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County eyes housing measure

Voters in November could authorize officials to construct or acquire affordable units to abide by Article 34

By Ana Mata
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors will consider presenting a November ballot measure allowing the development of low-income housing units without voter approval, in pursuant of Article

34 of the state Constitution. The measure would provide authorization for the county and any public agency within the county to construct or acquire affordable rental housing for low-income residents — up to 1% of total existing housing units — without voter consideration. Obtaining voter approval would facilitate

efforts by the county to address regional housing needs, County Executive Mike Callagy said.

Article 34 was initially approved by California voters in 1950 and makes it so any public agency looking to develop or acquire low-income housing must gain the approval of a majority of voters to do so. Statewide

measures to remove or weaken Article 34 have failed three separate times, last on the ballot in 1993. Critics of the measure, established in 1950, maintain it was designed to perpetuate racial homeownership gaps.

“Article 34 has been worked to prohibit

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Ritz-Carlton in HMB to host Michelin star recognition event

Ceremony to be held in August

By Holly Rusch
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF

Half Moon Bay’s Ritz-Carlton has been selected to host the prestigious California Michelin recognition event, where Michelin-recognized chefs from around the state will receive star designations Aug. 5.

The selection is due in large part to the high caliber of cuisine on the San Francisco Peninsula, Maggie Lang, San Francisco Peninsula Destination Marketing Organization chief sales and marketing officer, said.

“With the diversity we have in our region, we probably have every culinary global cuisine you can think of, and extremely talented chefs,” she said. “It was a very natural fit.”

San Francisco Peninsula is a tourism organization formerly known as the convention and visitor’s bureau. It bid to hold the event through Visit California, a statewide organization that selects the location.

The celebration will feature an awards gala, where chefs and restaurants will be called up to the stage and find out what stars they got.

It’s still tightly under wraps what chefs have been invited and what stars they’ll

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County pays \$8M for sex harassment suit

Ex-SWAT member reaches settlement over allegations

By Tony Hicks
BAY CITY NEWS

San Mateo County has reached an \$8 million settlement with a former sheriff’s deputy and SWAT team member who filed a sexual harassment and discrimination lawsuit in 2022, alleging she was sexually assaulted by a former SWAT team leader and discriminated against by the department for years.

Carryn Barker’s attorneys Zak Franklin and Julianna Zalinski said in a statement Friday that the settlement came before the lawsuit’s September trial date, when a judge was to decide whether Franklin could depose San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus about

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PHOTO COURTESY OF PENINSULA LIVELY ARTS, INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL RETURNS TO SAN MATEO Dancers from the Chitresh Das Institute perform at the Peninsula International Dance Festival as one of many featured Bay Area based companies. Below: Peninsula Ballet Theatre will host 20 local companies highlighting cultural diversity

International dance festival returns

Peninsula Ballet Theatre will host 20 local companies highlighting cultural diversity



By Ana Mata
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF

The cultural diversity found in the Bay Area will be center stage this weekend in San Mateo, as local dance companies perform traditional dance forms and take the audience on a journey across the world.

Hosted by the Peninsula Ballet Theatre, the International Dance Festival returns for its third year, featuring over 250 dancers and musicians from 20 Bay Area-based dance companies. With two days of different programming, stories will be told from five continents.

Festival curator Gregory Amato said this event invites dance companies to share their culture on the big stage. With companies intentionally selected by Amato and a team at PBT, they vary in style, ranging from exuberant spectacles to intimate solos.

“It has a thread and flow, and it ebbs and

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DANCE

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peaks,” Amato said. “It’s sometimes something sacred, touches your heart, sometimes it makes you laugh, sometimes it makes you want to dance.”

Performances will feature traditional Filipino dance, ballet folklórico, flamenco, hip hop, hula, Bollywood and more. New this year include Congolese ballet, a Japanese Taiko ensemble, Chinese ballet and traditional Armenian folk dance. The Peninsula Ballet Theatre will also perform an Americana western piece.

Though each dance group was chosen to share their distinctiveness, the festival demonstrates the common thread of cultural storytelling through dance, said Amato who is also the artistic director for Peninsula Ballet Theatre.

“It’s a human body moving through space with music, trying to express whatever it is,

whether it’s your culture or rhythms or joy,” Amato said. “We all do that as performers. It doesn’t matter where we’re from.

The festival goes beyond celebrating the companies and their dancers. Many of the dances tell stories of legacy and tradition passed down through generations, Amato said.

“It’s not just the performers now. It’s their ancestors that taught them,” Amato said. “Some of these dances go back hundreds of years. Those ancestors taught their children and their children, and those children are on the stage in San Mateo next weekend.”

