

FRIDAY, April 14, 2023

No. 1 in Palo Alto and the Mid-Peninsula

## Train quiet zones won't be cheap

BY EMILY MIBACH  
Daily Post Staff Writer

It will cost Menlo Park up to \$9.5 million to keep trains from blasting their horns as they travel through town.

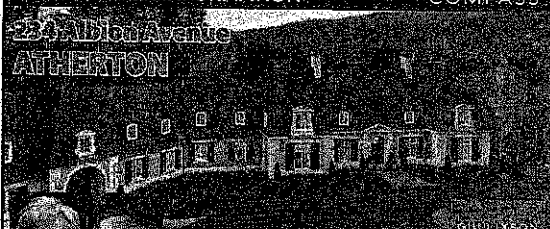
The city has four train crossings — at Encinal, Glenwood, Oak Grove and Ravenswood avenues. Because the crossings are so close to one another, the usual four horn blasts that a train does before it crosses an intersection with the road is quadrupled into 16 over the 1.12-mile stretch through town. A report from Assistant [See QUIET, page 34]

# Daily Post

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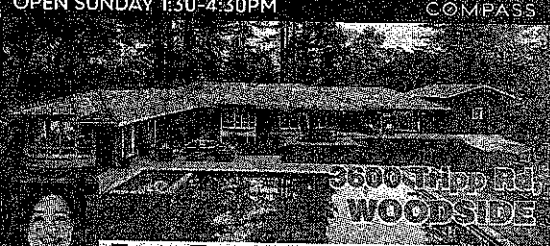
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## Frequent ADA litigant sentenced

BY EMILY MIBACH  
Daily Post Staff Writer

A wheelchair-bound attorney who has sued hundreds of small businesses for allegedly violating the Americans with Disabilities Act has been convicted of tax evasion and sentenced to house arrest and, for at least the next 2½ years, cannot file any lawsuits against businesses.

### Scott Johnson avoids prison but can't sue anyone for 2½ years

Scott Norris Johnson, 61, of Carmichael, is also barred from asking the California Bar to reinstate his license for the same 2½-year period, according to the sentence handed down Tuesday

by U.S. District Judge John Mendez in Sacramento.

Johnson must pay \$250,000 to the IRS and pay a \$50,000 fine, according to a report by the Sacramento Bee.

Johnson accepted a plea deal late last year in which he admitted that he didn't pay federal taxes he owed between the years 2012 and 2014.

Johnson made his living by filing hundreds of cases against businesses every year. He often would get money from businesses who paid him to drop the suits. Businesses have told the Post [See ADA, page 34]

### THE UPDATE

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courtesy of Mish Int'l (650) 324-9110

SEX ASSAULT SUSPECT: Palo

## Arrest in tech exec's murder

A tech consultant was arrested and charged with murder yesterday in the stabbing death of the owner

## QUIET

Public Works Director Hugh Louch says that it will cost about \$2 million to install new gates and other safety features at each of the four crossings. It will cost up to \$1 million to design the changes at the intersections.

However, the city may be able to get a quiet zone by spending \$4 million, with only making changes at Oak Grove and Ravenswood, according to Louch's report.

The Federal Railroad Administration considers the possible risk at each crossing in a proposed quiet zone, and those are the two crossings that present more of a danger.

### More sophisticated gates

Changes that have to be made at the current road and train crossings would be to install what are called "quad gates" where instead of the current two arms, four arms come down, blocking off the entire crossing so no one can swerve onto the tracks in an attempt to beat the train. The gates will have sensors to detect if a vehicle is trapped on the tracks, according to Louch's report. Other changes that will have to be made include adjusting the curb and sidewalk in some places and replacing the current pedestrian gates over the tracks.

As the city is looking at quiet zones, plans are slowly progressing on getting what is called "grade separations" — where the train tracks are raised and the street lowered, to separate the two. The train bridge would be across Glenwood, Oakwood and Ravenswood. In 2019, it was estimated the project would cost about \$380 million. However, it's been estimated that it will cost Burlingame some \$316 million to separate Broadway from the tracks.

Residents, who are rattled at all times of the day by the horns, have been asking the City Council to get the quiet zones in place, requests increased after Atherton got a quiet zone at Fair Oaks Avenue in 2016. Atherton is currently working with Caltrain to get a quiet zone at Watkins Avenue. Palo Alto is also looking into a quiet zone at Palo Alto Avenue, it participated in the same study as Menlo Park. If all of the quiet zones are approved, regular train blasts between Atherton and Menlo Park could be eliminated.

sible and I have seen the struggles he faced," wrote his son, Scott M. Johnson.

One of Johnson's employees, Sierra Mezzetti, wrote that Johnson sends letters to businesses to let them know their building is not ADA compliant, and often times the business owners will fix their buildings and no lawsuit is filed and he would send a thank you letter instead.

"If there was not someone out there pushing for more access for disabled individuals, then the majority of businesses would not be up to ADA standards. This is not due to business owners not wanting to comply, but mainly because they do not know how or where to get the right information," she wrote.

## ARREST

San Francisco at 2:30 a.m. April 4. He died at a hospital.

Scott declined to give details on how they linked the killing to Momeni. The chief also refused to disclose a possible motive. Investigators served search warrants in San Francisco and Emeryville. Scott would not say whether the knife has been found.

San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins said in a statement that Momeni has been charged with murder in Lee's death and is expected to be arraigned today. Prosecutors will ask a judge to hold him without bail, she said.

It was not immediately clear whether Momeni has an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

### Suspect's in the IT business

On his LinkedIn profile, Momeni describes himself as an "IT Consultant/Entrepreneur" as well as the owner of a company called Expand IT. Business filings with the state list Momeni as the chief executive officer, secretary and chief financial officer of Expand IT INC, described as an information technology consulting business. He signed the filing in August 2022.

According to his LinkedIn profile, Momeni has been "a dedicated technology partner since 2005" and that he started Expand IT in 2010.

Criminal records show Momeni was charged with carrying a switchblade in 2011, a misdemeanor offense. The case was dismissed the following year after he took a plea.

Publicist Sam Singer met Momeni about a month

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