

The Almanac

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Magali Gauthier

Andy Kerr, the co-owner of Alice's Restaurant in Woodside, chats with a group of firefighters in front of the Loma Mar Store after offering them pastries on Aug. 25. Kerr has been making daily rounds delivering food to first responders and residents who haven't evacuated from the CZU August Lightning Complex fire zone.

Behind the lines of the CZU August Lightning fires

Andy Kerr of Alice's Restaurant delivers food to first responders and evacuation holdouts

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

With wildfire smoke blanketing the Santa Cruz Mountains in a hazy fog, Andy Kerr, co-owner of Alice's Restaurant, loads up his truck three times a day and ventures beyond the road closure

signs near his restaurant to deliver food to people who need it.

On Sunday morning, Almanac reporter Kate Bradshaw went with him behind the lines of the CZU August Lightning Complex fires as he brought breakfast burritos to volunteers stationed at the La Honda Fire Station, checked on La Honda

residents who have chosen to stay behind rather than evacuate their homes, and ventured through the smoke-choked and winding roads to Pescadero to bring provisions to coastside firefighters. Almanac visual journalist Magali Gauthier joined Kerr on Tuesday.

Kerr and his brother Jamie

both used to be volunteer firefighters with the Skylonda fire station, just down the street from Alice's. He described the wildfires as apocalyptic, agreeing with what fire officials have been saying over the past week: These fires are unprecedented.

"I was born and raised here and I've never seen anything like

this. This is 10 times worse than anything I've ever seen," he said.

As of press time Wednesday, the fires had burned 80,137 acres and were 19% contained. (See the story on Page 9 for more information.)

Kerr's first stop was the La

See **BEHIND FIRE LINES**, page 18

INSIDE

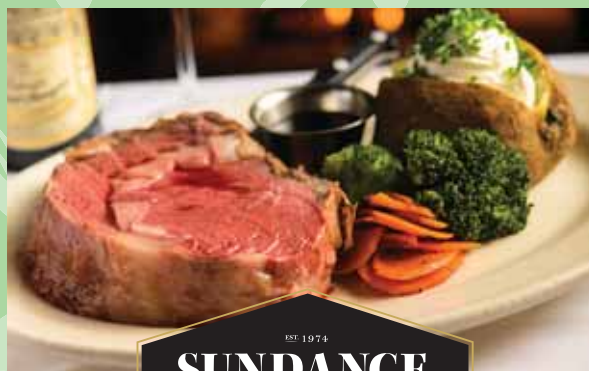
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Local News

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Magali Gauthier

Following protests over policing tactics and racially motivated use of force this summer, several bills tackling the issue are advancing in the state Legislature.

State lawmakers push bills to ban chokeholds, reform policing

By Gennady Sheyner

With less than a week left in the current legislative session, California lawmakers are rushing to advance a series of bills on police force, including ones that would ban officers from administering chokeholds and firing tear gas at protesters and others that would boost accountability by making more law enforcement records open to public disclosure.

The bills were sparked by recent outcries over high-profile cases of police brutality,

including the May 25 killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. One is Assembly Bill 66, a proposal by Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, D-San Diego, that would prohibit officers from firing energy projectiles or chemical agents such as tear gas to disperse protests or demonstrations. AB 66 would also require law enforcement agencies to report any incident in which a kinetic projectile or a chemical agent is fired at an individual, resulting in an injury.

Some of the Sacramento

proposals dovetail with local efforts to curb police force, including the Atherton Police Department's revision to its chokehold policy announced July 1, in the wake of Floyd's death. The department has banned use of chokeholds and carotid restraints, except in cases when an officer's life is endangered.

"The death of George Floyd on May 25 of this year while in police custody was tragic and disturbing, especially to those

See **POLICE**, page 10

Labor Day gatherings could halt progress in fighting coronavirus

By Embarcadero Media staff

Santa Mateo County reported 67 new cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday, bringing the county's total to 7,849. The death toll has stood at 130 since Monday. Fifty-two people are hospitalized as of Tuesday.

Santa Clara County reported 160 new cases of the coronavirus on Tuesday, bringing the total to 16,306. Nine more people have died since Saturday, raising the death toll to 233. There are 153 people hospitalized, 16 of whom are new. Data from both counties are incomplete due to a problem with the state's reporting system for communicable diseases.

State urges counties to give Labor Day guidance

California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said Tuesday that counties should begin issuing guidance for Labor Day weekend as soon as possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Ghaly warned that large family and social gatherings during the holiday weekend could dismantle the progress the state has made in recent weeks in curbing the spread of the coronavirus.

As the state has vacillated between reopening and closing certain medium- and high-risk industries, Ghaly said the most pertinent thing public health officials have learned since the pandemic began is the role

individual people play.

"This sneaky virus that we call COVID-19 doesn't take a rest," he said. "It will find every opportunity to transmit from person to person because that's what germs do."

Ghaly called the upcoming holiday weekend an "incredible moment" for the state and the country at large to prevent further spread of the virus and likened it to guidance the state issued regarding large gatherings for Memorial Day and the Fourth of July.

Thousands gathered on beaches throughout the state on Memorial Day weekend and flouted public health guidelines by not wearing masks or maintaining their distance.

As a result, the state partnered with local law enforcement agencies for the Fourth of July weekend to enforce public health guidance while local governments restricted public beach access.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has not yet indicated whether he will take similar measures for Labor Day weekend.

City managers in Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel-by-the-Sea, San City, Capitola and Santa Cruz have already indicated they will close local beaches during the holiday weekend from Sept. 5-7.

"We've learned and continue to learn that any activities or

See **CORONAVIRUS**, page 15

High school board still weighing whether to fire superintendent

SUHS more than five weeks into debate over Mary Streshly, who is opposed by teachers and principals

By Tyler Callister

Almanac Staff Writer

Teachers and principals in the Sequoia Union High School District have called for Superintendent Mary Streshly to be fired. But the members of the school board, after five closed-session meetings totaling nearly seven hours, have yet to make up their minds.

The only announcement thus far: The school board is seeking outside help in making a decision.

Almost a month ago, two letters

landed on the school board's desk: On July 31, administrators from five high schools in the district sent a letter calling for Streshly to be fired. On Aug. 3, the teachers union, Sequoia Union District Teachers Association (SDTA), did the same.

"It has become clear that the board made a mistake in hiring someone with no



Mary Streshly

prior experience managing a large and diverse school district like Sequoia Union," said SDTA president Edith Salvatore in the letter expressing "no confidence" in Streshly.

In response, the board held a series of closed-session meetings. In a regular meeting Aug. 5, a special meeting Aug. 11 and the most recent meeting on Aug. 19, the board privately discussed Streshly, all under the agenda item "superintendent's evaluation."

By the end of the Aug. 19 closed-session meeting, board president

Allen Weiner emerged with only this to say: The board is taking teachers' and principals' concerns about the superintendent seriously, and it will be starting an "independent information gathering process."

What exactly will that be? Weiner didn't say, citing confidentiality in personnel matters.

Without confirming any details about the information gathering process, Weiner said that the district would typically pay for outside consultants from the district's general fund.

Streshly's three-year contract is up for renewal, and the board first began discussing the superintendent's job performance at two closed-session meetings June 24 and July 27. Both the contingent of 22 administrators and SDTA have called for the board to not renew her contract.

Accusations against Streshly

Streshly faces a long list of strong accusations from staff

See **STRESHLY**, page 8

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Despite cost, Menlo Park decides to hold uncontested election

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

Even though only one candidate has filed paperwork to run for Menlo Park's District 5 City Council seat, a majority of the City Council members voted recently to hold an election anyway rather than appoint incumbent Ray Mueller to the position.

Mueller abstained from the Aug. 18 vote, Vice Mayor Drew Combs opposed it and the other three council members voted to hold the election.

Holding the unopposed election is expected to cost the city about \$14,500, according to city staff.

Under the state's elections code, if an open seat is uncontested, a city council can choose to appoint the eligible candidate to the office and cancel the election. Canceling the election means that write-in candidates won't be considered.

Write-in candidates still have to file paperwork with the city to prove their eligibility, but voters are not provided with a ballot designation or candidate statement that provides more information about the candidate.

While write-in candidates have from Sept. 7 to Oct. 20 to submit the required paperwork to qualify to run for office, vote-by-mail ballots are scheduled to be sent out starting Oct. 5. That means there will be a period of at least two weeks when voters will already be voting by mail before a write-in candidate could even submit his or her paperwork to run.

A joint letter to the council from the local advocacy coalition Menlo Together voiced support for holding an election.

"If there is no election, voters are not aware there could have been an election," said Menlo Together member and housing commissioner Karen Grove. "It may open up possibilities for engagement for people."

Combs said he felt that people interested in running for office should be able to follow the deadlines established by the county Elections Office.

"Deadlines matter," he said. "If you're interested in doing something, get up and do it. If you want to run for political office, there is a process. There is a deadline by which you get on the ballot. If that was not something that a person did, then I question the extent to which they're likely to be a



Michelle Le

Menlo Park Councilman Ray Mueller, currently serving his second term, is the only candidate for the city's District 5 seat. The council voted Aug. 18 to hold an election anyway.

strong candidate, or even a legitimate candidate, unless there is a major development with regards to the person who is running."

"I'm skeptical of the value when it's clear what the end result will be," he added.

Councilwoman Betsy Nash and Mayor Cecilia Taylor said they favored holding the election because this year is the first time that District 5 is having a district election.

District 5 covers Sharon Heights, Stanford Hills, and the portion of incorporated Menlo Park north of West Menlo Park between Santa Cruz Avenue and San Francisquito Creek, with its northeastern border zigzagging from Cotton Street to Middle Avenue to San Mateo Drive.

Mueller, who is completing his second four-year term on the council this year, pointed out that the code that allows unopposed candidates to be appointed is legitimate and exists to save taxpayers money.

"It's hard to imagine more desperate circumstances to save money," he said. "If you don't use that law now, when would you?"

This year, two of the five City Council seats are up for election: District 5 and District 3, which has three candidates: Max Fennell, Chelsea Nguyen and Jennifer Wolosin.

