocation public utility easement. At the Dec. 18 meeting, Levitsky noted that the existing easement, which the city is giving up, is located next to a sewer line, and vacating it would make it more difficult for the city to address sewage problems in this area. The action, he said, is a “plain giveaway to Castilleja of the Melville Avenue public utility easement.”

“It seems like a dumb thing, but that’s just the way it’s set up now,” Levitsky said at the Dec. 18 meeting, referring to the proposed relocation of the easement. “What could go wrong?” ■

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweeekly.com.

Leader

(continued from page 8)

Christian. I’m very, very proud of my son. He came into many challenges in his life and he was always resilient. He always smiled through it.”

In an email to colleagues, Nicole said that Christian was not only her son but a “beacon of selflessness and service in our community.”

“His dedication to empowering communities of color, particularly the youth, was unwavering,” she said. “As a true leader, he worked tirelessly towards creating a more just society, leaving a lasting impact on everyone he encountered.”

Memorial fund and service

East Palo Alto Academy, Sbragia’s alma mater, is raising money to assist his family with funding for a memorial. Donate to a memorial fund for his family at tinyurl.com/ChristianSbragiafund.

As another way of honoring Christian and maintaining his programming, Nicole plans to still host CoolineKids’ annual summer camp for 100 children. Donate to his organization at coolinekids.org/give.

The Ravenswood City School District Board of Trustees honored Christian during a Thursday, Jan. 18, meeting.

You can share your favorite memories of Christian at tinyurl.com/Sbragiamemories.

Christian is survived by his mother Nicole, brother Coleton, 12, grandmother Christine and aunt Angie.

Nicole said a memorial will likely be held in the spring. ■

Email Editor Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.



A Free Gilfix & La Poll Seminar

HOW TO PRESERVE YOUR HOME & ASSETS FOR GENERATIONS

CRITICAL 2024 UPDATES

SPACE IS LIMITED - RSVP TODAY



MICHAEL GILFIX, ESQ.
Stanford Law J.D.
Academy of Special Needs Planners Board
Nationally known Writer, Speaker

THURSDAY
JANUARY 25, 2024
AT 2PM AND 6PM
PALO ALTO EVENTS CENTER
AT THE ELKS LODGE
4249 El Camino Real,
Palo Alto, California 94306



MARK R. GILFIX, ESQ.
Stanford B.S.
Loyola Law J.D.
Award Winning Writer
Featured on KTVU and KRON TV

- Proposition 19 and changes to California property tax laws - what you need to know.
- The secret tool of the 1% to protect assets from divorce, lawsuits, and future estate taxes.
- How to protect your home and rental property from MASSIVE property tax increases.
- How to protect your child with special needs.
- The coming estate tax CLIFF and steps you must take before the fast-approaching deadline.
- Why reviewing your living trust could save \$Millions.

Register at www.Gilfix.com/seminars/

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. FBN701863
The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S): DAVE'S BODY SHOP
2145 Old Middlefield Way
Mountain View, CA 94043
FILED IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY ON: 06/11/2020
UNDER FILE NO. FBN665988
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S): LIEM PHAM
2091 Plymouth St
Mountain View, CA 94043
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY An Individual.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of SANTA CLARA County on January 02 2024.
(PAW Jan 12, 19, 26 and Feb 2, 2024)

JUNG CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No: FBN701337
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Jung Consulting, located at 4127 Willmar Drive Palo Alto, CA 94306, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): SARAH ANGELINA JUNG
4127 Willmar Drive
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/13/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara on December 13 2023.
(PAW Jan 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

KMF ACCOUNTING SERVICE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No: FBN702158
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) KMF Accounting Service, located at 18521 Montpere Way Saratoga CA 95070, Santa Clara. This business is owned by: a Married Couple.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): KOUROSH GHOLAMIPOUR
18521 Montpere Way
Saratoga CA 95070
MARIA E. TAPIA
18521 Montpere Way
Saratoga CA 95070
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/01/2013.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara on January 11 2024.
(PAW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

MORE THAN CONTENT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No: FBN701850
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) More Than Content, located at 1571 W El Camino Real, Apt 70, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): REBECCA MICHELLE ROSENBERG
1571 W El Camino Real, Apt 70
Mountain View, CA 94040
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 Santa Clara on January 02 2024.
(PAW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

HOLIDAY DOLLARS
MERRY LEAGUE BASEBALL
CHERUBINI ARTS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No: FBN701577
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Holiday Dollars, 2.) Merry League Baseball, 3.) Cherubini Arts, located at 2473 High Street, Palo Alto CA 94301, Santa Clara.
This business is owned by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): KEVIN ROSS SANTIAGO
2473 High Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2010
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara on December 21 2023.
(PAW Jan 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

GABBYGEM
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No: FBN700822
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) GABBYGEM, located at 420 James Rd #24, Palo Alto, CA, 94306, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): TIANCI ZHANG
420 James Rd #24
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/09/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara on November 28 2023.
(PAW Jan 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

POST N' PARCEL
CAL LIVESCAN
A1 PASSPORT PHOTO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No: FBN702074
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) POST N' PARCEL, 2.) CAL LIVESCAN, 3.) A1 PASSPORT PHOTO, located at 1765 LANDESS AVE, MILPITAS, CA, 95035, SANTA CLARA COUNTY.
This business is owned by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): POST N' PARCEL LLC
1765 LANDESS AVE
MILPITAS, CA 95035
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/29/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara on January 09 2024.
(PAW Jan 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2024)

