

The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

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MOVING FORWARD

New CEO prepares for Silicon Valley Community Foundation's 2.0 version

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Photo by Kate Bradshaw/The Almanac

Celebrating North Fair Oaks

A celebration at the new public parking lot at 3060 Middlefield Road, at the intersection of 2nd and Middlefield Road, was held May 19 upon the completion of a large mural depicting North Fair Oaks by neighborhood native Jose Castro. The mural depicts, from left to right, the indigenous history of the area, followed by a representation of today's North Fair Oaks and the small businesses there, then moves into a depiction of the neighborhood's future, with the looming threat of gentrification, alongside the promise of jobs and opportunities, as Castro explained it. Following a mariachi performance and remarks by local officials including state Assemblyman Marc Berman, San Mateo County Supervisor Warren Slocum, and county Sheriff Carlos Bolanos, a group of children performed a traditional ballet folklórico dance.

Precautionary power shutdowns loom again this fire season, PG&E warns

Outages could last more than two days

By Rick Radin
Almanac staff writer

With wildfire season approaching, PG&E is again warning customers, particularly in wooded, high-fire-risk areas such as Woodside and Portola Valley, that it may shut off power during heat emergencies to avoid power lines igniting fires.

The shutoff plan was formulated following billions of dollars in liability losses from wildfires linked to sparking power lines that ignited tree branches and other vegetation.

PG&E representatives have met with San Mateo County fire chiefs to get feedback about their plans, said Rob Lindner, chief of the Woodside Fire Protection District that covers Portola Valley and Woodside and some unincorporated areas of the county.

"We're in favor of them doing whatever is necessary to keep

our residents safe," Lindner said. "What we really want is for PG&E to be as transparent with the community as possible."

District officials believe that the utility can reduce wildfire risk by improving its tree trimming and other vegetation management, repairing power lines, and enhancing wildfire detection systems, including cameras and weather stations, he said.

PG&E has embarked on an extensive campaign to trim trees around power lines and inspect the lines more thoroughly throughout its service area after fire investigators blamed it for starting 17 of the 21 wildfires in California in 2017, according to a New York Times report.

"We agree that a lot needs to be done," Lindner said. "It's not just the power shutdowns, but their overall commitment to reducing wildfire risk."

There are no mandatory circumstances under which PG&E will take action to shut off power

to a given area, but possibilities include a "red flag warning" declared by the National Weather Service; humidity levels of 20% and below; predicted sustained winds generally above 25 mph and wind gusts of 45 mph; conditions with dry fuel on the ground and live vegetation; and on-site observations from PG&E field crews, according to utility spokeswoman Andrea Menniti.

PG&E plans to warn residents with alerts 48 hours, 24 hours and just before a power shutoff, although the timing and frequency of the warnings may change depending on weather conditions, Menniti said.

The utility is urging customers to prepare for outages that could last more than two days, and promises that they will be contacted by phone, text and email and provided with updates through social media, news, radio and the pge.com web site.

See **SHUTDOWNS**, page 17

New budget dedicates \$23.9M in new funds for capital improvements

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

The city of Menlo Park on May 17 revealed a new draft budget, laying out a \$171.9 spending plan, \$23.9 million of which represents new funding allocated for the city's capital improvement plan.

That's good news for the city, according to City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, who developed the budget.

"That's money going back into community improvements," she told The Almanac.

The budget is about 20 percent larger than the 2018-19 fiscal year's, which was \$143 million. The city's general fund, the single largest fund, lays out planned revenues of \$70 million and planned expenditures of \$69.9 million.

In a letter summarizing the 236-page budget, Jerome-Robinson highlighted several new items the city plans to fund in the new budget. These include plans to aggressively address the city's pension liabilities, invest in technology to improve financial transparency, and expand services at the Belle Haven branch library.

New initiatives

The city plans to dedicate \$1.8 million to addressing its estimated unfunded pension liability of \$30.4 million for its miscellaneous staff — that's all non-gun-carrying employees, explained Dan Jacobson, Menlo Park's finance and budget manager.

It also has an estimated unfunded liability of \$25.9 million for the city's police and safety employees. If the city accelerates the rate at which it plans to pay down its unfunded pension liability to a 10-year schedule for the miscellaneous staff and a 15-year schedule for safety staff, the city is expected to save an estimated \$18.1 million. If the city continues to get a full refund on ERAF dollars, as it has in the past, Jerome-Robinson said, it should be able to fully fund the accelerated payment schedule.

ERAF stands for the "educational revenue augmentation fund" and represents tax dollars the state holds back in case local schools don't get fully

funded from their typical share of tax revenues. Because the tax revenues do not fully meet the state's per-student requirements in some local school districts, the state has given those dollars back to cities and special districts in well-funded school districts.

In addition, the city plans to dedicate about \$194,000 to a new "budget and financial transparency initiative." It plans to upgrade its outdated budget system, which is at the end of its useful life, according to Jerome-Robinson's budget report. In response to public requests and advice from the city's Audit and Finance Committee, the city plans to, over the next three years, replace the budget and finance software, improve budgeting practices to include "performance measures," tie the city's financial data to its online data portal for better public access, and streamline the city's financial management processes.

According to Jacobson, the idea is that, by the end of the three-year process, members of the public could ask a question like, "How much do we spend on police department personnel each year?" and with relative ease find the answers they're looking for in the data portal.

The city also plans to spend about \$285,000 on improving library services to increase open hours at the Belle Haven branch library, add a new homework center, expand little free libraries citywide and work on the city's ongoing project to build a new branch library in Belle Haven.

In addition, the budget lays out plans to hire a park ranger at Bedwell Bayfront Park, which will be funded at an estimated cost of \$150,000 by Facebook as a term in one of its agreements with the city. The ranger, to be hired by contract, would be expected to patrol the park daily and do education and outreach as well as provide first aid, fire suppression, trail maintenance, and litter collection services. The ranger might also help on weekends at Kelly Park.

The budget also provides for the police department to spend \$21,500 on new tasers,

See **BUDGET**, page 17



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Train tunnel cost would require 'significant' new development above tracks

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

About a week after the Palo Alto City Council scrapped plans to tunnel Caltrain beneath its city, the Menlo Park City Council on May 21 heard a presentation by Professor Michael Bennon, managing director at Stanford's Global Projects Center, to discuss the feasibility of an underground Caltrain line through Menlo Park.

In short, Bennon stated, "This would be an extremely expensive project."

Palo Alto's evaluation that the cost of a potential tunnel there would run between \$2.5 billion and \$3.8 billion seems accurate, Bennon told the Menlo Park council.

"My intuition is that those numbers are not that far off," he said. Menlo Park's potential tunnel segment would be shorter than Palo Alto's, but still extremely costly to build.

There are a few different funding mechanisms the city could apply, Bennon explained. One he's evaluated in other case studies is to capture some of the new land value that would open up above the underground rail line by permitting development on top.

That land belongs to Caltrain, so the city would have to work out with that agency some kind of agreement and development plan for the property, Bennon noted. He's seen cases where both rail agencies and cities have been the leaders in developing atop underground rail lines, he added.

Grant funding is another source, as is a "Mello-Roos" special tax, which is a form of parcel tax that would need to be approved by two-thirds of voters and could be used to support a "community facilities district," he explained.

Even factoring in those sources, in California especially, public works projects are very costly, and many turn out more costly than planned, he said. "Almost all cost estimates are too low, as you are well aware," he told the council.

The project would likely be more costly and slow-moving because of the number of agencies and jurisdictions that would have to sign off on it, he noted, adding that there would be significant environmental review, a long planning process, and the buy-in of multiple cities and

institutions required for it to work.

(On the other hand, he said, spreading the costs across multiple jurisdictions through the formation of a joint powers authority or some similar structure might make the project more politically feasible. Palo Alto's decision to not pursue this option through the city would likely have some impact on the feasibility of the effort in Menlo Park, he noted.)

While the notion of undergrounding rail lines in general doesn't raise much community opposition, Bennon said, residents where these projects occur elsewhere do tend to raise concerns and objections over the "attendant development that occurs."

The amount of development and added density that would have to go on the land above the rail line to generate "in the high hundreds of millions of dollars," according to Adina Levin, Complete Streets Commissioner and co-founder of Friends of Caltrain, is something along the lines of a million or more square feet of office space and thousands of housing units. Bennon agreed, noting it as a "very broad-brush estimate."