District 3 includes the neighborhoods of Vintage Oaks, Felton Gables, Linfield Oaks, part of the Caltrain line and a small square of Menlo Park west of El Camino Real bordered by Santa Cruz Avenue, Valparaiso Avenue and Crane Street. ■

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

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Portola Valley council candidate sees budget, housing as top issues

Angela Hey is one of four people running for two seats in November

By Julia Brown
Almanac Assistant Editor

If you boiled Angela Hey's campaign for a Portola Valley Town Council seat down to three things, they would be risk management, residences and relationships.

Hey, a 29-year resident and management consultant who has served on the town's Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee since 2013, is running for one of two council seats. The other candidates are Mayor Jeff Aalfs, a sustainability professional who was appointed to the council in 2011; Sarah Wernikoff, a Portola Valley School District volunteer with a background in e-commerce and nonprofit management; and Mary Hufty, an environmentalist, former town committee member and retired family physician.

Hey grew up in Menston, a village in the UK that she said in an interview Monday is similar in size to Portola Valley and has many of the same issues, including "how to keep the edge of the town rural while you've also got commuters living in it."

She got to know Portola Valley when a friend of hers began building a house in the Portola Valley Ranch neighborhood in 1984. Hey and her husband, computer scientist and entrepreneur John Mashey, bought their home in town several years later and found out after the fact that it had been designed by a student of Frank Lloyd Wright.

This is her first time running for an elected office.

"I feel that as an outsider having come from another country, I can look objectively at town problems," Hey said. "I'm a problem solver, I like to get things done and I like to communicate with people."

Hey added that as a current committee member (she previously served on the town's Sustainability Committee), she knows town staff and "I can bridge the council with town staff and listen to what people want and then come up with solutions."

As a council member, she said she would focus on risk management, relationships and residences.

"We've analyzed the risks really well by and large; we want to have some really good management of our risks,"

Hey said.

On relationships, she said she wants to bridge communication between different age groups and help the town "create meaningful events that help (people) build relationships." The Sequoias retirement community does a great job with seniors, Hey said, but there are also those who live on their own in town.

"I don't want people to be left out because they don't feel they belong here," she said. "There are also a lot of people who work here who need to be made to feel welcome."

As far as housing is concerned, she said the town should balance the need for additional housing with what people want it to look like, adding that Portola Valley's rural character should be retained. On her website, angelahey.com, she lays out her thoughts on a number of issues, housing among them, and says, "If we need to build very many dwellings by unavoidable state mandate, and we cannot encourage residents to build ADUs (accessory dwelling units), then the town should consider all options to prevent urban sprawl, which might even mean building higher than usual, or allowing existing homes to be divided into two or even three, providing the house doesn't look any different from its original plan from the road, and cars can be hidden." She sees no need for streetlights that could ruin views of the night sky, and said views of the hills off Portola Road should be maintained.

Hey believes concerns about fire danger with the Stanford Wedge housing project — a proposal by the university to build single-family homes and rental units on open space it owns along Alpine Road — could be mitigated with proper fire breaks.

"I would love for that land to go back to grassland with cows on it, but it's too far gone," she said. "I'm not against Stanford building on land they own, provided that it's done very safely."

Hey believes more people could participate in local wildfire prevention training programs and suggested they



Angela Hey

could be run online. She said the Woodside Fire Protection District has "done what they can" to mitigate risks, adding that it would be nice to have a grant to help low-income residents wanting to create a defensible space around their property.

She said the budget is the top issue, and that the town needs to use its money wisely given the coronavirus pandemic. The council in June adopted an interim budget using 2019-20 figures, and it plans to review and adopt a final fiscal year budget in September.

Asked about the formation and work of the Race and Equity Subcommittee, Hey said, "We have people in Portola Valley who are in the position to hire, invest in and encourage people of color or the disadvantaged." She added that companies should consider someone who "may not be the most obvious candidate" or who may need some job training.

If elected Nov. 3, Hey said she would bring "a spirit of exploration" to the council.

"Exploring ideas is a very good idea when you're looking for solutions to problems," she said. "I can help people get together and have town debates and discussions on issues so that people can really fully explore them."

Hey is the founder of Techviser, a boutique consulting firm that works with technology firms and investors, and previously worked for Bell Laboratories, AT&T and Palantir, among other companies, according to her LinkedIn. She also wrote a monthly technology column and ran a related blog for The Almanac's sister paper, the Mountain View Voice, from 2006 to 2013. As a volunteer, she also chairs the board of SpiritCare Ministry to Seniors, a Burlingame-based nonprofit serving the spiritual and emotional needs of seniors, and serves as vice president of the Imperial College Foundation.

Hey has a Ph.D. in management science from Imperial College (which was part of the University of London), a master's in mathematics from the University of Waterloo and a master's in mathematics from the University of Cambridge. ■

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Compromise on Woodside restaurant's outdoor seating

By Heather Zimmerman

The Woodside Town Council interrupted its usual August hiatus to hold a special meeting on Aug. 18, revisiting a request by the owners of Firehouse Bistro to create additional outdoor seating for diners.

The restaurant, located at 2991 Woodside Road, received approval in July to provide seating across five parking spaces, according to a staff report, but

town staff denied requests for seating in front of the restaurant due to social distancing concerns. A follow-up request to provide seating across nine parking spaces was denied due to staff concerns over impeding access for emergency vehicles.

The town holds an easement for the property to allow access for fire and other emergency services.

Town Manager Kevin Bryant said that after further discussion, staff was exploring a "soft

closure," using a chain to block vehicles from entering, with the idea that the chain could easily be removed by fire or other emergency personnel. Dining areas would still be protected by solid barriers, but arranged in a way that allows emergency vehicles to get through. Bryant likened it to the parklets that many other local cities have recently set up to allow more outdoor dining.

Fire Marshal Don Bullard of the Woodside Fire Protection

District confirmed the importance of ensuring that emergency vehicles could both access the back of the building and have a way to drive through the property without having to turn around, but ultimately he signaled openness to the idea of a soft closure.

After deliberation, the council agreed to direct staff to continue working with the interested parties toward a soft closure compromise.

The council also gave the OK

for Bryant to put out to bid a contract of up to \$40,000 for creek restoration work related to the Old La Honda Road bridge replacement project, and approved an amendment to an existing contract with consultants for \$41,504 for environmental consulting and construction engineering on the project. The amendment is needed to address updated environmental requirements

See **OUTDOOR DINING**, page 14

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STRESHLY

continued from page 5

In defense of Streshly

about her tenure, which began in 2017. Both the high school principals and SDTA have accused Streshly of mishandling the district's COVID-19 response, and having a history of lackluster leadership before that.

From the administrators' July 31 letter: "Dr. Streshly's inability to make decisions, communicate plans, or articulate a coherent vision has resulted in frustration and exhaustion at all levels of certificated management. These ongoing issues are not new, but have been exacerbated by the pandemic crisis such that our ability to meet the needs of students, families, and staff is jeopardized."

Meanwhile, the SDTA levied a list of 19 grievances against Streshly. In a resolution of no confidence in Streshly passed by the SDTA's Representative Council, the union said she has "consistently turned a blind eye to the issues of racial tensions" in the district. They also said she "mishandled the opening and development of the TIDE alternative school," referring to complaints made about TIDE Academy in Menlo Park, which opened in 2019.

After passing the no-confidence resolution at the SDTA's Representative Council, the group said, the resolution received 200 staff signatures in under 24 hours. The final number of signatures was 300, representing roughly 60% of the active membership of the union, the group said.

Twenty-two district administrators signed the letter against Streshly, including Menlo-Atherton High School Principal Simone Rick-Kennel and Woodside High School Principal Diane Burbank, as well as Assistant Superintendent Bonnie Hansen.

Allison Silvestri, the principal of TIDE Academy who was hired by Streshly last year, did not sign the administrators' letter.

While Sequoia Union High School District staff has pilloried the embattled superintendent, a collection of recent emails sent to Streshly suggests that many parents support her.

After the SDTA released its letter of no confidence, she responded directly to SDTA president Salvatore. Streshly then forwarded her message to district parents.

In response, at least 24 supportive emails were written to Streshly from district parents.

"All the parents that I have talked to truly believe in you, and what you stand for! The SDTA is being childish, self-serving and flat wrong in their way of thinking," wrote Mark Gallelo.

"As a parent of a graduate and a rising senior at Sequoia, and as a school attorney (with F3), I want to let you know that I have always been impressed with what you have accomplished at SUHSD. Your communication with and support of students and parents is exemplary," wrote Laurie Reynolds.

Paige Winikoff, who chaired the Menlo-Atherton Education Foundation campaign in 2019, said, "You have my full confidence. Thank you for your patient, tireless efforts to coordinate efforts to best serve our district."

Parent Patrick Wheeler, whose child is a junior at Carlmont High School, praised Streshly's navigation of the rocky COVID-19 landscape. "You have my wholehearted support. I am grateful to you and your entire team for all the hard work that has gone into devising what seems to be a thorough, realistic, well-balanced plan, which includes contingencies to adapt to the situation as it develops," he said.

Streshly became Sequoia Union High School District superintendent in July 2017, signing on with a salary of \$240,500 per year. ■

Email Tyler Callister at tcallister@almanacnews.com

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Remote Public Comments:

Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. The following email will be monitored during the meeting and public comments received will be read into the record.

Email: sharper@woodsidetown.org

PUBLIC HEARING

3. David and Kim Park ASRB2020-0005; GRAD2020-0001; XMAX2020-0003
2150 Stockbridge Ave. Planner: Sarah Filipe, Associate Planner

Presentation and consideration of a proposal, requiring Formal Design Review, to demolish an existing one-story single-family residence and two sheds; and, to construct a new two-story single-family residence, basement, vehicular tunnel, and other site improvements. The project requires a Maximum Residence Size Exception and a Grading Exception for grading cuts and fills exceeding 8 feet in height.

4. Town-wide ZOAM2020-0002
Town of Woodside Planner: Joseph Balatbat, Assistant Planner

Study Session to discuss Paved Area and Surface Coverage regulations for equestrian uses.