ZENITHAL ENGINEERING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No: FBN701479
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Zenithal Engineering, located at 984 California Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306, Santa Clara.
This business is owned by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): JAROD ALAN MCCORMICK
984 California Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94306
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 Santa Clara on December 19 2023.
(PAW Jan 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No: FBN701401
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Committee for Green Foothills, located at 3921 E. Bayshore Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): GREEN FOOTHILLS FOUNDATION
3921 E. Bayshore Rd.
Palo Alto, CA 94303
California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/1962
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara on December 15 2023.
(PAW Jan 12, 19, 26 and Feb 2, 2024)

THE FIRST TEE OF SILICON VALLEY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No: FBN701882
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) The First Tee of Silicon Valley, located at 2797 Park Avenue, Suite 205, Santa Clara, CA 95050, Santa Clara.
This business is owned by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are): THE FUTURE TALENT OF SILICON VALLEY
2797 Park Avenue, Suite 205
Santa Clara, CA 95050
CA
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/17/2013
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara on January 02 2024.
(PAW Jan 12, 19, 26 and Feb 2, 2024)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
Case No: 24CV428572
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Elizabeth Ashley Slaydon filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
ELIZABETH ASHLEY ANEJA to ASHLEY SLAYDON ANEJA
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: 03/26/2024, 0845, Probate of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.
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: PALO ALTO WEEKLY
Date: 01/03/2024
Jacqueline M. Arroyo
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PAW Jan 12, 19, 26 and Feb 2, 2024)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
DONALD JAMES OLIVERO
Case No: 24PR196357
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DONALD JAMES OLIVERO.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Judi Nott in the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara.
The Petition for Probate requests that: Judi Nott be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on March 22 2024 at 9:01a.m. in Dept 1 of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, located at 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA, 95113.
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner:
Catherine J. Banti, Esq.
Anderson Zeigler, A Professional Corporation
50 Old Courthouse Square, #500
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-545-4910
(PAW Jan 19, 26 and Feb 2, 2024)

Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

POLICE CALLS

Palo Alto
Date Jan. 11-17

Arrests 19

Violence Related
Encina Avenue, 1/9, 9:28 a.m.
Domestic violence (felony)
Ventura Avenue, 1/13, 8:17 p.m.
Domestic violence (felony)
Hamilton Avenue, 1/11, 4:07 p.m.
Child abuse — aggravated (felony)
Alma Street, 1/10, 2:58 p.m.
Robbery (felony)
El Camino Real, 10/3, 6:22 p.m.
Robbery (felony)
Samaritan Drive, 1/3, 11:39 a.m.
Sexual battery by restraint (felony)

Theft Related
Burglary 1
Checks forgery 1
Credit card forgery 1
Embezzlement 1

Grand theft 3
Identity theft 4
Petty theft 2
Retail theft 1
Shoplifting 4
Theft undefined 1

Alcohol or Drug Related
Possession of drugs 3

Vehicle Related
Abandoned auto 1
Auto theft 3
Driving w/ suspended license 1
Display unlawful registration 7
Hit and run 5
Possession of a stolen vehicle 1
Theft from auto 7
Theft of vehicle parts 1
Vehicle accident/injury 3
Vehicle accident/no injury 4
Vehicle tampering 1

Miscellaneous
Death unattended 2
Found property 3
Located missing person 1
Lost property 1
Medical assist 3
Mental health evaluation 4
Missing person 1
Outside assist 1
Outside warrant arrest 6
Manufacture, sale or possession of dangerous weapon 1
Suspicious circumstances 3
Threats 1
Trespassing 1
Vandalism 3
Warrant arrest 2

OBITUARIES

Local residents who have died recently include:
Isabel Walker, 95, a Palo Alto resident who was a member of the counseling team and a support group facilitator for Stanford University Medical Center, who supported disaster response efforts up and down the East Coast, who later worked for the Kennedy family in Massachusetts and Washington, D.C, who was a beach lover and active volunteer with the Palo Alto schools and local church groups, whose publications supported cancer patients and their families, who continued to see patients into her 80s, and who was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, on Dec. 17, 2023.
Gordon Russell, 90, a Portola Valley resident who developed the healthcare and biotech divisions of Sequoia Capital, who was a philanthropist focused on causes that reflected his dedication to community needs, including health care, education and environment, who was the former chairman of the board for both the Peninsula Community

Foundation and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, who was a former member of the Air Force and who was described as a classical music lover, beloved patriarch and humanist, on Nov. 25, 2023.
Sandra Couch, 74, who was raised in Palo Alto, who worked her way up at Silicon Valley tech firms and retired to enjoy her cherished friendships, who was a firecracker befitting of her signature red hair and who was the heartbeat of her family: a loving mother, grandmother and aunt, on Jan. 9, 2024.
Lee Newman McMillion, 89, a former Palo Alto resident who during the 60s and 70s helped start the girls softball league South Palo Alto Bobby Sox league, in an era before Title IX, when sports for girls were hard to find, and girls softball in the U.S. was still quite rare, and who was a lover of history, music and reading, on Nov. 30, 2023.
To read the full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at PaloAltoOnline.com/Obituaries. ■

Employment

Rivian has multiple positions available in Palo Alto, CA. Refer to Job Ref # & email resume to hrmobility@rivian.com.: Sr. Engineers, Embedded Software (Job ref #: SEES23SC) Dsgn, dvlp & dply embdded sftwr for application & pltrfm systms for Rivian Automotive's Sif-Driving prdcts. Salary Range: \$193,000 - \$194,000/yr.