That scale of density growth, Levin argued — speaking as an individual and not a representative of the organizations she works with — is "not in scale with what we have contemplated in our area."

The cost of projects to underground rail segments are more likely to "pencil out" in areas where more land could be opened up for "significant" density, such as Caltrain's 4th and King Street station in San Francisco, Bennon explained.

Another challenge, Levin said, is that in Palo Alto's evaluation, there were findings that during construction of an underground rail line, bypass tracks would have to be constructed that were expected to require the "removal of a few dozen homes." That was a surprise finding and one the residents of that city found unacceptable, she noted.

"These are some of the challenges that have led Palo Alto to take that option off the table and would pose, I think, insurmountable challenges for us," she summarized.

The discussion was informational and did not yield policy recommendations from the City Council. ■

Menlo Park fire district replacing its oldest station

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District will eliminate a significant part of its history when it replaces the oldest of its seven stations, Station 4, in the next couple of years.

Located at the corner of Alameda de las Pulgas and Valparaiso Avenue in Menlo Park, Station 4 was built in 1949, when that intersection was on the outskirts of the city in an undeveloped area, a far cry from where it is now in a robustly populated residential area.

The replacement comes on the heels of a new Station 6 in downtown Menlo Park, which will have its official opening on June 22, and the 2016 opening of Station 2 in East Palo Alto, according to Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman.

“At 70 years old, Station 4 is pretty tired,” he said. “Right now we’re moving forward with the architect, and we want to go out for bid within the next 12 months.”

Construction will follow the pattern of the other two stations. The district bought the home behind the existing station two years ago for \$3.2 million to house the station crew while construction is taking place.

After the new station is completed and the firefighters move

in, the house will be torn down to make way for parking and a driveway so that firetrucks can drive in through the back doors and exit quickly through the front doors to respond to emergencies.

The existing station has no back doors, so firefighters have to back the trucks into the bays so that they can exit driving forward onto Alameda de las Pulgas.

“Backing in is unsafe, so drive-through firehouses are the way to go,” Schapelhouman said.

‘At 70 years old, Station 4 is pretty tired.’

FIRE CHIEF
HAROLD SCHAPELHOUMAN

The proposed station design includes three bays, and the new station would be one and a half stories high to accommodate a fire engine, an aerial ladder truck, and living space for seven firefighters, two of whom will be paramedics.

The station will have up-to-date features, including an expanded number of electrical outlets, exhaust ventilation to remove the diesel fumes that the trucks emit, and expanded storage for gear, Schapelhouman said.

Exposure to fumes from dirty

firefighting gear and truck exhaust has been linked to high cancer rates among firefighters.

“Separation between the dormitory areas and the fire equipment and gear is essential for firehouses today for health reasons,” the chief said.

Station 4 has the largest area served by the district, with 37% of the response area in Atherton, 44% in Menlo Park, and the rest in San Mateo County’s Sequoia Tract and West Menlo Park.

The fire district board approved Station 4 as the district’s next replacement project in 2018.

The district is estimating that it will take a year from now to get approval from the city for its plans and at least another year to complete the project, Schapelhouman said.

The station is expected to cost between \$18 million and \$20 million, compared with about \$11 million for Station 6, which has one bay because it’s on a space-restricted site, he said.

In contrast, the present Station 4 was built for \$27,603, and the four lots on which it sits were purchased for \$5,400 in 1946.

Station 6 had to be built in stages because it took time to accumulate the money to do the work, Schapelhouman said.

“The good news is we are in an up economy so more money is available,” he said. ▀

Kings Mountain Road work begins in June

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) is planning to begin its major fire suppression project along Kings Mountain Road in and near San Mateo County’s Huddart Park early in June.

The work will create what’s known as a shaded field break; crews will clean up undergrowth while preserving the canopy of trees, said Rich Sampson, division chief for Cal Fire in Felton.

“It keeps it shaded, with the

field moisture up and the temperature down, so it’s wetter and cooler,” Sampson said. “In a fire it keeps the flame out of the way so you can still use the road as an escape route.”

The 70-acre project will begin near the intersection of Kings Mountain Road and Highway 35, and continue down to the eastern limits of the park.

The project has been approved by the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Department of Fish and

Wildlife board will do a final review prior to putting out a request for proposal, Sampson said.

Sampson said there was a 20-acre fire a year and a half ago and a 5-acre fire 12 years ago at the site. In 1961, a fire burned 1,300 acres farther to the west of the park.

The project will take about two months to complete, Sampson said.

— By Rick Radin

Woodside Priory affordable housing gets financing

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

Woodside Priory School, nestled next to Portola Road in Portola Valley, has received a tax-exempt \$13 million loan from the California Municipal Finance Authority to expand faculty housing and renovate its kitchen and dining hall.

The loan was approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors on May 14.

Construction has begun on the dining hall and kitchen, and should be completed by October, while the housing is still in the planning stages with the town, according to Kelly Sargent, the school’s director of communication.

The project will include two two-bedroom and four three-bedroom units, and will be located near the intersection of Gambetta Lane and Portola Road, Sargent said.

There are 22 residential units already on the 51-acre campus, which provide housing for about

See **WOODSIDE PRIORY**, page 10

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Buyers Who Change Their Plans

Dear Monica: I just closed escrow on a property that I had planned to move into but my plans have now changed. How difficult would it be to resell this property and not lose money? Beth T.

Dear Beth: If you have just closed escrow and now want to resell, it will be tricky to do so and not lose some money. A new buyer will know what you paid for the property because it is now in the public record, and will be unlikely to want to pay a price high enough to cover

what you paid for the property and any costs you will incur such as real estate commission, transfer taxes, title and escrow fees.

If I were you I would see how the spring market is and as soon as I know a comparable property has sold at a higher price than I purchased mine, I would quickly try to sell at the same price and hope that a buyer who may have missed out on the other property steps in and makes an offer. If you are patient and have a good agent, you could be successful.

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Planner: Jackie Young, Planning Director

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2. Town-wide

ZOAM2019-0001

Architectural and Site Review – Process Streamlining

Planner: Jackie Young, Planning Director

Review and recommend approval, conditional approval, or denial to the Town Council of an ordinance to amend Woodside Municipal Code (WMC) Sections 153.909 – 153.918, Architectural and Site Review, to streamline the process and procedures for architectural and site review by eliminating ASRA review of small projects in favor of review by Planning staff to reduce the time and cost of these reviews.

3. The Glens Neighborhood

Study Session: Non-conforming Regulations

Planner: Jackie Young, Planning Director

Review and recommend approval, conditional approval, or denial to the Town Council of an ordinance to amend Woodside Municipal Code (WMC) Chapter 153, Zoning, to increase flexibility in the use of total allowable floor area; and provide allowances for decreased setbacks, construction on slopes 35% and greater, and floor area and setback exceptions for garages for nonconforming lots in the Woodside Glens.

All application materials are available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 – 10:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact the Woodside Planning and Building Department at (650) 851-6790.



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Girl power

How 12 fourth-grade basketball players banded together for equal rim heights

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

Tucked away behind a partition in Arrillaga Family Recreation Center in Menlo Park, fourth-grade girls played basketball using hoops with rims that were lower than those of their male classmates. Feeling “disappointed” and “hidden” in comparison with the boys on the courts, the girls decided to do something about it.

The efforts of these 12 Oak Knoll School students, who each play in the city of Menlo Park’s after-school basketball league, have led to equal rim heights after the students appealed to both their principal and city staff. The basketball league is composed of students in grades three through seven, and includes an elementary school division made up of students from Oak Knoll, Phillips Brooks, Encinal, Las Lomitas and Laurel schools.

The Menlo Park City School District recognized the 12 Oak Knoll girls for their advocacy at a May 7 school board meeting.

Although third- and fifth-graders in the league played on basketball courts with rims of equal height, fourth-grade boys were using 10-foot rims. The fourth-grade girls also had 10-foot rims, but with hoop attachments to lower them to 8.5 feet, which the girls referred to as “baby hoops.”