5. Town-wide ZOAM2020-0003
Town of Woodside Planner: Jackie Young, Planning Director

Study Session to reconsider building height and plate height, including building and plate height for Accessory Dwelling Units above garages

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING SARAH FILIPE, ASSOCIATE PLANNER; AT SFILIPE@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG OR JOSEPH BALATBAT, ASSISTANT PLANNER; AT JBALATBAT@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG OR JACKIE YOUNG, PLANNING DIRECTOR; AT JYOUNG@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG

Unlikely candidate aims for Atherton council seat

27-year resident Diana Hawkins-Manuelian running as 'concerned citizen'

By Tyler Callister
Almanac Staff Writer

A global pandemic. Wildfires. Environmental degradation.

These are top of mind for Atherton City Council candidate Diana Hawkins-Manuelian — but they weren't always.

"In the past, I didn't particularly follow politics (neither local nor national)," she said. "I have only recently become a news junkie when the world got so crazy."

The 27-year Atherton resident, who has thrown her hat in the ring for the town's City Council election coming Nov. 3, said she is a very unlikely person to be running for political office. "But here I am," she said.

Her candidate statement sums up her attitude: "I am not a



Diana Hawkins-Manuelian

politician but instead a concerned citizen who would like to provide a voice of reason, cooperation and direction."

While Hawkins-Manuelian lacks political experience, she has plenty of credentials. A doctorate from Harvard University Graduate School of Education, a postdoctoral degree from MIT, and professional consulting experience with companies like NBC, MTV, and Citibank. She currently serves on Atherton's Environmental Programs Committee, where she pursues her passion for environmental advocacy.

She's also a mother of three — all raised in Atherton. Like many mothers, Hawkins-Manuelian said she is currently helping her youngest son Marco, 14, navigate remote learning with schools closed due to COVID-19.

Like many Bay Area residents, she's feeling the effects of the CZU Lightning Complex fires. "This week I have been reeling from the impact of wildfires and

unhealthy levels of smoke," she said. "Our beloved forests are burning."

Hawkins-Manuelian said a close friend of hers lost everything in the fires, escaping only with his family and pets.

Her official candidate website, launched this week, lists fire safety among her first priorities. She said she is against Atherton leaving the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, a controversial proposal the City Council considered earlier this year.

Her other key priorities: support for the COVID-19 pandemic, emergency preparedness, and climate change. She said she hopes to see the town do more to make a difference in the battle against global warming.

"We are all in this together. We all breathe the same air and live on the same planet," she told the magazine Atherton Living recently. "The solutions will not only come from large cultural and systemic changes, but also from many individual changes

that we each make every day."

One Atherton-specific environmental idea she has: A program that "will help all residents and gardeners make the conversion to electric leaf blowers."

Hawkins-Manuelian is one of four candidates vying for two open seats on the City Council. She's up against two well-established incumbents: Vice Mayor Elizabeth Lewis and Councilman Cary Wiest, along with newcomer Christine David, a former Park & Recreation Committee chair.

This year will be Atherton's first contested election since 2014, with the current members on the council having been appointed.

Hawkins-Manuelian was born in Fort Hood, Texas, and moved around often, both in the U.S. and Germany, as her father was in the Army. She spent her middle school years in Monterey, and high school years in upstate New York. Her husband, George Manuelian, is an executive in

Amazon's Global Alliance team.

As a social scientist, her research interests have been in tech and media — particularly its effect on youth. She's a board member for America Offline, an organization that encourages young people to unplug from technology and engage in outdoor activities.

In her candidate statement, Hawkins-Manuelian emphasized that she would like to see more community togetherness in Atherton — where many affluent residents live behind tall fences.

"Like my fellow Atherton residents, I value my privacy but at the same time need community. In the last 20 years that I have lived in Atherton, I have never seen more people walking the streets than I have during quarantine. Things are changing in our world and we are all in this together." ■

Email Tyler Callister at tcallister@almanacnews.com

Tracking the CZU wildfires: 77,000 evacuees, 125 square miles

By Embarcadero Media staff

Since Aug. 15, fires in California have burned 1.25 million acres of land, an area larger than the state of Delaware, and triggered evacuations of more than 136,000 people, Cal Fire officials announced in a press briefing Tuesday, Aug. 25.

The nearest of those fires to the Peninsula and the third-largest in the state are the CZU August Lightning Complex fires, which began early on Aug. 16 and have expanded to 80,137 acres in San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties — an area equivalent to 125 square miles — according to the most recent Cal Fire report available before The Almanac went to press on Wednesday. Check AlmanacNews.com for updates and resources.

Initially, the fires expanded rapidly but over the past week weather conditions have become more favorable for battling the fires, with the marine layer of fog coming in from the coast to offer moisture at lower altitudes, fire officials said. The weather conditions also permitted helicopters to drop about 200,000 gallons of water each day on Monday and Tuesday, according to Operations Sections Chief Mark Brunton.

About 77,000 people have been ordered to evacuate, including about 4,600 San

Mateo County residents. Some people have not left their homes, and Cal Fire urged residents to leave so that fire crews do not have to rescue them and their cars will not block roads that firefighters need to keep clear to do their work.

People who have been evacuated should prepare to be away from their homes for weeks, potentially, Santa Cruz County Chief Deputy Chris Clark said in a recent media briefing.

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, who said she spent Tuesday seeing the emergency response to the fires firsthand, including an evacuation center at the Santa Cruz County fairgrounds, said during a press briefing, "I would say this is really a picture of government that is working very, very well for people."

The fires were 19% contained as of Wednesday morning and had destroyed a total of 538 structures, 11 of which were located in San Mateo County. More than 24,000 structures remained threatened by the fires.

The number of personnel fighting the fires has also grown substantially over the past week, with 1,697 personnel now fighting the fires, including fire crews from western U.S. states and the National Guard. National Guard members are in training and were expected to be deployed to fires throughout

the state by Aug. 26 to 27, Cal Fire staff said on Sunday evening.

Along with an unprecedented health crisis, California is currently experiencing wildfires of "historic" magnitude, Gov. Gavin Newsom said on Aug. 24. Newsom said at the press conference that there were 625 active fires — 17 of which constitute major fires, including

the LNU, CZU and SCU Lightning Complex fires in the greater Bay Area.

Eleven in-state COVID-19 testing labs, including Verily, have been directly impacted by the fires, Newsom said. As thousands of residents are being told by local fire authorities to evacuate, Newsom said evacuees have been moved into hotels and congregate shelters

that will require health screenings, as well as physical distancing and face mask protocols.

The past week also brought a precautionary evacuation warning for several areas of Santa Clara County in the Santa Cruz Mountain foothills, including Los Altos Hills and Palo Alto Hills which was lifted

See **CZU WILDFIRES**, page 10

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CZU WILDFIRES

continued from page 9

Tuesday afternoon after a second forecasted lightning storm largely spared the region.

One fire fatality has been reported: Tad Jones, a 73-year-old resident of Last Chance Road in Davenport. A 63-year-old woman was found dead in Felton, but she may have died of natural causes, officials said Wednesday. As of Tuesday evening, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office was investigating five missing person reports.

Control lines have been placed in several locations, including along Old Haul Road in Pescadero on the northern side of the fire, Brunton said Monday morning.

In San Mateo County, the evacuation areas as of Wednesday included most of the territory southwest of Highway 84 and Skyline Boulevard. The road closure at state Route 1 and state Route 84 has been moved north to state Route 1 at Tunitas



Kate Bradshaw

The Red Barn, a local landmark in the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, is obscured in smoke on Sunday, Aug. 23.

Creek, according to a Cal Fire press release.

Go to is.gd/czuevacmap for a map of current evacuation orders.

"This fire is historic for an area like San Mateo-Santa Cruz. We have not seen fires burn like this in this unit for many, many years, and those fires were much smaller than what we have in front of us today," said Ian Larkin, chief of the San

Mateo-Santa Cruz unit of Cal Fire on Aug. 20.

Cal Fire is asking that donations be made to charities and food banks, rather than to Cal Fire. The county Sheriff's Office warned residents to be aware of fraudulent GoFundMe campaigns and other scams by people claiming to be fire victims.

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District has deployed 13 personnel to help fight five fires

around California, according to a press release from fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman.

In addition to the CZU August Lightning Complex fires, where personnel are focused on protecting the town of La Honda, district personnel are also fighting several other fires across the state. Some personnel within the district, along with their families, have lost their homes or been evacuated themselves, he said.

Because the lightning ignited so many fires at once, the state's firefighting resources are stretched extremely thin, officials say. Typically, there would be 10 to 20 times the current number of personnel dispatched to fight a fire of this magnitude, Brunton said in an Aug. 21 press conference.

All San Mateo County parks and a number of Skyline-area preserves operated by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District have temporarily closed because of firefighting efforts and evacuations. It's not clear when

they will reopen. Half Moon Bay and nearby state beaches were also closed to visitors as of Aug. 22. The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office is asking that people stay away from the coastal area for their safety and the safety of personnel fighting the fires.

Spare the Air alert in effect

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has issued Spare the Air alerts through Friday, Aug. 28, because smoke from wildfires throughout the region has created unhealthy levels of air pollution.

The East Bay and Santa Clara Valley are expected to see the heaviest impacts from the smoke pollution, according to the air district. It is recommending that Bay Area residents stay inside if possible, with windows and doors closed until smoke levels subside.

Find out when a Spare the Air alert is in effect by visiting sparetheair.org calling 800-HELP-AIR (4357-247). ■

POLICE

continued from page 5

of us leaders in law enforcement," police Chief Steve McCulley said. "My sincere hope is that out of the tragedy something positive occurs."

San Mateo County Sheriff Carlos Bolanos said in June that "our policies and training explicitly prohibit the neck restraint used on Mr. Floyd." The Sheriff's Office released a graphic summarizing how its policies compare to the "8 Can't Wait" campaign, which was launched by the police-reform nonprofit Campaign Zero and advocates for cities nationwide to adopt a set of eight use-of-force policies. The Sheriff's Office claims it follows six of the eight policies, but does not mandate warnings before shooting or ban shooting at moving vehicles.

It trains its employees to provide a verbal warning when feasible, and "opportunity to comply" before using force such as tear gas, pepper projectiles, batons, TASERs and firearms, according to the Sheriff's Office.

AB 66 has already passed the Assembly and is expected to clear the state Senate this week before going to Gov. Gavin Newsom for signing, said Niccolo De Luca, director of Northern California for Townsend Public Affairs, a lobbying firm that assists Palo Alto with state legislation.

