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Construction begins at Poplar interchange

San Mateo seeks safety improvements near hazardous freeway

By **Samantha Weigel**
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF

Improvements aimed at enhancing safety near the hectic Poplar Avenue on- and off-ramps leading to the increasingly congested Highway 101 will begin next week and San Mateo city officials are warning drivers of possible delays.

Upcoming construction is the result of a nearly six-year plan-

ning process during which the community and city collaborated on how to improve the corridor where homes, two schools and a busy highway on- and off-ramp intersect.

Although the city is considering a long-term proposal to relocate these freeway ramps since identifying them as potentially dangerous in 2004, construction on the Poplar Corridor Safety Improvement Project is begin-

ning and will provide more immediate safety benefits.

The busy four-way intersection is known for having a high rate of accidents. It mixes three stop-sign-controlled directions of traffic competing to enter the freeway or cross Poplar Avenue, with drivers coming off the highway who aren't required to stop.

"This is a safety improvement

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NICK ROSE/
DAILY JOURNAL

Drivers heading south on Amphlett Boulevard in San Mateo at Poplar Avenue often face cross traffic with cars coming off the highway without stopping and cars heading onto the highway.

FRONT AND CENTER



REUTERS

Promising Americans a steady hand, Hillary Clinton cast herself Thursday night as a unifier for divided times, steeled for a volatile world by decades in politics that have left some Americans skeptical of her character.

SEE STORY PAGE 6

Housing plan back on table in Foster City

Proposal to swap office buildings for townhomes faces some opposition

By **Samantha Weigel**
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF

Housing developer Sares Regis will return to the Foster City Council Monday night as it seeks to construct new townhomes instead of long-approved commercial development in a community that has been resistant to adding new residents.

Two new councilmembers have been seated since Sares Regis first received an unofficial thumbs up

after submitting a preliminary proposal to amend the Pilgrim-Triton Master Plan last year. But despite Sares Regis' argument its proposal would be less dense than what's already been approved, some members of the public remain adamant against new housing.

Sares Regis seeks to construct 68 for-sale townhomes, at least 20 percent of which will be offered as affordable, in up to 40-foot-tall

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KIMBERLY WADYCKI/DAGON THEATRE
Isabel Siragusa plays Queen Caroline, John Stephen King plays King George I and Johnathan Tierney plays Peter the Wild Boy in Dragon Theatre's production of 'Wild Boy' now playing in downtown Redwood City.

New faces on the Dragon stage 'Wild Boy' opens at downtown Redwood City theater

By **Bill Silverfarb**
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF

When the Dragon Productions Theatre Company opened in downtown Redwood City in early 2013, it was starting from scratch after being a Palo Alto mainstay for more than a decade.

Now in its fourth year on Broadway, the company is launching the summer production of "Wild Boy," which tells the story of a modern family raising a child

with autism intertwined with a tale of an 18th-century boy found mute and feral in the woods.

The actors will play multiple roles in the production, said Meredith Hagedorn, the company's founder and artistic director.

The 75-seat theater rarely gets a break, Hagedorn said. To pay the rent, Dragon has to put on eight productions a year with them often overlapping.

"We never get a break. Our season is from January to December,"

Hagedorn said.

She needs to keep the seats filled to keep the productions on stage.

Next year, however, only seven shows are planned and Hagedorn hopes to open up the theater more for community use, especially considering it will be Redwood City's 150th birthday.

"We get tons of rental requests," she said.

The theater is right in the heart

See **DRAGON**, Page 31

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