“We would rather miss on higher hoops than make it on lower hoops,” fourth-grader Caitlin said during a March 12 presentation to city staff and basketball team coordinators from each of the Menlo Park schools that participate in the league. “Us girls like challenges.”

The girls know they are tough

— and capable of playing with baskets at the same height as the boys’ — but they weren’t given the chance to show it until the rim heights were changed, Caitlin later told *The Almanac*.

In addition to the rim height concern, the girls were hidden behind a curtain during games since the fourth-grade boys played on the court visible to people when they entered the gym, the girls said. Fourth-grader Priya said she felt disappointed the girls teams weren’t as visible.

The city set up a barrier between the two basketball courts to accommodate playing two games simultaneously in the gym on Saturdays — so that balls wouldn’t bounce between courts and to create a clear marking between games for audience members, said Jarrod Harden, the gym’s recreation coordinator.

After the girls brought up their concerns, the city decided to designate a court side for each grade level rather than splitting up the courts by gender. The change will take effect next school year since the league runs from January to March.

“It was a little bit of a surprise — no one had brought it to our attention before,” Harden said. “But we’re always looking to make the league better. You never know something is bothering someone until they tell you. It’s good to get the feedback and have them tell us their story.”

Harden said the rim height rules existed before he started in his position six years ago. Previously, all students in grades three through five played on courts with attachments that lowered the rims,



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

but over the years coordinators requested changes that resulted in removing the attachments for some groups, he said.

The campaign for change started in January when some of the girls, who dubbed themselves “Girls on a Mission,” told their basketball coach, Tara Moeller, how they felt about the rim height differences between boys and girls hoops.

“I told them, ‘Whispering is just whispering,’ and sat them down after practice and said, ‘Tell me how you feel,’” Moeller

said. “Even the quietest of girls on the team were very vocal about the fact they had to play on ‘baby hoops.’ I said it was something they had the ability to change if they could put together their point of view.”

The girls discovered that USA Basketball guidelines state that boys and girls between ages 9 and 11, the fourth-grade age range, should play on basketball courts with rims of the same height — around 9 feet tall. They took notes on Post-its to formulate their arguments

The “Girls on a Mission” pose under a 10-foot basketball hoop in the Oak Knoll Elementary School gym in Menlo Park earlier this month. Clockwise from top left: Lilia, Maya, Alexa, Addison, Ava, Vera, Alisha, Caroline, Claire, Molly, Caitlin and Priya.

in favor of changing the basket heights, Moeller said.

In February, the girls met with Oak Knoll Principal Kristen Gracia, who said it was a “no-brainer” that they bring the concern to the city’s attention.

“As a principal, my hope and goal is that we can help each and every Oak Knoll student develop an equity lens and a voice for change, so they grow up noticing and wondering about the world we live in and then use their voice to create positive change not only for themselves but ultimately for others,” Gracia said in an email. “At Oak Knoll, our mission is that every student is an exemplary scholar, a valued friend and a courageous citizen and these girls are a great example of what it means to be Oak Knoll students.”

Although the change won’t fully go into effect until next school year, the girls played their last game of the season with higher rims.

“We just wanted to help the fourth-grade girls for next year,” fourth-grader Vera said.

The girls cheered as they watched the rim attachments come down, said Moeller. The coach said she is proud of the girls, especially for taking action on their own.

“You go into a season as a coach thinking you’re going to teach them about life and skills and they ended up teaching coaches and city and administrative staff a lot,” she said. “I don’t know that they had come into contact with inequality before and they realized they can make change.” ■

Laurel School teacher Monique Christian Donecho dies

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

A memorial service was held on Friday, May 24, for Monique Christian Donecho, an art teacher at Laurel School in Menlo Park who died on May 15 at the age of 37 after a 15-month battle with breast cancer, according to the Menlo Park City School District.

Donecho, a San Carlos resident, was an excellent teacher and valued colleague who will be remembered for her

“wonderful, joyful laugh, which just bubbled up from inside of her,” said fellow Laurel art teacher Christie Giacomozzi in a written statement.

Donecho began her career at Menlo-Atherton High School but settled at Laurel in 2011, where she taught kindergarten through fifth grade.

“She believed even young children could grasp high level art concepts, incorporating key elements from artists like Georgia O’Keefe, Renoir, Van Gogh and a vast array of materials and techniques into

her teaching,” according to a district statement.

Donecho elevated the quality of Laurel students’ artwork with her bold, can-do approach, Art in Action volunteer and Laurel parent Cathy Tokic said in a statement.

She is survived by her husband Brian Donecho and their two sons, ages 5 and 7.

Brian Donecho, who met his wife at San Diego State University, recalls getting coffee with her on the way back to the dorms after their painting and photography classes. His wife’s

battle with cancer brought everyone who loved her closer together, he said.

“What we’ve learned as a family is the importance of living in the present,” Brian Donecho said. “It’s easy to become overwhelmed with the worries of the past and future. Each day is a gift and we learned to make the most of our family time.”

Community members raised nearly \$40,000 through a GoFundMe page over the last year to support Monique Christian Donecho. Since her death,



Photo courtesy of Menlo Park City School District
Monique Christian Donecho

people have offered condolences and made donations on the page to support the family. ■

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Menlo Park hosts its first youth poetry competition

Number of entries were threefold the number expected, library director says

By **Angela Swartz**
Almanac Staff Writer

Four local students came away with prizes for Menlo Park's first annual youth poetry competition, according to the city of Menlo Park and Menlo Park Library Foundation, which co-sponsored the contest.

About 200 poets and their families came to the Menlo Park City Council Chambers on May 7 to hear contest winners read their original poems for the Menlo Park Youth Poetry Celebration. The theme for this year's competition was "If I were a book..."

Oxford Day Academy sophomore Chyanne Robinson won the grand prize in the competition and top prize for the high school-age group. (See her poem, this page.)

Jamie Zou, an eighth-grader at Hillview Middle School, won in the grade 7-8 category; Sophia Gamini, a Laurel School fourth-grader, won the grade 4-6 prize; and Emilia Hansen, a Las Lomitas School second-grader, took the prize in the grade 2-3 category.

"The competition really shines a light on the high levels of literacy and creativity of our young people," Elyse Stein, president of the library foundation's board of directors, said during the May 7 celebration. "We hope you will continue to write poetry for the rest of your days."

There were also 11 honorable mentions, and the other



Photo courtesy of city of Menlo Park

Poetry award and honorable mention winners pose with city officials for a photo during the May 7 Menlo Park Youth Poetry Celebration. Back row, left to right: Zoe Hart, Jamie Zou, Vice Mayor Cecilia Taylor, Coral Rothenburg, Chyanne Robinson, Aleksii Bulannikov, Menlo Park Library Foundation President Elyse Stein, Library Director Sean Reinhart, Alekos Kapur, Ashley Nguyen, Sophia Gamini. Front row: Emilia Hansen, Abhinav Chavan, Nik de Silva and Gage Lee.

entrants received "honor roll" awards, Menlo Park Library Director Sean Reinhart noted in an email. There were 188 total entries, with 52 coming from Laurel students and 22 from students in Katherine Haffner's class at St. Raymond School, according to the city.

All participants received a blue ribbon and commemorative booklet, according to the library foundations website. The foundation awarded the 7-8 grade winner \$125; the 4-6 winner \$100; and the 2-3 grade winner \$75, according to the city. Robinson received a new

iPad and \$150.

Competition judges were: Jackie Berger, English master's degree program director at Notre Dame de Namur University; Jacqui Cebrian, a reading specialist at Oak Knoll School; Betsy Halaby, vice president of the library foundation's board of directors; and Aileen Cassinotto, San Mateo County poet laureate. Judges reviewed entries based on their quality, use of creative expression and relevance to the theme.

Organizers plan to hold a poetry competition next year as well, since this year's event was

If I were a book

By **Chyanne Robinson**

If I were a book I wouldn't invite you in just yet

I fear that that if I let you in — you may hurt me in an instance

If I were a book, my main character would struggle with trusting people, because people started breaking her trust at an early age

If I were a book, I would fear that if I were to trust you, you would simply walk out of my life, so instead, I keep the pages closed

If I were a book, I would tell you about family separation, about a mother leaving her family, and her children not knowing why.