Assembly Bill 1196, authored by Assemblyman Mike Gipson, D-Carson, would ban officers from using a carotid restraint or a chokehold, as well as "techniques or transport methods that involve a substantial risk of positional asphyxia." That bill is also

expected to pass before lawmakers adjourn on Aug. 31 and move on to Newsom for his signature.

Other legislative proposals target police accountability. Senate Bill 776 by state Sen. Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley, would make more incidents that involve police use of force subject to the Public Records Request Act. The Skinner bill, which is expected to advance, would require law enforcement agencies to disclose records relating to incidents in which a peace officer was found to have engaged in prejudice or discrimination. It would also mandate agencies to retain records pertaining to complaints against any officer who resigns before an investigation is completed and make these records subject to public disclosure.

In introducing SB 776 in late June, Skinner argued that Californians have "the right to know who is patrolling our streets and who is given the authority to enforce our laws."

"We must not settle for officers who abuse authority in any way," Skinner said in a statement. "With expanded public access to police misconduct, SB 776 sends a clear message that racist, discriminatory and abusive officers are not welcomed in our communities."

Senate Bill 731, legislation from state Sen. Steven Bradford, D-Gardena, that would allow the state to decertify police officers who had committed serious crimes or who had been fired for a specified misconduct, is also expected to advance. SB 731 would disqualify individuals who had been convicted of certain crimes, including falsification of

records, bribery or perjury, from being employed as peace officers. It would also make all records related to the revocation of a peace officer's certification public and require that they be retained for 30 years.

Meanwhile, Assembly Bill 1299 would require agencies to notify the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training when an officer resigns or is terminated with a complaint, charge or an investigation pending. The bill from Assemblyman Rudy Salas, D-Bakersfield, would also require the agency to complete the investigation and report its findings to the commission.

The flurry of bills on police reform at a time when the state is in the midst of a lingering pandemic and a ferocious wildfire season reflects the growing public concern, both in California and across the nation, over police conduct and racial injustice. This week's shooting of Jacob Blake by a police officer in Kenosha, Wisconsin, was the latest episode to spur protests, demonstrations and, in some cases, looting to protest violence against Black people.

Last week, the Menlo Park City Council discussed creating a multiyear institutional bias reform process, starting with an equity review of each department, according to a staff report. The City Council, management staff and the city attorney will go through equity training, and the city will create an equity committee to draft a policy on institutional bias reform.

During the same Aug. 18 meeting, Mayor Cecilia Taylor and Councilwoman Betsy Nash presented their own set

of recommendations for how the council should organize its priorities. The first thing on their list is to "reform policing in Menlo Park so everyone can live their lives without fear." They asked the council to consider partnering with NOBLE, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement, to discuss police reform; to develop new public safety policies based on community input, data from the police department, police union, fire protection district and other reform initiatives; and to restructure the city budget to implement those reforms.

City staff agreed to review the council members' input and bring the matter back for further discussion in September.

Assembly Bill 2054, authored by Assemblywoman Sydney Kamlager, D-Los Angeles, would create a grant program to empower community organizations to provide emergency response for specified vulnerable populations. The bill, also known as the CRISES (Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems) Act, would require grantees to receive a minimum award of \$250,000 annually to provide response activities without the involvement of law enforcement officers.

In introducing the pilot program in the Assembly, Kamlager stressed that some community members, including those dealing with issues involving domestic violence, immigration status, mental health issues and substance abuse, want to see resolution but don't want to be "shamed or judged for their person or circumstances." The bill, she said, would "marshal

in an array of community organizations equipped to step in as first responders."

"Law enforcement is over-traumatized, undertrained in certain instances and sometimes unsympathetic to certain calls," Kamlager said at a recent hearing. "Currently we ask our emergency responders to shift the adrenaline, the tactic and the force that they use to apprehend an armed robber, for example, to a schizophrenic young man. That is unrealistic and it's unwise and can be fatal when those two people appear to be the same person in the eyes of law enforcement."

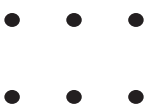
Concerns over police force and accountability are also at the forefront in Palo Alto, which has seen two recent incidents of violent arrests that have prompted lawsuits. Its City Council has recently formed four ad hoc committees, which are exploring changes to improve diversity, inclusiveness and police transparency. Councilman Eric Filseth, who is a member of the committee on transparency and accountability, noted Monday that police departments are "not architected to be public-records agencies" and suggested that the city take a broader look at its system for releasing public information.

"What do we have to do systematically if we want to make more of this or that kind of information available in a timely fashion?" Filseth said. ■

Kate Bradshaw and Tyler Callister contributed to this report.

Email Gennady Sheyner at gshyner@pawebkly.com

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Local group rescues hundreds of large animals from wildfires

By Maggie Mah
Special to The Almanac

The wildfires that have forced over 78,000 residents to leave their homes in the Santa Cruz Mountains have also put many horses, cows and other domestic animals at risk. Firefighters on the front lines, who must prioritize human life over everything else, are forced to leave the challenge of getting large animals out of harm's way to someone else. If

the animals' owners are unable to evacuate them, the consequences can be tragic.

This time, the San Mateo County Large Animal Evacuation Group (LAEG) was able to step in and change that scenario. The LAEG is an all-volunteer organization whose members locate animals weighing 300-plus pounds and transport them out of disaster situations. LAEG works closely with Cal Fire and other emergency organizations and is activated by the San Mateo

County Office of Emergency Services (OES).

On Aug. 18, as the CZU Lightning Complex fires exploded, OES ordered LAEG to begin deployment. Volunteers working in two- or three-person teams staffed 20 trucks and trailers, traveling the region's steep, narrow roads to reach animals in need of help. As of Aug. 25, a total of 1,472 animals — including horses, cows, goats, llamas, sheep, one long horned cow, a camel and a number of chickens and turkeys

— have been safely evacuated.

Founded in 2009, the group has between 30 and 40 active members at any one time. Prospective LAEG members must complete FEMA training required by San Mateo County OES, obtain a ham radio operator license, complete CERT training and be certified in CPR/first aid. The group holds monthly meetings and multiple hands-on training sessions throughout the year.

As containment of the fire grows, the pace of evacuations has slowed, but the group is now sheltering many of the animals at multiple locations on the coast and at the Cow Palace in Daly

City. LAEG is seeking financial help to cover the cost of food and supplies and needs volunteers to assist in caring for the animals until they can be reunited with their owners.

The LAEG is accepting donations at smclaeg.org. For volunteer information, go to smclaeg.org/contact-us. If you have animals needing evacuation, call 650-450-0516.

For information about items needed at the Cow Palace, go to cowpalace.com. For updates on livestock evacuations, visit the Cow Palace Facebook page titled Cow Palace Livestock Evacuation Center. ■

Dr. Jose Antonio Aguilar, M.D.

December 17, 1926 – July 19, 2020

Dr. Jose Antonio Aguilar (Tony), husband to the late Mary Jane Aguilar and current wife Gerd Holmsen, father to Carlos Aguilar & Martha (Aguilar) O'Neill, grandfather to Morgan & Mary Jane O'Neill, and Peter, Matt and Emily Aguilar, step-grandfather to Andrew and Madeline Knauer, passed away on Sunday July 19, 2020 in Park City, Utah.

Born in Brilliant, New Mexico on December 17, 1926 to Florencio Aguilar of Spain and Maria Concepcion Miranda, a native American Indian and last of her tribe, Tony was one of four children. His siblings were Joe, Esther & Johnny. Due to his parent's heritage, he was a first generation Mexican of which he was very proud.

His father was a coal miner who died of black lung when Tony was only a few years old. His mother supported the family by working her way up the coal mine trail, cooking for the miners. The family's first house was a one room adobe structure. They made the bricks and built the house themselves.

Tony spent most of his young life in Raton, New Mexico. The family eventually settled in Colorado Springs, where his mother opened a restaurant, Maria's Mexican Food & Steaks in order to support her family.

During World War II, Tony attended Louisiana State University and spent a year in the Air Force. After the war, he continued his education at The University of New Mexico. Upon graduation, he enrolled at the Medical School at Colorado State. He supported himself through college and medical school by boxing professionally, boasting only a single loss and winning a Golden Gloves Title.

In Medical School he met Mary Jane Boles, his wife of over 4 decades. He and Mary Jane married and moved to Montreal, where they attended McGill University Neurological Institute. After passing the boards in Neurosurgery, Tony retired from professional boxing. Tony and Mary Jane settled in Atherton, CA in 1964.

Tony had a long and distinguished career in Neurosurgery, most notably as a pioneer

and specialist in Parkinson's Disease. He worked at UCLA, Mt. Zion Hospital in San Francisco, Alexian Brothers in San Jose, and taught brain surgery at Stanford University, as well as serving on their Minority Admissions Board. He subsequently opened his own private

practice in East San Jose. In his private practice he would often accept a crate of fresh fruit or a handmade shirt in lieu of payment. He was a man of the people, and his priority as a doctor was to help others, whether they had the ability to pay or not.

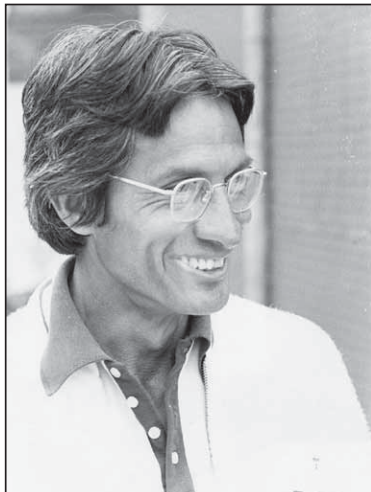
He and Mary Jane traveled all over the world, giving lectures and presenting papers to the global medical community. Upon retirement, they moved to Tucson, AZ, until Mary Jane's passing in 1998.

Tony was an athlete. He ran, skied, cycled, hit his speed bag daily, and most of all played tennis, his favorite pastime. He would play tennis with anyone and everyone, young and old. He loved playing with the kids at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton. Throughout the years, he could be seen running laps around the polo field to stay in shape. His tennis game improved to the point that he earned a ranking in Northern California in the senior categories. He played every day into his 90's, his reflexes at the net forever cat-like, only fitting for a man nicknamed "El Gato".