LAWYERS
Cooley LLP has an oppty for an Associate. \$345,000.00/yr to \$345,000.00/yr. May wrk from our HQ office in Palo Alto, CA or reside anywhere in US & wrk remotely from home. May wrk at other US locatns not prntly known. Email resume w/Ref# PALLBL to hrrecruit@cooley.com. Must be legally auth to work in the U.S. w/o spnsrshp. EOE

The Palo Alto Weekly offers employment advertising. If you wish to learn more about the employment advertising options, please visit PaloAltoOnline.com/employment_ads/.

Arts & Entertainment

A weekly guide to music, theater, art, culture, books and more, edited by Heather Zimmerman

Food for thought

Palo Alto Art Center chews over the deeper meaning of what we eat with the show 'In Feast or Famine'

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

As an essential component of human life, it is not surprising that food, in its many shapes and forms, has been the subject matter of art dating back to the Egyptians, who carved pictographs of crops and bread on the walls of the pyramids.

During the Dutch Baroque era, still-life paintings of lusciously ripe fruit were a symbol of wealth and taste. Poverty and despair were effectively portrayed by Van Gogh in his iconic "The Potato Eaters" and Cezanne used food as geometric objects in order to push traditional ideas about representation towards abstraction. Fast forward to the 1960's Pop Era, when Warhol and Oldenburg had great fun presenting comestibles in serial form and grandiose size.

It seems there will always be something to say about food, and our relationship to it, a topic engagingly explored in the current show at the Palo Alto Art Center. Entitled "In Feast or Famine," the multimedia group exhibition is on view Jan. 20 to April 6.

The exhibition is the first of a year-long series that will, according to Palo Alto Art Center Director Karen Kienzle, "showcase the power of food to connect us to identity, culture and each other. Artists have always found creative inspiration in all things edible." Independent curator Marianne McGrath was hired to organize the show, which was inspired by her own interest in food and food history. In the midst of the pandemic, she realized that one of the things she missed most was gathering with others over a meal.

"I felt that the topic of food is globally relevant and something that everyone can relate to," she said. "Food might be our first introduction to 'making' something

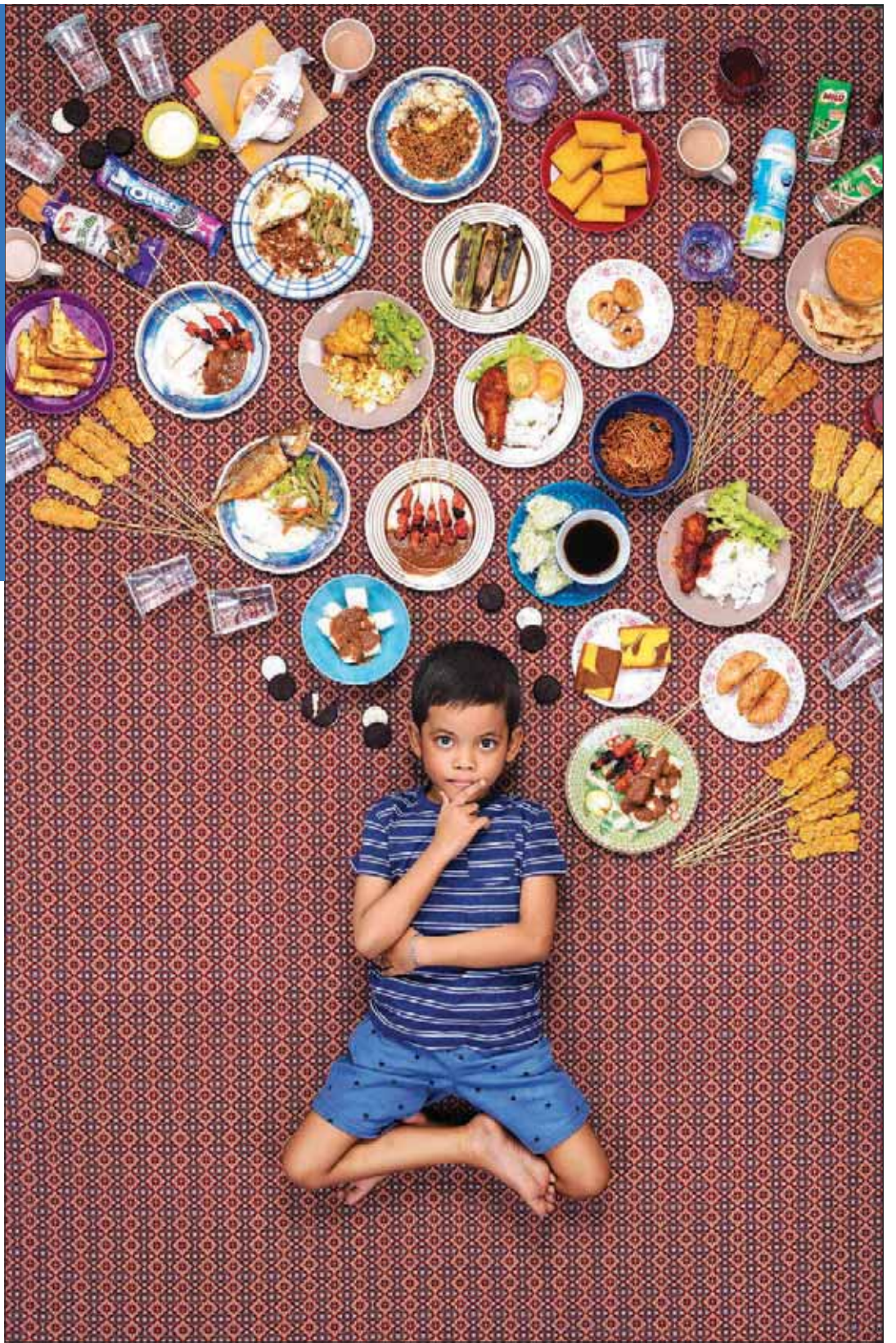
with a process, specific materials, and intended outcome, like art. A recipe, menu or meal can be a medium along with art to open the door to self-expression, shared community and new cultures."