If I were a book, I would tell you about my older sister having to surrender her childhood, because she had to take care of me

If I were a book, I would empathize with someone who may feel alone and worthless — because I KNOW what that feels like

If I were a book, I would tell you about feeling alone, about a cloudy mindset making it impossible to think straight as dark thoughts build up

If I were a book, I would struggle with capturing a happy memory, because it is elusive — disappearing before I can write it

If I were a book, I would tell you about multiple deaths and a child who blames herself for the death of her grandma, her uncle, her cousins

If I were a book, I would tell you about not wanting to go to school, not wanting to have friends, blocking myself from the world because being alone allowed me to hide my sadness

If I were a book, my tattered pages would resist being straightened — no I do not want to go to a shrink, no I am not going through a phase, no, I am not too young to feel this pain

If I were a book, I would tell you about being bullied because I do not look like the other girls, or because I chose to follow the rules

If I were a book, I would tell you about being bullied because I was Black and called ugly, or that my hair did not flow like white or Latina girls

If I were a book, I would fade away ... like my depression.

so successful, Reinhart said. There were "an amazing number" of entries, he said during the May 7 celebration, noting

that organizers expected about 50 or 60 entries.

To read the winning poems, go to menlolibrary.org/news. ■



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WOODSIDE PRIORY

continued from page 7

20% of the 116-member faculty at the school, she said.

Out of the 350 students who attend the school, about 50 live on campus as boarding students and some of the faculty serve as resident advisers in units attached to the dorms, Sargent said.

Woodside Priory, a private school founded by Benedictine monks, is one of three so-called affiliated housing partners that

are part of Portola Valley's housing element, said Town Manager Jeremy Dennis.

The housing will be classified as affordable so that when it is approved by the town it will count towards the town's Regional Needs Housing Allocation, Dennis said.

Portola Valley has met its RNHA goal for total units by 2022 with 69, but has not yet met its goal in the low-income and moderate-income categories.

The Woodside Priory units will not count towards the goals until the building permits are issued, said Planning and Building Director Laura Russell.

The school, with class levels from the sixth through 12th grades, was founded in 1957. It was originally an all-male boarding school but began admitting girls to its day program in the early 1990s, according to the school's website.

The school began with an 18-acre campus but has expanded to its current size over the years. ■

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Moving forward

New CEO plans for Silicon Valley Community Foundation's 2.0 version

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Stepping into the powerful position of president and CEO of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation after the post was vacated last year in a public workplace bullying and misconduct scandal, Nicole Taylor of Menlo Park says she is on a mission to bring the foundation past its history of workplace tumult and put the “community” back in the community foundation.

Despite the presence of the word “community” in its title, though, the foundation is no small mom-and-pop grant maker. It's one of the wealthiest foundations in the world: Its assets total around \$13.5 billion.

It was formed in 2007 following the merger of the Community Foundation Silicon Valley and the Peninsula Community Foundation. Now, it's the largest community foundation and the third-largest foundation in the country, after the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Open Society Foundation.

It also boasts a donor roster of a number of Silicon Valley's iconic and high net-worth presences. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Dr. Priscilla Chan have contributed a combined value of about \$1.96 billion in Facebook stock, according to Forbes. WhatsApp co-founder Jan Koum gave the foundation \$556 million in Facebook stock

in 2014. Other donors include Reed Hastings, Netflix CEO; Sergey Brin, Google co-founder; Jack Dorsey, Twitter CEO; Jeff Skoll, former Ebay president; Dustin Moskowitz, Facebook co-founder; Larry Ellison, Oracle co-founder and chairman; and Nick Woodman, GoPro founder, according to Forbes.

A shaken foundation

Despite the foundation's wealth, or perhaps, in part because of what media reports have characterized as a grow-at-all-costs attitude among its top executives in the past, the last year has been a challenging one for the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. In April 2018, its second-in-command officer, Mari Ellen Reynolds Loijens, who worked as chief business, development and brand officer, resigned after an investigative article in the Chronicle of Philanthropy reported former co-workers' allegations that Loijens had created a toxic culture of bullying, embarrassing sexual remarks and oppressive office behavior within the foundation that caused employee turnover.

Loijens had led a team of about 40 people and oversaw the foundation's donor-advised funds, which represented about 83 percent of the foundation's assets, the Chronicle of Philanthropy reported.

Legal investigations followed Loijens' resignation, and the

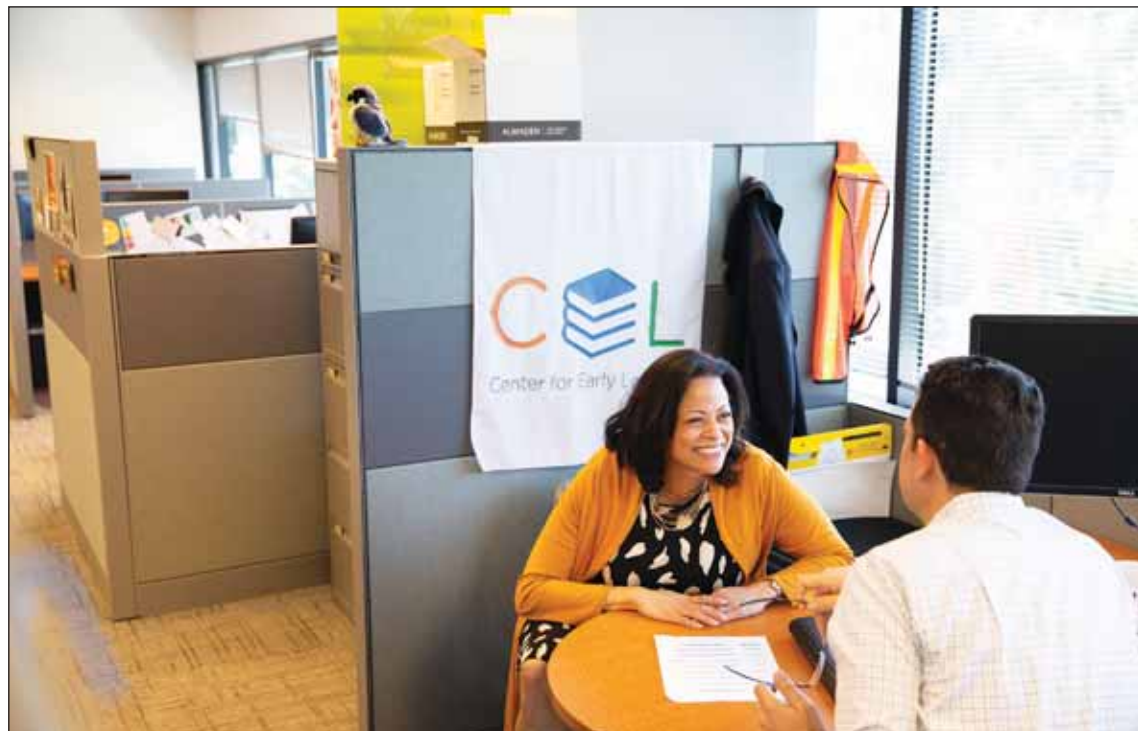


Photo by Magali Gauthier

Nicole Taylor, president and CEO of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, chats with Avo Makedessian, vice president and director of strategic initiatives and partnerships.

foundation's CEO and president, Emmett Carson, was put on administrative leave.

One report, released in June 2018 by law firm Boies Schiller Flexner, found that, in addition to the specific allegations against Loijens, “there were certain widespread workplace culture issues at (the foundation), including a fear of speaking out or reporting workplace issues out of concern for retaliation, as well as a distrust of (human resources) leadership.” Carson stepped down from his position that day.

Following Carson's departure, board member Greg Avis stepped in to act as the foundation's interim president and CEO.

Enter Nicole Taylor, who started working as the foundation's new president and CEO in mid-December. She's a longtime Silicon Valley resident who left the region in early 2017 to work in Arizona, first at Arizona State University as its deputy vice president and dean of students, and then as vice president of the ASU Foundation.

She said she considers the Bay Area home, having attended Stanford for her bachelor's degree in human biology and her master's degree in education; taught in Oakland public schools; worked at the East Bay Community Foundation for more than 15 years, including six as its CEO; led the Thrive Foundation for Youth in Silicon Valley as president and CEO; and worked as associate vice provost of student affairs and dean of community engagement and diversity at Stanford.