He often told us how fortunate he was to find and marry Gerd Holmsen in 2003. He and Gerd settled in Park City, Utah near her daughter Tania (Peter) Knauer where he was a happy member of their family for 17 years.

In addition to his many athletic endeavors, Tony loved the moon, the winter solstice, dancing, listening to jazz, playing his harmonica, and his two-hour long breakfasts. Tony was brilliant, funny and often unpredictable, which only added to his appeal. Tony will be missed by all that knew and loved him!

Due to COVID-19 there will be an immediate family only celebration of his life at this time. The family hopes to have another celebration in the future with his friends and loved ones.



OUTDOOR DINING

continued from page 8

by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and design changes discovered to be necessary after the bridge's facade was removed.

The meeting closed with District 1 Councilman Daniel Yost announcing to the council that he would not be running for reelection. Yost had not filed papers to run by the Aug. 7 deadline, triggering an extension of the filing deadline for

his seat. The deadline was also extended for District 5, where Councilman Tom Livermore is not running for reelection.

Yost has endorsed Jenn Wall, who currently serves on the Planning Commission and is running for the District 1 seat. John Carvell, vice chair of the Architectural and Site Review Board, is running for District 5. Both seats are uncontested. ■

Email Heather Zimmerman
at hzimmerman@almanacnews.com

Nancy Tang Francis

March 21, 1936 – July 8, 2020

We celebrate the life of Nancy Tang Francis, age 84, loving wife, mother, daughter and sister, who lived a full and wonderful life with her family and friends in both the Far East and her adopted country of the United States. She passed away from complications of stroke at her residence in Palo Alto on July 8, 2020. Nancy was surrounded by her children, friends and caretakers during her final days.

Born in 1936 in Wuxi, China, Nancy attended high school in the United States. Nancy graduated from the University of California, Berkeley where she met the love of her life, Arthur Berrill Francis. Married in California in 1957, the couple lived in the Far East until 1980 when they put permanent roots in the Bay Area. The couple enjoyed many hobbies together including traveling, tennis, and gardening. During her later years, Nancy enjoyed bicycle rides with her "Biker Gang", trips to Gamble House Gardens, winning at Mahjong, socializing with her friends at the Vi and going out to dinner with her companion, Bruce.

She is survived by her children Sabrina and Brian, her grandchildren Clayton, Arthur, Brandon, Nathan and Nolan, and her siblings Constance Fong and Oscar Tang.

Nancy lived a wonderful and fulfilling life, and left this world in peace and happiness to join Arthur and her family in eternity.

Due to covid restrictions on travel/gathering, there will be a service at Skylawn in about 5 months time.

In lieu of flowers, if you wish to honor Nancy, please make a donation to Gamble Gardens in Palo Alto, or a charity of your choice.

For more information, please contact Sabrina Francis Hodgett, 137 Heather Dr., Atherton, CA 94027.



PAID OBITUARY

PAID OBITUARY

CORONAVIRUS

continued from page 5

actions that increase mixing among people who haven't been together in quite some time creates a transmission risk," Ghaly said.

Schools allowed to reopen in person for small groups

Small groups of special education students could soon return to school in person under new, much-anticipated guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health on Wednesday.

The guidance, which applies to public and private schools as well as nonprofits, child care programs, recreation camps, before- and after-school programs and youth groups, allows schools in counties that are still on the state's watchlist — meaning their schools can't fully reopen yet — to serve select students in "controlled, supervised and indoor environments."

Schools do not need approval from their local health departments to provide this small-group, in-person instruction, the Department of Public Health said.

School districts should prioritize bringing back students with disabilities who need services such as occupational therapy or behavioral support, an FAQ states. Schools can also prioritize English learners, students at higher risk of further learning loss or not participating in distance learning, students at risk of abuse or neglect, foster youth and students experiencing homelessness.

Under the state Public Health Department's guidelines, students can only return in stable groups of no more than 14 children and no more than two adults, who stay together for all activities and avoid contact with people outside of their group while at school. The cohorts must remain separate for activities such as art, music and exercise, and should have their own classroom space. Students can, however, receive one-to-one specialized services from an outside service provider that's not part of the cohort.

Cohorts can be smaller than 14 or can be divided into subgroups, as long as the 14-to-2 ratio is not exceeded. The groups should be created based on student needs and kept as small as possible to limit the risk of spreading the coronavirus, the Department of Public Health said.

Within a cohort, physical distancing between children "should be balanced with developmental and socio-emotional needs of the age group," the guidance reads, while adults must

socially distance "to the greatest extent possible," the guidance states. Both adults and students must wear face coverings.

If staff from different cohorts need to meet, they should do so remotely, outdoors or in large spaces such as gymnasiums or multipurpose rooms, with the windows open and staying at least 6 feet away from one another.

Local school officials, in collaboration with local health departments and school staff, should determine how many cohorts a campus can safely accommodate to avoid interactions between groups but in general, the number of students on a given school site should not exceed 25% of the school's enrollment size or available capacity, the FAQ states.

The new guidance is meant to supplement, not supersede existing public health directives for schools, child care, day camps, youth sports and higher education institutions.

It also applies to elementary schools that haven't received a waiver from their local public health department to reopen. San Mateo County has not yet issued any reopening waivers, according to Patricia Love, administrator of strategy and communications for the San Mateo County Office of Education.

Comprehensive COVID-19 coverage

View interactive charts tracking the spread of the coronavirus in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties online at paloaltoonline.atavist.com/tracking-the-coronavirus. Find a comprehensive collection of coverage on the Midpeninsula's response to the new coronavirus by The Almanac and its sister publications, Palo Alto Online, and the Mountain View Voice, at tinyurl.com/c19-Almanac.

CalMatters and Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

Eveleen Katherine Lopez

April 26, 1935 – August 16, 2020

Eveleen Lopez died peacefully on August 16, 2020. She was born in San Francisco to the late Lawrence L. Johnston and Ruth Johnston. Eveleen had an idyllic childhood in Menlo Park and spent many weekends exploring the Mission District while visiting her beloved Grandparents in San Francisco. Eveleen was a graduate of Sacred Heart, Atherton, and



College of Notre Dame, Belmont, where she met her beloved husband, Carlos Lopez, a student at Santa Clara University. Eveleen enjoyed playing bridge, getting a good bargain, her students at St. Raymond, traveling with her family and friends, and a good bourbon on the rocks "light on the rocks please." Eveleen was an amazing mother to Lawrence (Janet) Lopez, Andrea Lopez, and Elena Lopez. She was a loving Grammy to Tim Lopez, Jill Lopez, and Jimmy Lopez. Eveleen was predeceased by her husband, Carlos, and her brother Lawrence P. Johnston. In addition to her children and grandchildren, she is survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws in both Chile and California. We would like to give a very special thank you to her wonderful caregiver, Kris, who made her life so peaceful in the last year.

Donations may be made in memory of Eveleen Lopez to Pathways Foundations — <https://pathwayshealth.org/ways-to-give/> or St. Francis Center — <https://stfranciscrwc.org/>.

A celebration of life will take place at a later date.

PAID OBITUARY

Minako "Pat" Kawauchi

October 21, 1918 – August 11, 2020

Minako "Pat" Kawauchi passed away peacefully in her sleep Aug. 11, 2020, in Savage, Minn., at 101 years old. Born Oct. 21, 1918, to Kanichi and Yanayo Matsunami in Sacramento, Calif. Preceded in death by parents; husband Takuo; sisters, Em (Bob) Nakadoi, Alice (Jack) Kaya, Rose (Ed) Ishii and Doris (Amile) Okasaki; brothers, Joe (Frances) Matsunami, Don Matsunami, Masaru Matsunami and Manuel Matsunami; son-in-law George King. She is survived by daughters Karen (Thomas) Ryan and Lois King; granddaughters Alissa Ryan and Megan Ryan; sister Natchi (David) Furukawa; brother Juichi (Emiko) Matsunami; sisters-in-law Tomoko Matsunami and Doris Matsunami; numerous nieces and nephews.



Pat lived an extraordinary life in nearly 102 years. She grew up on a farm with Japanese immigrant parents as one of 10 children. She graduated from Sacramento Junior College, where she met her husband, Tak. They married after the U.S. Army drafted him during World War II, and she earned special dispensation to follow him around the country instead of joining her family in an internment camp. In her life, she's worked as a doctor's assistant, at a bindery and envelope company, doing seamstress work and more. But she spent the heart of her life in Menlo Park, Calif., where she and Tak built a house in 1959 and raised their two daughters. They started an insurance business and were devoted members of the Japanese American community, assisting new immigrants and helping to establish the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple. Pat was known for her strong work ethic and thriftiness. Her garden overflowed with vegetables and flowers, and she shared her talent for cooking and baking with friends and family, hosting an annual Japanese New Year party. She loved chocolate and word search puzzle books.

When her first granddaughter was born, Pat remarked how she hoped she'd live long enough to see her go to Kindergarten — She attended both of her granddaughters' college graduations.

Inurnment at Alta Mesa Memorial Park — Los Altos, Calif., at a later date.

PAID OBITUARY

Katharine "Kitty" Moore

July 10, 1925 – August 17, 2020

Mrs. Katharine (Kitty) Moore died on August 17, 2020. She was 95 years old.

The daughter of Presbyterian Medical Missionary parents, Mrs. Moore was born in Shimran, just outside of Tehran, Persia (present day Iran). Her early education took place in missionary schools in Persia with furlough years in Beirut, Geneva and in the United States. In 1939, under the shadow of war in Europe, she returned permanently to the U.S. She went to Northfield School for Girls and matriculated to Smith College, where she graduated in 1947. In 1948 she married Roswell Moore, who later entered the ministry of the Episcopal Church. They lived in New York state and New England before coming to Menlo Park, California in 1968.

Mrs. Moore was involved in the activities of Trinity Parish in Menlo Park. For decades she helped run the yearly rummage sale at Trinity Parish, shopped for seniors and volunteered in two elementary school libraries. She was also an avid supporter of the athletic programs of her children and grandchildren, in particular, she acted as the "team manager" of the Menlo-Atherton boys soccer team for 43 years, being inducted into the M-A Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014.

Mrs. Moore is survived by a daughter, Mary, three sons, Thomas, Andrew and Jonathan, and four grandchildren. She was predeceased by a son, Roger.