McGrath explained that she has followed some of the 24 artists in the exhibition, while others came from networking over a several-year period. There are artists of many ethnic backgrounds represented and an impressive array of media, including photography, painting, sculpture, printmaking and video art.

At first glance, the exhibition seems bright, colorful, even cheerful, with lots of charming representations of foods we all know and love. (Entering with a full stomach might be advisable). But looking more carefully, and reading the labels, will clue you in to the fact that each of these artists has a thoughtful, or thought-provoking, statement to make about the subject.

Painter Chelsea Wong explores how gathering around the table achieves more than sustenance in "A Modern Feast." The perspective might be flat, but the highly patterned background and brightly hued clothing of the five smiling diners exude a feeling of goodwill and enjoyment. Wong noted that, "In a culture where openly expressing feelings doesn't always come naturally, feeding one another is how we show love."

In contrast, Narsiso Martinez, a native of Oaxaca, Mexico, would like us to think about what it takes to get food onto our tables. In his multimedia work, "Hollywood and Vine" we are confronted with the knowledge that farm workers, like the woman portrayed, undertake hard work and long hours in the fields of this state and others.



Courtesy Gregg Segal

Gregg Segal photographed Altaf Rabbal DLove Bin Roni, 6, from Gombak, Malaysia, in 2017 for his *Daily Bread* series. Segal documented what children in various countries eat during a week to highlight issues surrounding diet and health.

The artist explained that he positioned her, standing on a black star, in order to resemble the celebrity heroes from the walk of fame in Los Angeles. Look closely and you will note that discarded produce boxes form the background of this piece.

Tackling the notion that "we are what we eat" and just how beneficial or detrimental that can be, photographer Gregg Segal traveled around the world taking portraits of children. For his

"Daily Bread" series, he had a specific request for each child: keep a journal of what you eat in one week. Examples from this inventory were then placed around each child for the portrait. The results, shown in these large, detailed pictures are fascinating. Yes, we would expect to see foods central to the child's ethnic group (he visited Malaysia, Dubai, Sicily, France, Brazil and Los Angeles) in each one, as well as a lot of cross-over dishes (pizza

and spaghetti), but it is apparent that soft drinks and processed foods have also become the norm. Concerned about the epidemic of childhood obesity and chronic health problems related to diet, Segal hopes the series will be "a catalyst for change and a link to a growing, grassroots community that is moving the needle on diet."

Several of the artists are interested in the various ways we

(continued on page 22)

Worth a Look



Courtesy Roy Cox

Jazz pianist and composer Joey Alexander performs Jan. 19 at Stanford Live.

Joey Alexander

Three-time Grammy Award-nominated jazz pianist and composer Joey Alexander's latest album, "Continuance," was released on Mack Avenue Records in November 2023 and this month he'll be performing it live at Stanford. According to Stanford Live, Alexander is known for his "mind-blowing" technique and ability to communicate joy, and his music also takes inspiration from outside the jazz world. "Continuance" includes a version of "I Can't Make You Love Me," best known as a Bonnie Raitt song, and the hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," in addition to original compositions.

Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m., Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. \$32. live.stanford.edu.

'How I Learned What I Learned'

Former TheatreWorks Silicon Valley Artistic Director Tim Bond returns to TheatreWorks to direct August Wilson's "How I Learned What I Learned" (co-conceived by Todd Kreidler), a solo memoir show about the life of the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Wilson, starring Steven Anthony Jones. Bond, now the artistic director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, was also a close friend of Wilson's and is an acclaimed interpreter of his works, according to a press release from TheatreWorks. This production was originally staged at Oregon Shakespeare Festival. TheatreWorks will bring the production on a weeklong tour of Bay Area communities following its run in downtown Mountain View.

Through Feb. 3 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Check individual performance ticket prices online. theatreworks.org.

Dan Ashley and Jay Middleton

Plenty of famous faces have performed at Club Fox, but followers of Bay Area news might find the frontman for the Dan Ashley Band to be particularly familiar. That's because Ashley, a journalist, has anchored the weeknight news for San Francisco's ABC7 for over three decades. As a singer and guitarist, Ashley's sound blends country, Americana and rock 'n' roll. His 2021 solo album, "Out There," a collaboration with producer and writing partner Bill Bentley, draws on classic rock with a bluesy edge, with earthy vocals and gritty, rock-driven

guitar. Ashley performs with singer-songwriter Jay Middleton, who is himself a familiar face to Bay Area listeners, having most recently fronted the local party band All Star Jukebox for two decades. Though he's penned plenty of songs for others that have charted, Middleton turned his songwriting skills inward during the early days of the pandemic, writing the songs that would become "Forward," his first solo album. Released in 2022, "Forward" features an uplifting blend of wailing rock guitar, a full-bodied funk-influenced horn section, gentle vocal harmonies, even a light country twang.

Jan. 19, 8 p.m. at Club Fox, 2209 Broadway Redwood City. Tickets are \$20-\$25. eventbrite.com.