Performing a solo on Saturday, Lena Dakessian finds a lot of pride in representing Armenia through the company ARAX Dance, which has played a significant role in her life.

As a part of the Armenian diaspora, Dakessian said “being raised in this company” allowed her to connect to her cultural identity despite being physically disconnected from her ancestral homeland. After a brief hiatus, the dance company is preparing for its relaunch this fall with Dakessian as the new artistic director.

Though showcasing a newer art form established around 70 years ago, Taiko SOBA is a drumming ensemble that will perform on Saturday engaging the audience with thunderous rhythms and highlighting Japanese American culture.

Performing member Chris Wong said the young adult semiprofessional group practices at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple have already seen generations of drum players come through and share their stories.

“It’s a nice way to connect with past and current identities,” Wong said. “In today’s society, it always seems so busy, and it’s nice to carve out time to this really important connection.”

As a multicultural exchange of experience and history, Dakessian said the festival showcases how political joy and existence can be.

“It has to be political because that is what’s going on,” she said. “Certain places in the world are resisting aggression. Art is resistance. Dance is resistance.”

By sharing these dances that are rooted in

tradition, she said the culture is sustained.

“It’s a way of showing we’re here and you can’t erase us,” Dakessian said. “We will continue to pass things on. Standing alongside other cultures, we resist.”

The festival serves a reminder of unity, Amato said, by focusing on the beauty of our differences.

“In our political makeup of the world right now, it’s kind of in chaos,” Amato said. “This performance is unity with bliss, with joy, with positivity, with inclusivity, diversity. It’s all the things that humanity is trying to get to. It transcends on the stage.”

“I hope people come and they see that we’re all one, we really are,” he said.

The festival includes two days of different programs at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center, one at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 20, and another at 2 p.m. Sunday July 21.

Visit www.peninsulalivelyarts.org for tickets or more information.

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SUIT

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her role in the alleged harassment.

Barker’s lawyers said that during almost two years of litigation, documents and depositions of 21 current and former employees of the Sheriff’s Office revealed that Barker — who they said is a UC Berkeley graduate, Medal of Honor recipient and only the second woman to qualify for the county’s SWAT team — was subjected to sexual harassment by her SWAT team supervisor, Andre Moniot.

Barker alleged the harassment and discrimination began shortly after Barker joined the SWAT team in 2018 and included Moniot making frequent vulgar comments

about Barker’s body, telling Barker and others that he wanted to have sex with her, instructing Barker to wear revealing clothing during team workouts, touching Barker inappropriately, requiring Barker to ride alone with him to and from SWAT functions, and eventually assaulting Barker at a SWAT team gathering in October 2021.

Barker’s attorneys said the Sheriff’s Office employees testified they reported Moniot’s sexual harassment of Barker to multiple high-ranking officers in the department, but they did nothing to investigate the allegations or protect Barker until after she filed the lawsuit.

The attorneys also said testimony revealed as of early 2021 — several months before Moniot allegedly sexually assaulted Barker — at least five high-ranking officers were aware Moniot was sexually harassing Barker but failed to intervene.

They said Moniot testified he wouldn’t have sexually assaulted Barker if anyone in a leadership position told him Barker and others reported his sexual harassment of her.

Barker’s lawyers said the department didn’t investigate the allegations until a retiring high-level officer notified the internal affairs department in August 2022.

Sheriff’s Office spokesperson Gretchen Spiker said the department “is aware of the settlement relating to incidents that occurred years ago under the previous sheriff.”

“Sheriff Corpus is committed to improving the culture of the Sheriff’s Office by prioritizing accountability and implementing higher standards — setting the tone that misconduct will not be tolerated under her watch,” Spiker said. “Because this is a lawsuit involving a personnel matter, we are unable to comment any further.”

Barker took a leave of absence from the SWAT team in September 2022 to avoid having to attend the same SWAT team function where Moniot allegedly assaulted her the previous year and where Moniot was expected to be in attendance that year.

Barker resigned from the SWAT team in November 2022 after the county still failed to do anything to protect Barker from Moniot, according to Barker’s attorneys. That was the same month she filed her lawsuit.

Barker’s attorneys said when the lawsuit became public, members of the SWAT team threatened to resign if Moniot wasn’t immediately put on a leave of absence. They also said other women allegedly victimized by men at the Sheriff’s Office also contacted Barker and her attorneys to share their own experiences of sexual harassment and discrimination.