Checks can be mailed to:
The Roger Moore Scholarship Award Fund
c/o the M-A High School Booster Club
565 Middlefield Road, Atherton, CA 94027
or Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue (GGLRR)
www.labrescue.org

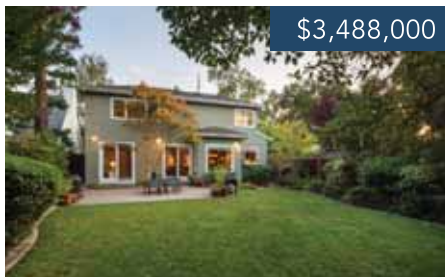


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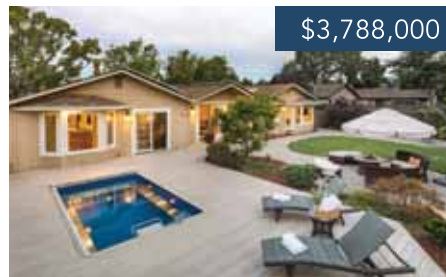
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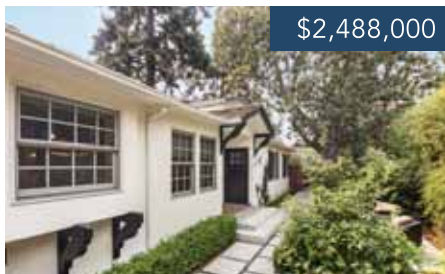
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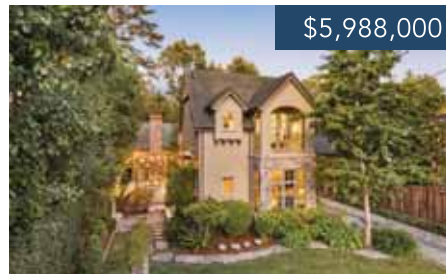
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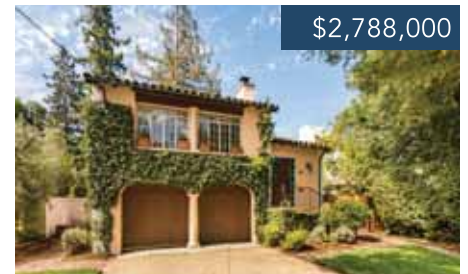
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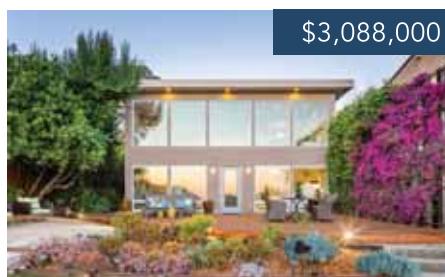
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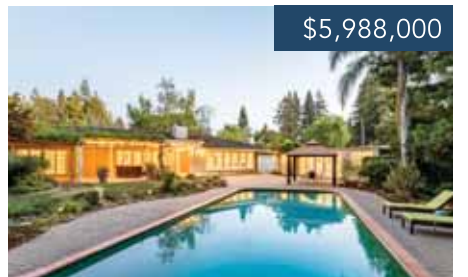
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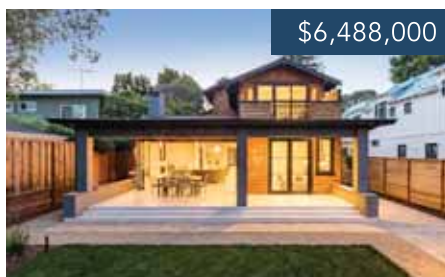
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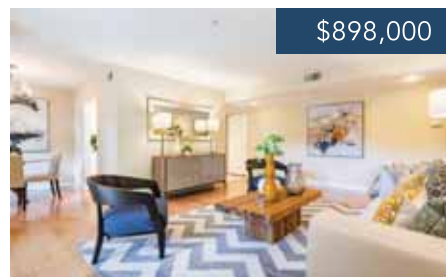
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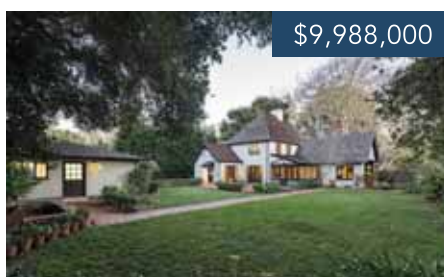
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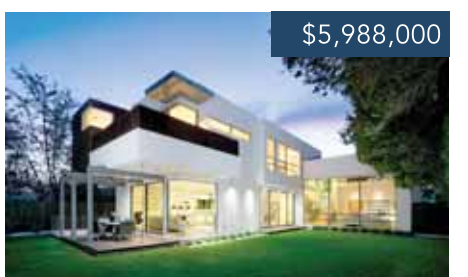
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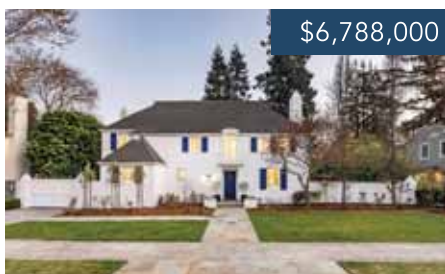
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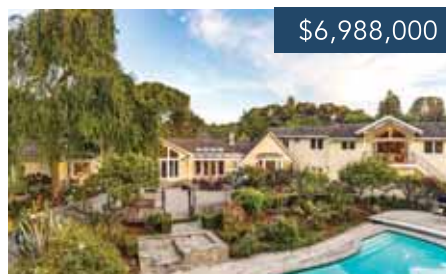
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Magali Gauthier

Andy Kerr pets Carole Williams' dog after delivering meals to her in La Honda on Aug. 25.

BEHIND FIRE LINES

continued from page 1

Honda Fire Station. There, he delivered 13 breakfast burritos to a grateful, if somewhat weary, group of volunteers. He promised to return at lunch with 20 of the restaurant's famous Harley burgers.

While some food donations have come directly from Alice's, he said, a number of community members and loyal patrons of Alice's have donated money to help the restaurant feed first responders and firefighters, enabling them to provide at least 200 meals since the fires began. By Sunday evening, Aug. 23, the restaurant had raised about \$25,000, according to a Facebook post.

On other days, Kerr also makes meal deliveries to seniors through Great Plates Delivered, a FEMA-authorized program in California in which restaurants provide meals to seniors who are encouraged to stay at home because of their heightened risk of developing complications from COVID-19. Some seniors have chosen not to, or are unable to, evacuate and have continued to receive meals from Kerr.

While at the La Honda Fire Station, one local resident stopped by and gave Kerr a piece of mail to send out from the other side of the road closures.

Kerr's next stop was to deliver provisions to the household of La Honda resident Carole Williams.

"It's eerie," she said. The family's car was packed, and they remain ready to go if the conditions worsen, she said. But they also know that once they leave the evacuation zone, they won't be let back in.

In the meantime, they're doing what they can behind the lines to help. Williams' family members spent Saturday fighting fires in Loma Mar and are keeping an eye on their neighborhood to guard against looters. With neighbors' permission,

she removed signs that some people had put on their doors when they evacuated, telling firefighters that they had left and thanking them for their efforts. The signs made their homes potential looting targets, Williams said.

Her son, Colin, told The Almanac that he and some friends from rural county areas had avoided the front lines but volunteered their time and efforts to help fight the fires over the weekend. They brought out trucks with hundreds of gallons of water and pumps. "We were there if they needed us," he said.

"Knowing how spread out Cal Fire is, it's worrisome. ... I understand what it's like to be short-handed. You want to be there in case you can be helpful," he said. "If a fire is ripping through your hometown, the last thing you want to do is sit outside of it and think about it."

Officials from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office have said they are patrolling for potential looters.

After making the delivery at the Williams' home, Kerr moved on to his next destination: the fire station in Pescadero. He deftly navigated the many turns of Pescadero Creek Road, which was covered in a thick white haze. The smoke made it difficult to see farther than about 50 feet ahead — far worse conditions than he'd

experienced the previous day, when the road was clear, Kerr said.

As he drove, he talked about the differences between rural and urban life, and about how different approaches to fire-fighting are manifesting in the community.

Not relying on authorities for help is a way of life for many people in the far rural stretches of the county, he said. People are used to relying on their neighbors and friends instead.

Many families have been in the area for generations — some descended from the area's original homesteaders — and feel deep ties to their homes and land. Some are taking matters into their own hands, felling trees and clearing debris on the ground to protect their properties.

If you think about how fires were fought a century ago, Kerr said, they were an all-hands-on-deck kind of deal. Everyone dropped what they were doing to step up and help.

In an area where the local fire brigade is volunteer-run, this community's can-do ethos may be making it even harder for locals to leave their beloved homes to the professionals — even as firefighters battling this blaze have consistently, and for good reason, urged untrained locals to stay safe by staying out of the evacuation zones.

Later that night, officials had to rescue six people in San Mateo County who had gone back into the evacuation zone to check on their properties, said Sgt. Sal Zuno of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office on Monday morning.

Kerr arrived at the fire station in Pescadero, where he delivered food to three firefighters there. They thanked him profusely for the previous night's delivery: ice cream sundaes, which which were devoured with gusto by the exhausted crew, they said.

In downtown Pescadero, Quinn Alexander, who works at Alice's, said he splits his time between La Honda and Pescadero, but hadn't left the area yet. He said he wanted to stay

to defend his house, but would leave if the fires got closer. He said he'd received a warning that the power would be shut off if fire breached a nearby ridge.

Rather than go back on smoke-filled Pescadero Creek Road, Kerr took Stage Road toward San Gregorio (stopping briefly to let this carsick reporter out — an occupational hazard of note taking on curvy roads).

The next stop was the San Gregorio General Store, where owner KC Hatcher is running the only store within about 10 miles on the coastside.

"It's been a little stressful," she said.

Since COVID-19 started, Hatcher's family reconfigured the store and is shifting its focus from tourists to providing essential items to locals. Since the fires started, they've been offering free sandwiches, baked goods and coffee to first responders and animal rescuers.

She described another challenge that some coastside residents have been experiencing as a result of the fires. Some residents live in areas that are not subject to evacuation orders, yet the roads they live along, and have to use to access critical services, are closed. She said she was planning to pick up a delivery of groceries she had ordered from Half Moon Bay because

it wasn't clear that the delivery driver could get to her.