Kyla Zhao

Local writer Kyla Zhao (the author of "Fraud Squad") will be at Linden Tree Books in downtown Los Altos to celebrate the launch of her new novel "Valley Verified," about a young New York City fashion writer who moves cross country and leaps into the intense tech world of Silicon Valley when she accepts a job at a new startup. According to Linden Tree's website, Zhao and store co-owner Flo Grosskurth will discuss "ambitious young women, the Zillennial experience, Silicon Valley startup culture and Patagonia vests" at the event. Zhao graduated from Stanford University in 2021 and has worked in tech marketing and journalism.

Jan. 20, 1 p.m., Linden Tree Books, 265 State St., Los Altos. lindentreebooks.com.

(continued on page 23)



Courtesy Jeanne F. Jalandoni and Erica Broussard Gallery

Jeanne F. Jalandoni brings a playful element to her depiction of food with textile pieces such as "Recipe Quilt (Leche Flan)."

Food

(continued from page 21)

obtain food. Suhas Bhujbal's painting, "Market #25" shows a throng of people interacting over food purchases, an act that looks as similar in the streets of India as it does on California Avenue. Kim Cogan's Hopper-esque oil painting of a neighborhood liquor store "Friday Evening," is both familiar and haunting in

its quiet stillness. Our penchant for packaged foods is treated with almost surrealistic detail by Stefanie Herr in her photographic sculptures. You might be tempted to touch the bisected rabbit in "Happy Hunting Grounds: Carrot Cascade" to see if you can, indeed, feel the fur.

On a lighter note, Jeanne F. Jalandoni's "Recipe Quilt (Beef Empanadas)" and "Recipe Quilt

(continued on page 24)



Courtesy the Museum of Latin American Art

In the multimedia piece "Hollywood & Vine," Narsiso Martinez uses a background of produce boxes to highlight the hard work of farmworkers and their starring role in producing our food.

Worth a look

(continued from page 22)

'Misery'

When a snowy car crash badly injures novelist Paul Sheldon, he learns there's something much more rigid and inescapable than deadlines: his "Number One Fan." Sequestered in a remote cabin by said fan, Annie Wilkes, Paul finds his convalescence transformed quickly into captivity when Annie becomes displeased with his plans for her favorite character. Palo Alto Players gets the year off to a thrilling start with this stage adaptation of Stephen King's novel that hammers home some truths about the dark sides of fame and fandom.

Palo Alto Players present "Misery," Jan. 19-Feb.4 at the Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets \$35-\$60. paplayers.org.



STANFORD BLOOD CENTER

Give blood for life!

Schedule an appointment: call 888-723-7831 or visit bloodcenter.stanford.edu

Presented by
PENINSULA LIVELY ARTS

Including scenes from

Les Misérables **Oklahoma!**
Mamma Mia! **HAIRSPRAY**
THE MUSIC MAN **CHICAGO** *Hair* **IN THE HEIGHTS**
and many more!

Salute to
BROADWAY

Celebrating the return of Broadway to the Peninsula, Peninsula Broadway Theater has brought together some of the area's finest dance and singing talent to present highlights from 100 years of Broadway favorites.

New production featuring choreography by Gregory Amato; stage direction by Gary Stanford, Jr.; full company of dancers and vocal soloists.

Coming to the



in **REDWOOD CITY**

Saturday, February 3rd
Showing at 2:00pm & 7:30pm

2215 Broadway, Redwood City, CA 94063

Tickets now on sale
PeninsulaLivelyArts.org



OUR TEAM IS IN MOTION FOR YOU

DELEON REALTY, INC.

Michael Repka | CEO & Managing Broker | DRE #01854880
650.900.7000 | Info@deleonrealty.com
www.deleonrealty.com | DRE #01903224

Kozy Brothers DE MARTINI ORCHARD
66 N. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos • 650-948-0881 • DeMartiniOrchard.com

Your Everyday Farmers Market Farm Fresh and Always the Best

<p>HEIRLOOM TOMATOES</p> <p>TASTY & COLORFUL \$3.99 LB</p>	<p>ANOTHER YEAR FOR THE OLDEST LOS ALTOS BUSINESS</p>	<p>ORGANIC LOCAL BROCCOLI-NINOS</p> <p>TENDER & TASTY \$1.99 LB</p>
<p>FUJI OR HONEYCRISP APPLES</p> <p>LARGE SWEET CRISP \$1.99 LB</p>	<p>SHOP ONLINE @ SHOPDEMARTINI.COM</p> <p>& GET ALL THE BEST INGREDIENTS DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR.</p>	<p>ORGANIC LOCAL BROCCOLINI</p> <p>SWEET BABY BROCCOLI 2\$5 BUN FOR</p>
<p>SONG HAY ORANGES OR TANGELOS</p> <p>SWEET JUICY SEEDLESS \$1.99 LB</p>	<p>ORGANIC LOCAL KALES</p> <p>LACINATO GREEN OR RED 2\$3 BUN FOR</p>	

OPEN DAILY 8AM-7PM • PRICES EFFECTIVE 1/17 thru 1/23

Food

(continued from page 22)

(Leche Flan) are fun and playful. Ingredients for the foodstuffs (created with iron-on prints) surround the center of a square, where soft and fluffy empanadas or a dish of flan burst out in three dimensions. Leslie Lewis Sigler's exquisitely painted portraits of cutlery anthropomorphize everyday objects we use but rarely consider. Sigler explained that she was drawn to these silver family heirlooms because "they seem to have an eternal life." With names like "The Disruptor," "The Honorable" and "The Tiger and the Dragon," it is clear that the artist sees more than just a functional object. Instead, she said, they have "the power to reflect our own life stories and family histories."