MICHELIN

Continued from page 1

receive. Current San Mateo County Michelin one-star rated restaurants include Woodside’s The Village Pub, Atherton’s Selby’s and San Mateo’s Wakuria, among others. The county also boasts at least 17 Michelin-recommended restaurants, Lang said.

Michelin stars are granted for outstanding cooking and are considered the industry’s top honor. In the world, around 2,500 restaurants have one Michelin star, around 500 have two and only around 150 have three. The

inspectors who determine Michelin stars are “famously anonymous,” according to the Michelin Guide, and come together to make decisions as a team.

The selection of Half Moon Bay as the location for the event, Lang said, is an extremely exciting opportunity for the region to host the influx of world-renowned chefs and global media that will attend the event.

“We want to really showcase the Bayside, the coastside. There’s so much more beyond the [Highway] 101 corridor,” she said. “How many incredible restaurants we have — that’s our chance to talk to global and local media and showcase the destination.”

The Ritz-Carlton is working to prepare

for the event, which will feature a host of discerning guests, Rosie Karaken, Ritz-Carlton sales and marketing director, said. It will also be an opportunity for the luxury hotel to feature its own fine dining restaurant, Navio.

“We’re just thrilled to be hosting this prestigious event and showcasing both the resort and our fine dining restaurant,” she said. “As you can imagine, it’s all hands on deck as we prepare an exquisite experience.”

Guests from all over the state will be able to explore San Mateo County’s coastal region, Karaken said.

“This certainly shows a different side of the Peninsula,” she said. “There are all of these

coastal opportunities, you can feel a world away, when you’re right here in the Peninsula, 30 minutes away from the hot spots in Silicon Valley.”

Hosting the event is an exciting honor for the Ritz-Carlton and the Peninsula as a whole, Karaken emphasized.

“We’re very proud of the entire state of California having such a rich culinary heritage, and thrilled to be able to welcome all our colleagues in hospitality industry,” she said.

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GREEN

Continued from page 5

the problem can also be productive on an individual level, Mishra emphasized.

“If you have a connection with a business that you have been going to since you were a kid, talk to the business owners or someone you know who works there. Personal connections are really what make this successful,” she said.

San Mateo County has a variety of innovative tools to encourage small businesses to make climate-friendly decisions, including rebate programs — shops can receive up to

\$500 to meet green certification checklist requirements, like less-toxic cleaning products or sink aerators that limit water flow to a half-gallon per minute.

Checklist requirements vary based on what sector a business is in and what tier of green certification they’re aiming to meet, Mays said. He works with businesses, either online or in person, to assist them in meeting the regulations and answer questions as they arise.

Some small businesses can also receive rebate money, up to \$1,000 total, for climate resiliency, although funding is offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

The county’s incentive programs have been successful, Sustainability Specialist Matthew

Goldberg said, with program goals of 50 certifications per year being consistently met.

But in the Broadway district, the combination of Kevranian’s trusted position as a business leader and Mishra’s passion and knowledge around the program have definitively accelerated momentum.

“When you have a local student and a local business owner — part of the business

improvement district and knows everybody — when they are advocating for a program like this, and helping convey the value of it, it’s easier for people to understand it’s not a sales pitch,” Mays said. “It’s a real thing, and the benefits are real.”

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Best bets

Book Sale: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 20, Half Moon Bay Library, 620 Correas St. Great bargains at a monthly book sale. Proceeds support library programs for adults, teens and children of all ages and backgrounds in the community. Fiction, nonfiction, rare, collectible, special, coffee table, art, young adult, children’s books, comic books and more. Free. Visit [hmlibraryfriends](http://hmlibraryfriends.com) for more information.

Belmont Blooms Gardening Event: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 20, Barrett Community Center Garden, 1835 Belburn Drive, Belmont. The Belmont Parks and Recreation Department at the Barrett Community Center Garden is set to host an afternoon of gardening fun. Learn about mulch and compost, paint your own flower pot and find out the best time of year to plant your crops. Stations will be led

by their Community Garden members, Parks and Recreation staff and Belmont Library Staff. Free. Visit [activecommunities](http://activecommunities.com) for more information.

Celebrate Guru Purnima: 2-3 p.m. Saturday, July 20, Belmont Library, 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas. Guru Purnima is a festival celebrated in India, and surrounding countries, on a Full Moon Day during the monsoon month of June or July. It is a day dedicated to honoring spiritual and academic gurus who are revered and considered important members of society in the Hindu tradition. The occasion expresses gratitude and pays homage to the teachers and mentors who guide us in life. Free.

Go to smdailyjournal.com/calendar for more events.



By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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