From San Gregorio, Kerr headed back to Alice's, where he planned to load the truck back up for the lunchtime delivery.

Back at the restaurant, things felt surprisingly normal, despite the heavy smoke in the air.

Taylor Sweeney, a young Alice's employee who lives down the street from the restaurant, said her parents were keeping a close eye on the evacuation orders, but hadn't received any notices to leave yet.

A few customers came for brunch — taking advantage of the restaurant's reputation for staying open through trying circumstances — while others were there for a short respite from the chaos the fires have wrought.

In the restaurant's hazy parking lot, Suzanna Pierce said she lives near Felton in Santa Cruz County and had evacuated multiple areas, first leaving her home for Scotts Valley, and then going to Soquel, where she's been camping. But the smoke was bad there, too.

"We're surrounded by fires," she said. ▀

Magali Gauthier contributed to this report.

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tour de Menlo fundraiser goes DIY

With the coronavirus pandemic still a threat, Menlo Park's traditional bike ride fundraiser to raise college scholarship funds for local high school students won't take its usual shape this year.

Instead, it will offer a "Do it Yourself" format, inviting local cyclists to create their own routes, or follow a suggested one, between the dates of Sept. 4 and 13. There won't be support stations or lunch, or even arrows to mark the course, as in years past, but organizers will provide maps offering 35, 45 and 65-mile routes, which will be available online at tourdemenlo.com. Event organizers will also share the results of participants who log their ride on the Strava app.

The organizers are asking for \$25 to register and \$50 to get a T-shirt with registration. Proceeds provide grants to local nonprofits and need-based scholarships administered by the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation for local students at Menlo-Atherton, Eastside Preparatory, East Palo Alto High and Sacred Heart Prep schools.

The fundraiser is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation and The Almanac, as well as Facebook, Sutter Health Palo Alto Medical Foundation and SBM Fitness.

Free entrance to Flood Park

People looking to spend time outdoors at Flood Park will now no longer have to pay a \$6 vehicle entrance fee.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Aug. 4 to eliminate the fee, which, according to San Mateo County Parks Director Nicholas Calderon, was a barrier to some people using the park.

The 21-acre county park located in Menlo Park, which mainly serves residents from Menlo Park, North Fair Oaks, East Palo Alto and Redwood City, has playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields and grassy areas.

The park served more than 100,000 visitors and generated about \$80,000 in entrance fees during the 2018-19 fiscal year, according to the resolution the supervisors approved.

—Kate Bradshaw



Magali Gauthier

A small fire burns in the Loma Mar area of the CZU August Lighting Complex fires on Aug. 25.

Good intentions, hard consequences

Taking a closer look at how Proposition 15 would impact local schools

By Jennifer Bestor

GUEST OPINION

How is it that, with the very best of intentions, we charge the poor so heavily for their own opportunities?

The opportunity? Our least advantaged local school district may get as much as \$720 per student. The price? It has to give up its claim to its fastest growing source of stable, reliable funding — commercial property tax.

Last week The Almanac's sister paper, the Palo Alto Weekly, kindly published my guest opinion on Proposition 15 in Santa Clara County. Proposition 15's proponents had wowed the Board of Supervisors with the promise of \$500 million for county and city services, and untold good for local schools. No one apparently realized that the proposition's mechanics would transfer the majority of its school-allocated funding out of the county, from Gilroy to Palo Alto. Half a billion dollars would leave, less than \$140 million would remain. Santa Clara County property tax would fund school districts in counties with lower costs of living and those that happen to have lower allocations to education.

Neighbors asked me, "Is it the same here in San Mateo County?" Yes. Proponents project \$770 million of new commercial property tax revenue. That represents a 140% increase on top of this year's estimated \$550 million base. Half or more of the projected \$770 million of additional revenue would leave our high-cost, high-allocation-to-education county and \$270 million would remain for local governments.

Most local school districts — which only get \$200 of "basic aid" from the state and whose property taxes parallel the high local cost of living — would get the same \$100 per student as Palo Alto and Mountain View. That's \$1 million for Sequoia Union High School District and \$500,000 shared between the elementary districts of Las Lomitas, Menlo Park City, Woodside and Portola Valley. Redwood City Elementary — a surprise entry into the ranks of the basic-aids last December on the back of strong commercial property tax growth — would get somewhat over \$100.

The state-funded Ravenswood school district would get \$720.

As good as \$720 sounds, that would be out of the \$15,000 of new revenue per student collected there. Local areas with the highest percentage of disadvantaged students also have the heaviest concentration of commercial-industrial property. They are the major net contributors to the proposition's new state education fund. Since Facebook's arrival in 2011, commercial property value has driven double-digit increases in Ravenswood's local property tax, growing it from \$3 million in 2011 to \$14 million this year.

The majority of Proposition 15's new revenue — 75% — comes from changing all commercial property to a market-value based system. (Proponents' research only shows 25% of the new revenue coming from reassessment of properties with base valuations before 1990 — closing the Proposition 13 'loophole.') By changing the rules, roughly twice as much can be charged. According to the USC PERE model used by proponents, Facebook — having moved in less than 10 years ago and already the highest property tax payer in Ravenswood — would face dramatically increased taxes to keep up with the market values it is fueling itself.

Collecting more from Facebook might be more attractive if the money stayed local — and didn't cannibalize future school property tax revenue from commercial appreciation and new construction.

But children in the Ravenswood district will only see \$3 million more spent on their education — of the \$82 million more expected from commercial properties in their district. They get 30% now — though, sadly, will only benefit once their local property tax exceeds the state's funding formula. Sweeping all future appreciation and construction into the state fund ensures Ravenswood will never enjoy the stability of a basic-aid district and will never see funding proportionate to local costs.

In Menlo Park, it's easy to see "closing the loophole" as reassessing the SRI campus and Stanford land along El

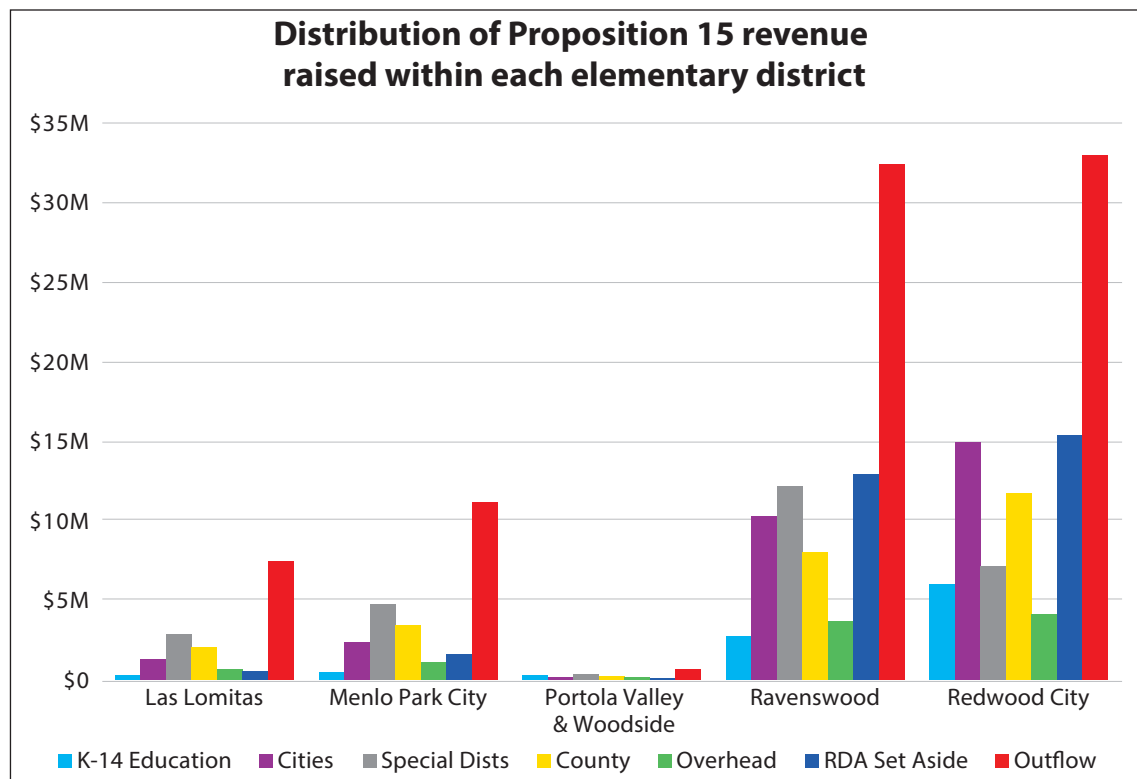


Chart based on USC PERE study, 2020-21 San Mateo County property tax rolls, and statewide LAO estimates. RDA Set Aside represents funds, controlled by redevelopment legislation, that will probably become outflow.

Camino and Sand Hill Road. And to shrug. That shouldn't have much immediate economic impact. And it would raise funding for the city, the local fire and harbor districts, and the county. SRI might even be turned into housing. Menlo Park City, Las Lomitas and our western neighbors would remain basic-aid districts, fed by expensive residential properties.

But if the proposition passes, pay attention instead to the schools in Ravenswood and Redwood City, Brisbane and South San Francisco. That's where it will become clear whether the disadvantaged kids in our high-cost county are shouldering the invisible costs behind a statewide education fund.