During a recent interview, she explained that, more than four months into her tenure, her efforts so far have involved

a juggling act of getting to know and introducing herself to the foundation's staff, the communities that make up Silicon Valley, and the foundation's donors. “I had to make sure that I could be as present internally as I needed to be, but also present externally, and that's been a lot of juggling, ... a lot of long days and evenings,” she said.

Coming through this time of “transition,” as Taylor terms it, “There was a lot of work that was done on culture and getting staff to have agency and voice that

members, donors and civic leaders, she said. “We are their community foundation.”

In doing so, she said, she's hoping to promote leadership within the organization. She said it's time for her to talk with the foundation's leadership team and managers through questions like: What does it mean for them to lead? What does she need to address, and what can they tackle? How can the leadership team lead the organization together?

She said that she's interested in not being the “only spokesperson for the organization.”

“How can we make sure (people who work with donors and in the community) can speak about who we're becoming and what we care about and what we value?” she added.

Big questions, like what that actually means, what it looks like, how the foundation demonstrates the values it claims to espouse, how employees and staff members at the foundation can be heard and empowered, how she should communicate with those staff members, and what the foundation's role should be in the community and with donors are all matters they're talking about now, she said.

More challenges

Workplace atmosphere aside, the foundation has faced criticism on other fronts: specifically, that it's not very transparent, that donors aren't required to spend very much of what they put into the funds, and that a lot of the funds that are distributed aren't spent locally.

A May 2018 Atlantic article by Alana Semuels argues that the type of charitable account that

‘Part of our role, as is for any community foundation, is to help the donors be the best philanthropists they can be.’

CEO NICOLE TAYLOR
SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

they may not have had before.”

The foundation created a “culture task force” in which staff drafted its set of values. Among the values identified are courage, collaboration, respect, inclusion and accountability, she said.

Moving forward

Now, she said, the foundation is aiming to start a “new chapter.” As part of that endeavor, it's preparing to launch a strategic planning process, she added. “We really haven't gone through that kind of comprehensive strategic process, at least for a while, and we plan on it being inclusive.”

The process will involve outreach to staff, community



Photo by Veronica Weber

Taylor speaks to attendees of the Palo Alto Weekly's Holiday Fund reception, held in April.

See **NEW CEO**, page 16

NEW CEO

continued from page 15

holds most of the foundation's assets, the "donor advised fund," allows donors major tax breaks for giving money or stock, but doesn't come with transparency or spending requirements.

Philanthropy ethicist and Stanford professor Rob Reich, in his recently-published book, "Just Giving: Why Philanthropy is Failing Democracy and How it Can Do Better," describes donor-advised funds as a "kind of kudzu that is eating the U.S. charitable sector" and now represents the largest recipient of charitable contributions in the past few years in this country.

Donor-advised funds give donors the immediate tax benefits of a charitable contribution, but permit delays to occur between when the fund is created and when contributions are delivered to nonprofits, he explains. According to Reich, donor-advised funds "represent an opportunity to warehouse philanthropic assets with no legal requirement to make allocations from the fund."

"The ability to satisfy the payout rule via administrative expenses or payments to donor-advised funds constitutes an evasion of the rule's purpose."

Taylor doesn't see it that way.

"We as a sector haven't talked about our impact enough, and I think that has led to the feeling, right or wrong, that money isn't getting out to the community, that people are parking their funds at donor-advised funds, and not moving them out," she said.

"For community foundations," she continued, "that's not true. And for donor-advised funds in general, that's not true. Private foundations are mandated to give out 5% every year. ... Donor-advised funds give out anywhere between 14 to 25% every year out of their funds, and our donors are no exception."

If funds do become dormant, she said, the foundation staff works with donors to make sure they get the funds out.

She said that the foundation staff is now working to contact every donor every quarter. That means they check in with donors, make sure they have ideas about where to give based on their interests, and offer help and planning guidance. "We're really trying to be proactive," she added.

In working with donors, she said, foundation staff members get to know donors and understand the issues and kinds of organizations they care about, as well as the kind of impact they want their philanthropy to have. Some donors just want everything on the foundation website; others want staff to sit



Photo courtesy of Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Taylor shakes hands with Chris Hunter of the Pacifica Resource Center at an event.

down with the family and talk to them in person about their giving options, she explained.

In 2018, the foundation gave a total of \$1.4 billion in grants, foundation spokesperson Sue McAllister reported. Only about \$114 million, or 8 percent, was given within San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Bay Area counties outside of those two counties claimed an additional \$380 million; the bulk of the foundation's grant dollars, \$795 million, was given in the rest of California and the U.S.; and \$69 million went to international recipients.

It's a fact, Taylor acknowledged, that donors' philanthropic interests sometimes fall outside of Silicon Valley. Perhaps they want to give to their hometown or city, or perhaps they're passionate

about addressing international problems. Or maybe a fund from a Silicon Valley-based corporation — a type of fund the foundation also oversees — has other locations in other communities its leaders want to support philanthropically.

Then, foundation staff members make calls to the foundation's network of other community foundations and international nonprofits to do their due diligence to make sure the donor's dollars will be spent responsibly, Taylor explained.

"Part of our role, as is for any community foundation, is to help the donors be the best philanthropists they can be," she said.

One thing the foundation is trying to do more of, she added, is to help donors see that

the problems they care about addressing in other places around the world happen in their own communities too.

For example, she said, some donors care a lot about problems of water access in certain areas of Africa.

"When I brought up that there's some water issues right here, in Santa Clara County, they were shocked," she said.

"Even mentioning something like that has the donor thinking, 'Huh, it's not either-or, it's both-and. I can continue to do the work in the villages that I have been, and maybe I need to think about how I can impact that issue here at home,'" she said, noting that by informing donors of the challenges their own communities face, she can "(help) them do what they really want to do and (expand) their view of what they can be doing locally."

A shifting outlook

Coming back to Silicon Valley after two years away, she said, she was surprised by how much the place had changed. Or maybe she was seeing it with fresher eyes, she said. There are more people living in RVs and campers on El Camino Real than she remembered; more people living two or three families to a two-bedroom apartment; more people being evicted; more people living just one paycheck away from homelessness.

What's really changed since she left for Arizona, she noted, is that the problems of Silicon Valley are too big to ignore now.

She recounted a recent conversation with the custodian who works at the offices of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, just off of El Camino Real in Mountain View. He told her he was tired, because he's working two jobs and lives two hours

away, even as a father of young kids.

"He sleeps literally three hours a day," she said. "And he's not the only one."

Donors and "some of the folks who are running companies," she said, are coming to her asking what they should be doing to address the inequities and human problems that are "literally in our faces every day," she said.

Some of those problems are housing, homelessness, and transportation, as well as the challenges faced by people like her office's custodian, "people like this wonderful man who's working two jobs, driving two hours to get home to be with his little ones, and starting it all over again," she said. "We can't ignore it."

Donors, she said, now see their employees struggling with these problems, or notice that the teachers at their kids' schools are leaving mid-year because they can't afford to stay through the end of the school year. They're asking for more education and information about what's working and what the problems are, while community organizations are asking for more resources, and to talk about the impact they're having.

They're now seeing and talking about these problems in ways they weren't a few years ago, she said. "We're in a position to really help point them to solutions."