McGrath included an historical note to the show with three vintage ration posters from the collection of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. Their World War I-era propaganda messages reinforce the notion that wartime often brings food scarcity and the need to conserve. They might be dated, but the suggestions in "Food ... don't waste it" from 1917 ("buy with thought, cook it with care, buy local foods") are just as relevant today.

For a final dessert, stand in front of Wayne Thiebaud's "Neapolitan Pie." Thiebaud, a well-



"Back from Sunset Swim" by Lucy Stark lays out a colorful picnic rendered in paint.

Courtesy Lucy Stark

known purveyor of sumptuous treats (in painted form) is at his best here. The dreamy soft layers of chocolate, vanilla and strawberry ice cream, capped with a coating of whipped cream will have you raiding the freezer when you get home.

There is much to take in here, and definitely something for everybody. McGrath hopes that the

viewer will appreciate the skills and talents of the artists represented as well as the bigger message. "I hope visitors will think about the amazing people who grow, harvest, transport and prepare our food, appreciate them, their lives and labor." ■

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

"In Feast or Famine" is on view Jan. 20 through April 7 at the Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. An opening reception with artmaking activities takes place Jan. 26, 6 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, go to cityofpaloalto.org.

About the cover: "Hollywood and Vine," a multimedia piece by Narsiso Martinez, is part of the Palo Alto Art Center's "In Feast or Famine" show. Cover design by Douglas Young.

START PLANNING FOR

SUMMER

CAMP

CONNECTION

2024

HEY CAMP DIRECTORS: RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE TODAY!

THE PARENT'S GUIDE FOR SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS

COMING FEB. 16

Contact our sales team at (650) 223-6572 or email: eclark@embarcaderomedia.org

The Almanac Mountain View Voice Palo Alto Weekly

Answers to this week's puzzles, which can be found on page 27.

S	T	E	E	L	G	R	A	P	E	S	O	D	A
K	E	A	N	E	R	E	F	R	A	I	N	E	D
A	R	G	O	N	E	M	B	A	T	T	L	E	D
B	I	L	L	Y	A	S	S	T	S	A	M	E	
A	G	E	A	B	T	O	S	T	E	R			
N	A	E	R	E	T	R	A	C	T	E	D		
D	R	Y	S	P	A	G	H	E	T	T	I		
R	E	Q	U	I	R	E	D	B	Y	L	A	W	
U	N	D	E	R	B	E	L	L	I	E	S		
S	P	I	N	S	T	E	R	S	D	R	E		
T	A	R	D	Y	E	T	A	R	E	V			
O	L	E	G	R	O	M	A	S	H	I	R	E	
N	O	C	A	M	E	R	A	S	K	E	V	I	N
Y	O	U	M	A	D	E	I	T	E	R	E	C	T
A	N	T	E	R	O	O	M	S	D	O	N	H	O

4	1	9	6	5	8	2	7	3					
7	5	8	2	3	4	9	6	1					
6	3	2	9	1	7	4	8	5					
1	2	4	5	8	6	7	3	9					
9	6	7	3	2	1	5	4	8					
5	8	3	4	7	9	6	1	2					
3	4	6	8	9	5	1	2	7					
2	7	5	1	4	3	8	9	6					
8	9	1	7	6	2	3	5	4					

Eating Out

Cooked Basque cheesecakes cool on a tray in Vina Enoteca's kitchen in Palo Alto.

BASUKU CHEESECAKES IS BACK IN THE BAY

Why it left, why it's back and where the popular Palo Alto Basque cheesecake pop-up will go from here

By Adrienne Mitchel
Photos by Magali Gauthier

Basque cheesecake lovers rejoice — Basuku Cheesecakes has returned.

The popular Basque cheesecake pop-up halted Bay Area operations from March to December of last year while owner Charles Chen embarked on a “lifelong dream project,” helping

his friend open a restaurant in Kyoto, Japan. Chen hoped to land a permanent partnership with a restaurant group in San Francisco before leaving for Asia in March, but the deal ultimately fell through. Now, the Oakland resident returns to the kitchens of Vina Enoteca in Palo Alto to continue baking cheesecakes — and hopes the Italian restaurant will take over his one-man production before he returns to Asia in the spring.



Basuku Cheesecakes owner Charles Chen places a cooked Basque cheesecake on a tray to cool.

Since 2020, Chen has single-handedly churned out nearly 10,000 cheesecakes, experimenting with limited-edition flavors like cookies and cream, chestnut mont blanc, salted caramel and orange creamsicle. Carefully pouring exactly 790 grams of batter into each silver tin, Chen now spends two 12-hour days producing cheesecakes for the weekly pop-up.

Before leaving for Asia, Vina Enoteca allowed Chen to bake on weekdays so he could hold pop-ups on weekends. But since returning from Asia, limited availability of Vina Enoteca's kitchen space has resulted in Tuesday pop-ups — located both at Vina Enoteca and either San Francisco or Oakland. His hungry customers eagerly await details via Basuku's Instagram, and presales generally open Saturdays at noon.

But not all 21,600 Instagram followers can snag a cheesecake each week — Chen only makes 100. And that's not because he's trying to be exclusive or deny his customers of cake. It's because he's the only one baking them.

“It's all just me,” he said with a laugh.

So it may come as a surprise that the man who's responsible for making all of Basuku's cheesecakes had never even baked a cheesecake until about three years ago.