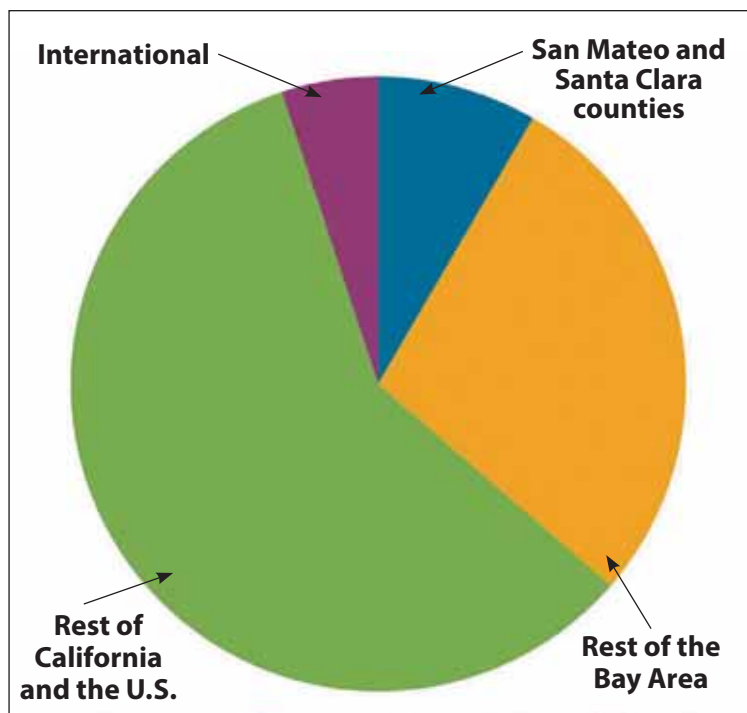
Setting the table

But no foundation — or organization, company or individual — can solve these problems alone, she said. "We have to understand what we can bring to the table. A lot of times, we can set the table. We can bring people together to talk about these issues and bring people from different perspectives."

In addition, she said, the foundation works closely with the public sector, shaping public policy by talking to elected officials at the local, state and federal levels.

"We lobby on bills. We work with mayors, we work with county supervisors. We work with folks in Sacramento on issues that impact this region, and we are unabashed about that," she said.

"I think we're in a unique position to harness that same creativity, that same innovation, that same disruptive spirit that created the Silicon Valley and the success we've had, ... take that, and harness it for these really complicated human problems that we have here." ■



Data courtesy Silicon Valley Community Foundation

In 2018, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation distributed about \$1.4 billion in grants. Of that, \$114 million went to San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, \$380 million went to the rest of the Bay Area, \$795 million went to the rest of California and the U.S. and \$69 million went to other countries.

On the cover: Taylor poses for a portrait at the foundation's offices in Mountain View. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

BUDGET

continued from page 5

\$64,000 on new body cameras and \$450,000 on a “mobile command vehicle” for emergency operations, which would help the police department in its responses to disaster-level or large-scale, multi-agency emergencies.

More staff

The budget also lays out plans to increase staff overall by 4.75 full-time-equivalent (FTE) employees to a total of 292, factoring in the one full-time employee who will no longer be needed when the city’s red-light violation camera enforcement program ends.

Three-and-a-quarter of the new staff will be added to improve library services, a step that includes making existing temporary library workers full-time staff. The city also plans to hire one full-time employee to maintain its vehicle fleet, a half-time employee to work on supporting the city’s capital

improvement program, and a provisional full-time employee to manage the city’s budget and financial transparency initiative.

Capital projects

The city’s five-year capital improvement plan currently has about \$49.3 million in funds carried over, and the new budget proposes to add \$23.9 million in new funding to support \$5 million in improvements to the Chrysler Drive pump station, \$5 million for the study, design and construction of the Middle Avenue Caltrain crossing for bikes and pedestrians, \$2 million to replace a water main, \$1.75 million to resurface Santa Cruz and Middle avenues, and \$1.5 million to resurface other streets.

District revenues

The budget report also breaks down the total tax revenue generated by district. District 5 generated the most at 26.6% of the city’s total revenue, mainly in property taxes, followed by

Tax revenue generated in 2018 by council district (in millions)					
	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
Sales tax	\$1.08	\$0.49	\$0.85	\$1.42	\$0.79
Property tax	\$3.76	\$2.48	\$3.79	\$4.39	\$4.74
Other tax	\$3.28	\$0.09	\$2.02	\$3.08	\$3.17
District total	\$8.12	\$3.06	\$6.66	\$8.90	\$9.70
Share of total	22.3%	8.4%	18.3%	24.4%	26.6%

Table courtesy city of Menlo Park

District 5 generated the most in tax revenue in the city of Menlo Park, followed by Districts 4, 1, 3 and 2.

District 4 at 24.4%. District 1 came next, with 22.3%, followed by District 3 at 18.3%, then District 2 at 8.4%, with the smallest amount of sales and other taxes.

The city manager’s report states that no analysis has been done to look at expenditures by district.

“With the leadership shown by community members, business participants, and current and former City Councilmembers the City of Menlo Park has made headway even in the face

of extremely complex challenges. This tradition of carefully considering each factor and ensuring that the next step is one of improvement is one in which the community should take great pride and seek to continue,” Jerome-Robinson wrote.

Next steps

The Planning Commission on May 20 reviewed the budget’s

proposed capital improvement plan, finding with a 6-0 vote that the plan is consistent with the city’s general plan. Commissioner Katherine Strehl was absent.

City staff gave a presentation to the council about the budget on May 21. It is expected to be reviewed in the coming month and adopted by July 1, when the next fiscal year starts. ■

SHUTDOWNS

continued from page 5

In preparing for shutdowns, the utility recommends visiting its Community Wildfire Safety Program website (is.gd/PGEadvice). The site provides links to emergency preparedness instructions and offers tips on preparing for outages.

Among the suggestions:

- Update contact information by visiting pge.com/mywildfirealerts or call 1-866-743-6589 during normal business hours to receive the automated calls, texts and emails.
- Plan for medical needs like medications that require refrigeration or devices that need power.
- Build or restock your emergency kit with flashlights, fresh batteries, first aid supplies and cash.
- Know how to open your

garage door manually.

After a shutdown, PG&E will restore power when the weather conditions improve and after inspecting power lines, Menniti said.

Once the decision is made to turn the power back on, in most cases it will be restored within 24 hours, she said.

The San Francisco-based Utility Reform Network was critical of the power shutoff plan because it would “create safety hazards of its own,” according to Communications Director Mindy Spatt.

“It would have an impact on communications because if you have a cell phone, you can’t charge it when the power is gone, and many customers are dependent on electricity for medical purposes,” she said.

Spatt said safety is a long-term problem with PG&E, and cited the San Bruno gas line explosion in 2010 as a problem that had

nothing to do with wildfires.

“The company needs a better way of keeping people safe other than what we have now,” she said.

The fire district has discussed undergrounding power lines with Woodside and Portola Valley in the face of the fire threat as well as for aesthetic reasons.

“Although it is expensive, undergrounding is a cost-effective way of reducing the (threat),” former Woodside Fire District Chief Dan Ghorso noted at a March 27 Town Council meeting in Portola Valley.

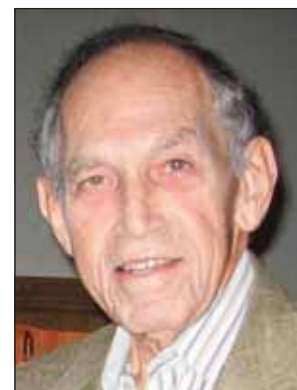
Underground power lines may not cause fires but they can be damaged by lightning strikes, earthquakes, flooding and construction excavation, said Jeff Smith, PG&E’s marketing and communications manager.

“Given the growing risk of wildfires now, we are focused on taking safety actions to minimize risks on our overhead lines,” Smith said. ■

Louis Sloss, Jr.

November 14, 1922 – April 6, 2019

Surrounded by family, Louis Sloss, Jr. died peacefully at home in Forestville, CA on April 6 at age 96. He came from two San Francisco Jewish pioneer families & remained deeply connected to the city.



After a brief time in the army during WW II, Louis returned to Stanford to complete his MBA. He met the love of his life, Jean Elsa Ganz, at a local dance. They married a year later & raised five children in Portola Valley. Louis managed several small businesses, lastly a real estate and investment firm. Louis & Jean traveled extensively, & were especially fond of Paris & the French countryside. Louis also loved backpacking & fly fishing. They were regulars at the SF Symphony for decades.

Social justice & spirituality were important themes throughout his life. At Stanford he was moved by the teachings of Harry Rathbun on living a meaningful life, which led to participation in Sequoia Seminars, becoming leaders of human potential groups & later helping to found the retreat center San Francisco Venture. He was a student of eastern philosophy & practiced meditation. In the early 1970s, with 5 other families, Louis & Jean founded Thomas Creek Ranch, an intentional community in Sonoma County, where they’ve lived ever since.

Louis and Jean were among the original founding shareholders in Embarcadero Media, publisher of the Palo Alto Weekly and The Almanac, an interest that is now divided among their five children.

Louis was widely respected & loved for his calm presence, ethical stance and wise counsel on all matters. He will be remembered for his deep love of family & friends, kindness, intellect, and endearing sense of humor.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Louis & Margaret Koshland Sloss, & sisters Margaret (Peggy) Lowe & Katherine Cohn. He is survived by his wife Jean Elsa, his children Karen Sloss, Elizabeth Sloss (Dahveed Rubin), Louis Sloss III (Julie), Jeff Sloss (Susan) and Tony Sloss (Debra), his 8 wonderful grandchildren & a large extended family.

Donations in memory of Louis can be made to Memorial Hospice of Santa Rosa.

PAID OBITUARY

JOSHUA REDMAN: STILL DREAMING

AUGUST 3 BING CONCERT HALL
8:00 P.M.

29 BRILLIANT CONCERTS

JUN 21-AUG 3

STANFORD JAZZ FESTIVAL 2019

<p>JUN 21 JAZZ INSIDE OUT WITH JIM NADEL & FRIENDS</p> <p>JUN 22 CÉCILE MCLORIN SALVANT & SULLIVAN FORNER</p> <p>JUN 23 INDIAN JAZZ JOURNEY</p> <p>JUL 15 CAILI O'DOHERTY; LIL HARDIN ARMSTRONG PROJECT/SCHMOE & CO</p>	<p>JUL 6 EARLY BIRD JAZZ FOR KIDS: JIM NADEL & THE ZOOKEEPERS</p> <p>JUL 6 PAMELA ROSE: GREAT WOMEN OF THE AMERICAN SONGBOOK</p> <p>JUL 12 ERIK JEKABSON SEXTET FEATURING JOHN SANTOS</p> <p>AUG 3 JOSHUA REDMAN: STILL DREAMING</p>
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TICKETS 650-725-2787 · STANFORDJAZZ.ORG

Woodside School stages 'The Little Mermaid Jr.'

Woodside School students will perform in "The Little Mermaid Jr.," based on Hans Christian Andersen's classic about a mermaid princess who dreams of becoming human, for this year's traditional eighth-grade operetta production.

This will be the 62nd year that the school's eighth-grade class will perform a musical theater production. The school's operetta is considered a rite of passage for eighth-graders graduating from the school. This year, there

are 47 graduates.

Students will perform songs such as "Under the Sea," "Part of Your World" and "Poor Unfortunate Souls."

Co-producers/parents Andrea Shaw and Jeanne Connolly led a team of parents who built and painted the sets, and designed and created the costumes. They also decorated a two-story float that was featured in the May Day Parade on May 4.

Jessica Bennett is directing, Raf Ornes is the musical director,

Raul Avina is the choreographer, and Fred Elras is the set designer.

Go to wesoperetta2019.bpt.me to buy tickets, which are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children.

Showtimes are 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, May 29 and 30; and 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, May 31 and June 1. The performances will take place in Woodside School's Sellman Pavilion, 3195 Woodside Road in Woodside.

— By Angela Swartz



Photo courtesy of Woodside School

Left to right: Justin Pretre as Flounder, C.C. Shaw as Ariel and Eric Spangner as Sebastian.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

SEED TO ROOTS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281157
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Seed to Roots, located at 417-A Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
AMERICA GONZALEZ
417-A Oak Grove Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on May 02, 2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 2, 2019.
(ALM May 15, 22, 29; June 5, 2019)

GLASSWING MEDIA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281193
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Glasswing Media, located at 160 Sausal Drive, Portola Valley, CA 94028, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 304 S. Jones Blvd., Ste. 1218, Las Vegas, NV 89107.

Registered owner(s):
TRICIA HEALD
160 Sausal Drive
Portola Valley, CA 94028
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 8, 2019.
(ALM May 15, 22, 29; June 5, 2019)

BR CHABOT CONSTRUCTION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281103
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
BR Chabot Construction, located at 230 Old Spanish Trail, Portola Valley, CA 94028, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
BERTIN RAYMOND CHABOT III
230 Old Spanish Trail
Portola Valley, CA 94028
This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 26, 2019.
(ALM May 15, 22, 29; June 5, 2019)

BULL PAINTING COMPANY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281126
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Bull Painting Company, located at 530 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ANTONIO NOLASCO
252 Hedge Rd.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5-01-19.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 1, 2019.
(ALM May 15, 22, 29; June 5, 2019)

PIVOTING HOME CARE
PIVOTING ASPECTS HEALTHCARE STAFFING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281215
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Pivoting Home Care, 2.) Pivoting Aspects Healthcare Staffing, located at 318 Westlake Center, Ste. 202, Daly City, CA 94015, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 2861 Fleetwood Dr., San Bruno, CA 94066.

Registered owner(s):
PIVOTING ASPECTS
2861 Fleetwood Dr.
San Bruno, CA 94066
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 10, 2019.
(ALM May 22, 29; June 5, 12, 2019)

STANFORD GARDENS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281124
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Stanford Gardens, located at 718 Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
LAKESHORE DRIVE, LLC
718 Oak Grove Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 1, 2019.
(ALM May 22, 29; June 5, 12, 2019)

ROAD SERVICE AUTO ELECTRIC SERVICE
"SKY BLUE"
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 281323
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Road Service Auto Electric Service "Sky Blue", located at 2274 Ralmar Ave., East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):

JOSE ANTONIO ROJAS ALVAREZ
2274 Ralmar Ave.
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 21, 2019.
(ALM May 29; June 5, 12, 19, 2019)

997 All Other Legals

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 19CIV02238
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: ERIC ELISEA GERMAN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
ERIC ELISEA GERMAN to ERIC ELISEA.
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: June 12, 2019, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
THE ALMANAC
Date: April 25, 2019
/s/ Jonathan E. Karesh
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM May 15, 22, 29; June 5, 2019)

IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF INCLINE VILLAGE-CRYSTAL BAY TOWNSHIP COUNTY OF WASHOE, STATE OF NEVADA

ORDER FOR PUBLICATON OF SUMMONS
Case No.: ISC 19-00003
Dept. No.: 1

LYNELLE HEATLEY, Plaintiff,
VS.
ROBIN J. REYNOLDS, Defendant.

Upon the Affidavit Order for Publication of Summons and the Affidavit of Non-Service attached thereto, filed herein, it appears to the satisfaction of the Court and the Court finds, that the Affidavit and Order cannot be served upon Defendant in person within the State of California; and it

appearing from the affidavit, and the Court here finds, that a cause of action exists in favor of the Plaintiff against Defendant, that Defendant is a necessary and proper party herein, and the last-known residence and address of Defendant is/was 1633 Madison Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061. It further appearing that the Mercury News, Redwood City, Daly News and San Mateo Times is the most likely to provide notice to the Defendant of the pendency of the suit. NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Affidavit and Order in this suit be served on Defendant, ROBIN J. REYNOLDS, herein by publication thereof in the above-named newspaper.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of the Affidavit and Order be deposited in the United States Post Office at Richmond, California, enclosed in a sealed envelope upon which the postage is fully prepaid, addressed to Defendant at:
ROBIN J. REYNOLDS, 1633 Madison Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that due service of a copy of the Affidavit and Order on Defendant in person outside of the State of Nevada shall be equivalent to completed service by publication and deposit in the united states Post Office and that such process may be served upon Defendant as prescribed by statute.

Dated this 13th day of May, 2019.
/s/ _____
Justice of the Peace

Seal
AFFIDAVIT AND ORDER
IN THE SMALL CLAIMS COURT OF INCLINE VILLAGE-CRYSTAL BAY TOWNSHIP WASHOE COUNTY, STATE OF NEVADA (775) 832-4100

NOTICE
If either party requires a court reporter, please see Small Claims Information sheet for instructions.