“I had never really cooked or baked, and so I'd never really thought I would be doing anything remotely close to what I'm doing right now,” Chen said.

A career in restaurant consulting meant being around food but not necessarily

‘I'd never really thought I would be doing anything remotely close to what I'm doing right now.’

Charles Chen

cooking it. That was, until the pandemic. Scrolling online, he found a recipe for Basque cheesecake.

“The initial appeal about the recipe was that it was very easy to make,” he said with a smile.

While the first cheesecake didn't turn out so well, he was determined to create the perfect recipe, he recalled.

“Back then, all kinds of people were doing these garage-style pop-ups or making food at their home, and I said, ‘Why can't I do this too?’” Chen said. “So I basically just started the Instagram page, and that was as far as starting a business as I thought I was gonna do ... it just turned into this thing that I really had no idea it would ever become.”

Ten thousand cheesecakes later, he's hoping to eventually open up a shop in Taiwan and possibly Japan, a decision influenced by his recent visit.

In March, Chen went to Kyoto to help a friend open a restaurant, and the tasting

(continued on page 26)

Cheesecakes

(continued from page 25)

menu featured Chen's cheesecake as the final dessert.

"Doing the cheesecake in Japan was something I was very intimidated by because the quality of things over there is so high, as well as it's a Japanese-style cheesecake, so I wasn't sure how it would be received," Chen said. "I was fortunate to get a really good response."

Then during the summer, Chen's other friend, a well-known Taipei chef, invited Chen to his restaurant to do a pop-up. Chen sold 1,000 cakes in one month — two to three times the volume he sold in the Bay Area. Now he has a licensing deal that keeps his cheesecakes selling in Taiwan, even when he's not there.

"It was a great experience to not only be a part of the opening and be a part of doing something in Japan, but just the combination of all those things, embracing a bit more of my heritage, as well as just enjoying the quality of life in Japan was really a memorable experience," he said.

And Chen even learned some

interesting baking lessons, including that different countries' standards for plain white sugar are all different.

"When you take straight, refined white sugar and you taste it in Japan, it's actually not that sweet. And then in Taiwan, it's middle sweet. And then in America, it's actually the most sweet," he said.

Chen plans on staying in the Bay Area until spring and just announced a new menu item — mini Basque cheesecakes 40% of the size of his original recipe. He hopes a licensing deal with a Bay Area operator, likely Vina Enoteca, will allow him to not only continue selling cheesecakes when he's out of town, but also amp up production to meet demand.

"If I can nail down this deal with the operator that I'm talking to, then there's a very good chance that by the spring or the summer, the cakes will be a lot more available throughout the whole Bay Area," Chen said.

For details on Basuku's next pop-up, follow @basukucheescakes on Instagram. ■

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



Top right: Basuku Cheesecakes owner Charles Chen weighs Basque cheesecake batter into a cake tin. **Bottom right:** Basque cheesecakes bake in a hot oven in Vina Enoteca's kitchen in Palo Alto.

embarcadero media
foundation

Join our team!

We're looking for talented, highly motivated and dynamic people

Embarcadero Media Foundation is an independent multimedia news organization with over 50 years of providing award-winning local news, community information and entertainment to the Midpeninsula.

We are always looking for talented and creative people interested in joining our efforts to produce outstanding journalism and results for our advertisers through print and online.

We currently have the following positions open for talented and highly motivated individuals:

- **The Almanac and Palo Alto Weekly Beat Reporters** — Full-time reporters seeking out stories of interest and importance to our readers and reporting on breaking news in our circulation areas
- **News Editor** — A sharp and highly skilled editor with a passion for hyperlocal news, a dedication to serving the community and a talent for managing a team of journalists

Scan code or learn more at em.bamboohr.com/careers/.

450 Cambridge Avenue | Palo Alto | 650.326.8210
 PaloAltoOnline.com | TheAlmanacOnline.com | MountainViewOnline.com
 RWCPulse.com | TheSixtyTwo.com | EmbarcaderoMediaGroup.com

Correction
 In the Jan. 12 story on refilleries, the address and contact info was inadvertently cut off:
 Byrd's Filling Station, 219 S. San Mateo Drive, San Mateo; 650-242-1976, Instagram: @byrdsfillingstation. byrdsfillingstation.com.
 Right On! Refillery, 300 State St., Los Altos; 408-458-5381, Instagram: @rightonrefillery. rightonrefillery.com.

Read the full version of the story at paloaltoonline.com.

OUR TEAM IS IN MOTION FOR YOU

DELEON REALTY, INC.
 Michael Repka | CEO & Managing Broker | DRE #01854880
 650.900.7000 | Info@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | DRE #01903224

JANUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 4, 2024

MISERY

BY WILLIAM GOLDMAN
BASED ON THE NOVEL BY STEPHEN KING

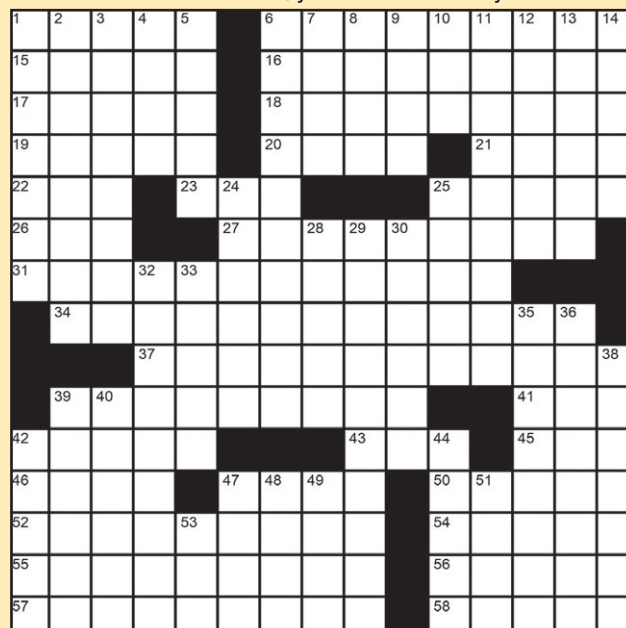
PAPLAYERS.ORG
650.329.0891

PALO ALTO
PLAYERS

Save \$5 with code: METRO5 (excludes preview)

LIVE ON STAGE
AT THE LUCIE STERN THEATER
1305 MIDDLEFIELD RD, PALO ALTO

"Set Me Free"— no theme, you know the drill. By Matt Jones

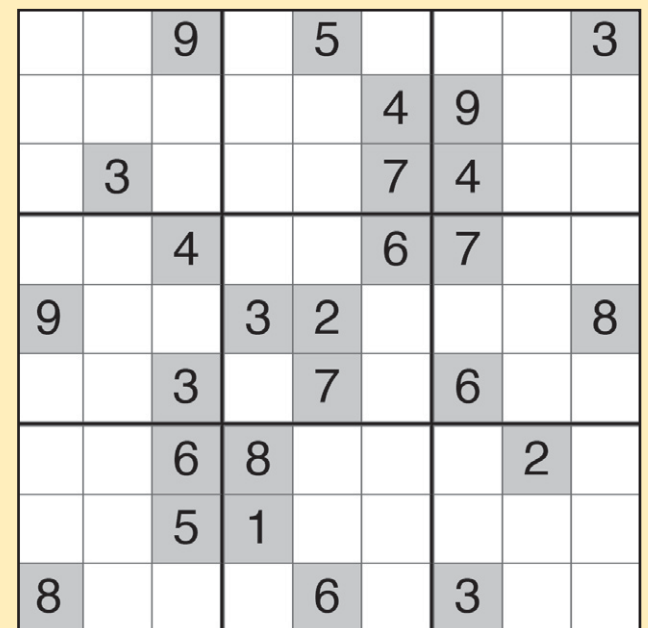


Answers on page 24.

Down

1. Musicians that suggest you pick it up?
2. Actress with the autobiography "Speedbumps: Flooring It Through Hollywood"
3. Vision of near-perfection?
4. Unstable chemical compound
5. Lotte ___ of "The Threepenny Opera"
6. Long-necked wader with about a five-foot wingspan
7. Deep sleep states
8. Edwards and Lackland, e.g.
9. Nitwit, to a Brit
10. Take a course?
11. Resists squirminess

This week's SUDOKU



Answers on page 24.

www.sudoku.name

Across

1. Structural material
6. Nehi offering
15. "Somewhere Only We Know" performers (2004)
16. Stopped oneself
17. Element #18
18. Up against it
19. West of "Futurama"
20. Helper, for short
21. "Agreed"
22. Mellow
23. Baryshnikov's former dance co.
25. Blender brand
26. Scottish veto
27. Withdrawn
31. Preparing it may involve a snap
34. Mandatory
37. Spots for scritchies
39. "___ are rarely the protagonists in the English novel, but they are oddly abundant in its margins." (2017 essay in The Conversation)
41. "Still ___" (1999 track ft. Snoop Dogg)
42. Off-schedule
43. H, as in Greek
45. Pastor's nickname
46. Fashion designer Cassini
47. Tomato variety
50. "The Hobbit" setting
52. Court order?
54. Well-connected Bacon
55. Greeting to new arrivals
56. Upright, as posture
57. Waiting areas
58. "Tiny Bubbles" singer from Hawaii

12. Airing when old networks would've signed off for the day, maybe
13. Found to be
14. Snake with a puff variety
24. Goddess, box, and cornrow, for example
25. Radical that's C8H17 (with more focus on the 8)
28. "All done"
29. Robins, outside of the U.S.
30. Optimally
32. Netflix series that spawned a Netflix reality show
33. Full of wordplay
35. Like some Internet searches and surreal art, these days

36. Prospectors' reaction after striking gold, maybe
38. 53 minutes past
39. Brawl setting in Westerns
40. Like jigsaw puzzles and some lumber
42. 2017 role for Margot
44. Set a price at
47. Start again
48. Twistable cookie
49. Seriously harm
51. Deli sandwich
53. ___ y tierra burrito (steak and shrimp option)

©2024 Matt Jones



YOUNG
PLATINUM
GROUP

Golden
Gate

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Keep Your Cash, Sell Your Home



No Upfront Costs. We front the costs to transform your home (up to \$200,000), and pay for first month staging and inspections.

Move-In Ready. You get the experience of a high-end developer (\$100 million market value) to make your home shine, at any price point.

Maximize Revenue. We conduct beautiful and effective marketing campaigns to bring buyers and offers to you.

Local and Premium. Professional, experienced, insightful Palo Alto homeowners who know how to sell our area.

No Hassle. Our comprehensive concierge service saves you time.

Call 650.862.2122 today

Ranked among *America's Best* and the *Top 1% of Realtors Nationwide*

Gloria Young

Lic. #01895672
+1 650.380.9918

Gloria@YoungPlatinumGroup.com
YoungPlatinumGroup.com



John Young

Lic. #02036387
+1 650.862.2122

John@YoungPlatinumGroup.com
YoungPlatinumGroup.com