Case No. ISC: 19-00003
Plaintiff: LYNELLE HEATLEY
15 Breakers Blvd., Richmond, CA 94804
510-599-3837
LB_HEATLEY@yahoo.com
VS.
Defendant: Robin J. Reynolds
1633 Madison Ave. Redwood City, CA 94061
650-465-1935
Rob@Robreynolds.com

AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLAINT
STATE OF NEVADA, COUNTY OF WASHOE

I, the undersigned plaintiff, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada declare that the defendant(s) is (are) indebted to me in the sum of \$ 2492.60 (plus court costs) for the following reasons:
Property damage and expenses due to the defendant's water heater (861 Southwood Blvd. #18 Incline Village, NV 89451), flooding my units basement (#17) on November 8, 2017. Rob admitted his guilt & neglect, and promised to rectify my damages. He has made one payment to me of \$200 (January 2018).
I further declare, that I have demanded payment of said sum; that the defendant(s)

refused to pay the same and no part thereof has been paid; and to the best of my knowledge at the commencement of the action, jurisdiction exists in this township under NRS 73.010.
I acknowledge that I have received and read the document entitled "Small Claims Information" and will comply with the requirements therein.
The undersigned does hereby affirm that pursuant to NRS 239B.030, this document does not contain the social security number of any person.
I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

/s/ _____
Plaintiff/Declarant
Filed On: 3/14/19

ORDER
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, to the within-named defendant(s) : You are hereby directed to appear and answer the foregoing claim in the above-entitled court at INCLINE VILLAGE JUSTICE COURT, 865 Tahoe Blvd., Suite 301, Incline Village, Nevada. (775) 832-4100. For additional information, go to www.ivcbcourt.com. On Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 10:30 AM reset for Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 10:30 AM reset for Tuesday, July 23, 2019 at 10:30 AM

/s/ Frances Fash
Clerk of the Court
By /s/ _____
Deputy Clerk

(ALM May 22, 29; June 5, 12, 2019)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 19CIV02466
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: JEFFREY ALLEN GRANT filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
JEFFREY ALLEN GRANT to JEFFREY ALLEN CARVAJAL.
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: June 19, 2019, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
THE ALMANAC
Date: May 7, 2019
/s/ Jonathan E. Karesh
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM May 22, 29; June 5, 12, 2019)

Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email asantillan@pawebkly.com for assistance with your legal advertising needs. The deadline is Thursday at 5pm.

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

LETTERS

Our readers write

Tasting room inappropriate for Portola Valley

Editor:

It is a bit of a shock to read the article in the May 15 Almanac that the Planning Department of Portola Valley has been asked to approve a tourist attraction in the dead center of the town's cherished entry portal. A tasting room is a retail outlet. It depends on a continuing flow of visitors; it benefits the owner and not the town. We have all visited such businesses; customers come and go, drive in and out. Is this what we want? Does Portola Valley want this?

Portola Valley from its founding has sought to make its entry corridor, Portola Road, "open space" and only have commerce that directly serves its residents. The applicant for this wine tasting room, the Neely family, was denied the right to operate a wine tasting room in their 2013

CUP application to the town. They are now asking to reverse this decision.

What makes this tourist attraction and retail activity any more acceptable to the town today? We may well see in every hotel and motel room in Silicon Valley the in-room advertisement or at least a brochure listing of "an attractive wine tasting room in Portola Valley available to visit." Do we want that?

The Planning Commission and the Town Council should reject this inappropriate request. It is early in the planning cycle. Portola Valley homeowners should write or email the Planning Department now with their opinion on this application.

Ward Paine

Mapache Drive, Portola Valley

More awareness of 'rules of the road' needed

Editor:

Although I applaud Menlo Park's commitment to bicycle routes, I am concerned that

motorist knowledge of the green solid and stripe bike lanes is minimal.

I have witnessed many near misses, especially on intersections along Laurel Street and Alma Street and our two major cross town streets of Oak Grove and Ravenswood avenues. Cars treat the bike lanes as right-turn lanes and will move into the bike lanes even when there are three or more cars in line for a red light. Horns blast and hand gestures abound when I am the first in the lane with my right signal on but I see a bicyclist approaching and I stop (as one would stop for a pedestrian crossing). Turning right crosses over the bike lane where the bicyclist also has the right of way to continue straight through the intersection. A car would not cross over a right turn lane from the center lane to make a turn.

After my bicycle accident, I no longer feel safe riding in traffic. The striped bike lanes do not offer me any sense of security for either myself or fellow bicyclists. So although I am in favor of encouraging students to bike to school, I

believe there is a big safety issue here due to the lack of motorist knowledge of the meaning of the bike lane designations.

Perhaps a strong educational program is needed but I am not sure how to effectively reach all motorists. I checked the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition website (tinyurl.com/biketurns29) and was amazed at the instructions given here. I do not think it is common to see a bicycle pass a car on the left when the car is making a right turn. I checked the California Driver Handbook and it states that it is illegal to drive in a bicycle lane unless parking (where permitted), entering or leaving the roadway, or turning (within 200 feet of the intersection). I also looked at California Vehicle Code 21208: On a roadway with a bike lane, bicyclists traveling slower than traffic must use the bike lane except when making a left turn, passing, avoiding hazardous conditions, or approaching a place where a right turn is authorized. These conflicting instructions do not clear the confusion and certainly do not enhance the safety

of bicycle lane use.

The Menlo Park City Council is continuing to discuss the implementation of bike lanes. An important aspect of this evaluation will be understanding California Vehicle Code and teaching both motorists and bicyclists the rules of the road.

Sandra Bardas

Hoover Street, Menlo Park

For democracy's sake

Editor:

Eighty-six years ago (March 12, 1933) the German Reichstag granted Hitler the power to rule by decree. The results of that abdication of duty were horrific.

Congress is now on the verge of granting unrestrained power to President Trump. It's imperative that patriotic Republicans and Democrats in Congress band together and regain the authority and power they rightly have as an equal branch and stop the destruction of our democracy.

Don Barnby

Spruce Avenue, Menlo Park

What's on your mind?

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

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

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

Questions? Email Renee Batti at rbatti@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6528.

The Almanac

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Atherton



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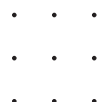


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- Approx. 7,064 total sq. ft.
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- Exotic Granadillo sustainable hardwood floors from Belize in most rooms
- Meticulously landscaped grounds with solar-heated pool, redwood groves, specimen trees, roses, and walking paths
- Detached 3-car garage with mezzanine storage
- Approximately 1.5 level acres



Steven Lessard

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Nigel Walters
916.757.5245
nigel.walters@cbtnorcal.com
CalRE#01424938



Pacifica | \$985,000
This beautiful, classic California ranch style home is situated in an impeccable location just about one third of a mile from Linda Mar Beach.

Grant Walters
650.867.0482
Grant@coastside.net
CalRE#01063248



Redwood Shores | \$1,499,000
Bright and spacious "Volante" floor plan with three bedrooms, three baths and about 1,950 square feet.

Nick Corcoleotes 650.207.2758
CalRE#00614270
Cam Thompson 650.302.2611
CalRE#01295759



Palo Alto | \$9,500
Custom built executive two-story 5br/3ba home for lease! Shown by appointment only. Contact me for more info.

Roxanne Sierra
408.410.7816
roxanne.sierra@cbtnorcal.com
CalRE#00973725



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Mountain View | \$4,000,000

This multi-unit property boasts a central location, two guest units and a main home. The modern front unit boasts hardwood floors, an open kitchen, impressive ceilings and dazzling lighting. Enjoy the fireplace and formal dining room. The baths and kitchen have been updated while the master suite enjoys a walk-in closet, tub and a walk-in shower. The studio offers a kitchen and pool access.

Camille Eder
650.464.4598
Camille.Eder@gmail.com
CalRE#01394600



Menlo Park | \$3,395,000

This four bedroom, three bath dwelling is ideally poised for everyday living and entertaining. A slate walkway and inviting entry door offers a warm welcome to the home. The gourmet kitchen boasts top quality appliances, a large center island and plenty of fresh white cabinetry. French doors from the adjoining family room open to the landscaped rear patio, barbecue area and lawn.

Gina Gonzales
650.804.1099
gina.gonzales@cbnorcal.com
CalRE#01860444



Mountain view | \$2,999,888

This stunning five bedroom, three and one-half bath home has, a finished basement, a tranquil wooded backyard and is in an excellent location.

Vicki Geers
650.269.9470
Vicki@vickigeers.com
CalRE#01191911



Menlo Park | \$1,995,000

577 9th Avenue - Beautiful and spacious four bedrooms and three and one half baths, located in the highly desirable North Fair Oaks neighborhood.

Veronica Kogler
415.317.3036
veronica.kogler@cbnorcal.com
CalRE#01788047