Jennifer Bestor is a longtime Menlo Park resident who has served as the volunteer research director for Educate Our State, a grassroots, statewide, parent-led organization committed to a high-quality public education for all students (educate-ourstate.org/impact). She can be reached at jenniferbestor@yahoo.com.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

CITY ARBORIST
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 284865
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
City Arborist, located at 2282 Sharon Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025; Mailing Address: 325 Sharon Park Dr. #646, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
HENRY ARDALAN
2282 Sharon Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
AZAR DALE
2282 Sharon Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: Married Couple.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above 4/10/1997.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 5, 2020.
(ALM Aug. 21, 28; Sep. 4, 11, 2020)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF
JODI ANN VALENTI
CASE NO. 20-PRO-00971
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: JODI VALENTI a.k.a. JODI ANN VALENTI
A Petition for Probate has been filed by JACQUILINE VALENTI in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.
The Petition for Probate requests that JACQUILINE VALENTI be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
The Petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal

representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court on 09/30/2020 at 9:00 A.M. in Dept. 28 located at 400 COUNTY CENTER, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063, SOUTHERN BRANCH.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner: SETH E. WATKINS, LAW OFFICE OF SETH E. WATKINS, 1771 WOODSIDE RD., REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061, Telephone: (650) 367-1771 ext. 1402
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Artscene

PEOPLE AND **PERFORMANCES** IN **ARTS** AND **ENTERTAINMENT**

Breathing life into wire: Kristine Mays' sculptures 'emerge from the scenery'

Filoli hosts
exhibition by San
Francisco artist

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

Filoli House and Garden has always been a welcome respite from the frenetic pace of Silicon Valley life. With its restored Gilded Age mansion and acres of carefully tended gardens and trails, the historic 654-acre estate in Woodside is a favorite for nature and history aficionados. Luckily, for those of us missing art museums and galleries, Filoli is also the backdrop for a fascinating exhibition of sculpture by San Francisco artist Kristine Mays. Entitled "Rich Soil," this installation of figurative works constructed out of wire is on display in the gardens through Nov. 9.

For the past several summers, Filoli has hosted sculpture exhibitions, either by groups or individual artists. Erika Frank, Filoli's director of education and interpretation, explained how Mays was selected for this year's show.

"We reached out to her a year ago after seeing her art online because we felt her work would be great for Filoli. She had never shown her sculptures in an outdoor setting."

There are a multitude of considerations in placing art in formal gardens, including traffic patterns, weather and the health of the plantings. Frank worked with the horticulture staff closely but had a strong feeling that Mays' work would fit right in.

"One of the things we love is that guests can walk right up to



Courtesy Filoli

The lively wire sculptures of Kristine Mays are on display through Nov. 9 at Filoli.

the sculptures, touch them and pose for pictures," she said. "It is important that our guests feel that they are part of the place."

Mays had similar feelings about how her art would work at Filoli. After being contacted by Frank, she visited the estate for the first time and was immediately inspired.

"I wanted my work to emerge from the scenery and to complement it in a harmonious way."

Mays describes herself as a self-taught artist who has always enjoyed sketching the people she would see while traveling on buses in San Francisco. She holds a degree in arts administration from DePaul University and worked at a non-profit organization while making jewelry on the side. After losing her job, she began devoting more time to creating and

soon found that she could make a living as a full-time artist. A chance encounter with wire at a bead store led her to try working with it alone. After experimenting with various techniques, she discovered a way to hook and overlap pieces of heavy gauge steel wire together. If this sounds a bit like the work of another San Francisco artist, Ruth Asawa, it is — to a degree. Mays explained that she grew up seeing Asawa's murals and public sculptures but discovered her wire work much later. "She's more of an inspiration to me now than ever before," said Mays.

Unlike Asawa, whose hanging sculptures often mimic organic shapes, Mays works in a figurative mode.

"My sculptures are created from hundreds of pieces of metal wire, looped and hooked together to create a form that reveals an invisible occupant, a soul, a life. I often say that I am 'breathing life into wire.' I love the idea of creating work where the focus reveals the essence of a person and that speaks to humanity as a whole."

For this exhibition, which took a full year of preparation (each sculpture requires anywhere from 60 to 100 hours to complete), Mays decided to create seven installation areas, each with multiple figures. Although Mays does not use models or molds, she has successfully captured bodies (some full figure, some partial torsos) in motion. That sense of movement was inspired, specifically, by

"Revelations," a highly regarded dance performance choreographed by Alvin Ailey. Like the real dancers, Mays' figures twist, turn, gyrate and seem to rise, ethereally, from the landscape.

"The idea of dancing came forth with the notion of being released from the struggle of this earthy life. I wanted the dancers to have a certain soulful way about them and I knew the landscape called for the sculptures to be placed together and for the work to communicate in groups," she said.

Mays enhances the meaning of each installation area by providing a short narrative statement and title, each of which was inspired by African American sayings, culture and folklore. In "All Night Worship Service," for example, the figures each reflect a moment of joyous exultation. Near the sunken gardens, six dresses, each a different style, swirl and sway to music that exists in the visitor's imagination. In the walled garden area, five figures rise up from the impatiens, poppies and salvia, as though they have always been a part of nature's plan.

Mays' ability to form and fold the wire into different patterns on each garment is amazing. One dress even has words woven into the bodice and skirt. She explained that it is a quote from Maya Angelou: "There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you." Mays said that she liked the idea of "a message hidden in plain sight, and also that you have to take

time to search and discover, in order to decipher it."

One of the reasons that the figures blend so naturally into the various garden sites is Mays' careful choice of palette. "My greatest concern was how the sculptures would look as they weathered. In anticipation of this process, I coated each piece in a copper-colored paint so that, when the rust eroded through, there would be a smooth transition in the visual appearance of the work." Installed on oak tree-colored clothing stands, the figures are an uplifting addition to an already fabulous setting.

Mays had no way of knowing, one year ago when she created the sculptures, that the world would be in such a difficult and challenging place. She feels, however, that the work is "healing on many levels."

"In the exhaustion, the grief, the reckoning with oneself in the midst of this very turbulent time I hope that people will visit Filoli for a reprieve, for a chance to breathe, reflect and simply be. My hope is that people will leave feeling full, having experienced something (I dare say) extraordinary."

All of the sculptures are for sale. An online catalog of works can be found on the Filoli website, filoli.org.

Visitors to Filoli must make an online reservation in advance, wear a mask and adhere to safe distancing instructions. ■

Email Sheryl Nonnenberg at nonnenberg@aol.com

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Food & Drink

Dessert dash

Six locally made desserts
you can eat right now

By Elena Kadvany

We all need things to look forward to these days, and in my world, that is very often dessert.

Here are six local sweets I've enjoyed of late, from Indian-inspired ice cream to the chocolate chip toffee cookie dough that's taken up residency in my fridge. Check out the list below to support these local businesses ... and satisfy your sweet tooth while doing so.

Salted caramel ice cream with ghee fudge

KoolFi Creamery, multiple locations

KoolFi Creamery founder Priti Narayanan left a career in civil engineering to devote herself to ice cream full time. Her flavors pay homage to the desserts she ate growing up in south India. The name of the business is a riff on kulfi, an Indian milk-based frozen dessert.

"As I love American ice cream and its creaminess and richness and the tradition of American ice cream, I did not find the flavors that we enjoyed growing up and I didn't find a lot of dessert from south India that my mother makes. I said, 'Can we try the interesting, innovative combination of American ice cream with Indian flavors?'" said Narayanan, whose job title is now appropriately "chief ice cream engineer."

While KoolFi is based in the East Bay, you can pick up pints at The Market at Edgewood in Palo Alto.

KoolFi's ice creams are made from organic Straus Family Creamery milk or organic coconut milk for vegan versions. All the flavors are worth trying — from the classic kulfi to banana jaggery — but the salted caramel with ghee fudge, or mysore pak, might be my favorite. The creamy salted caramel ice cream, which walks that delicious line between salty and sweet, is laced with small chunks of mysore pak, a fudge crumble made from ghee, sugar and garbanzo bean flour. The chickpea fudge was invented in the Royal Court of Mysore in India in 1935, the educational label on the back of the pint tells me, and "requires precision of heat, timing and technique" to make properly.

For more information:
koolficreamery.com.

Indonesian sweets

1,000 Layer Bakery, Sunnyvale
1,000 Layer Bakery's namesake dessert is an architectural feat:

as many as 20 pieces of delicate, 2-millimeter tall layers of cake stacked on one another like a mini-dessert skyscraper on your plate.

The cake, called lapis legit or spekkoeck, is a fusion of Indonesian and Dutch sensibilities, owner Jennifer Huang said. "Truly a labor of love," she bakes one layer at a time, each made from eggs, butter, flour, condensed milk, clove, nutmeg and an Indonesian cinnamon. The result is a not-overly-sweet cake that would be just as good for breakfast with a cup of coffee as it would be for dessert.

Huang, who was born and raised in Indonesia and lives in Sunnyvale, started her baking business after working at corporate cafes at tech companies, including Google and Dropbox. She mostly offered corporate catering, business that has completely dried up with offices closed during the pandemic.

Earlier this year, Huang was accepted into San Francisco non-profit La Cocina's food incubator program, which helps women, immigrants and people of color start and grow food businesses.

Huang makes a rotating selection of Indonesian desserts and snacks, including nastar, bite-sized buns filled with spiced pineapple jam, and kue lapis, a steamed, layered cake made from rice and tapioca flour and infused with grassy pandan and coconut. (Many of her desserts are made from rice flour so they are naturally gluten free and vegan.) She sometimes makes savory items as well, like rolls of sweet rice filled with shredded chicken.

Huang has a weekly menu available for preorder by Wednesday and pickup on Sundays in Sunnyvale or Saturdays at the Ferry Building Farmers Market in San Francisco. She also offers delivery within 60 miles of downtown Sunnyvale with a minimum order of \$99.

For more information:
1000layer.square.site.

Lemon chess and pecan pies

Shampa's Pie Shop, Pacifica

The best thing about Shampa's Pies might be their mini pies, which means you can create your own pie sampler without feeling like a total glutton.

I indulged recently in three mini pies (\$7 each): lemon chess, pecan and chocolate cream. The super-tart lemon chess and sticky, dense pecan were my favorites. (I'm definitely getting the pecan for Thanksgiving this year, and yes, it's August and I'm already thinking about my Thanksgiving menu.)

Owner Haruwn Wesley makes his pie crusts without lard or hydrogenated oils and the fillings from seasonal, local ingredients. You can preorder and pick up pies at the bakery at 1625 Palmetto Ave., Pacifica, by calling 415-412-3592 or ordering online. Wesley also has stands at the Daly City Farmers Market on Thursdays and the Burlingame Farmers Market on Sundays, where you'll find him wearing a mask decorated with pies.

For more information:
shampaspies.com.

The cheesecake

Basuku Cheesecakes, Palo Alto

Charles Chen, a restaurant consultant with Maum in Palo Alto, started baking Japanese-inspired Basque cheesecakes in his home kitchen in Oakland during the shutdown. They've become a hot commodity in the Bay Area, spreading like wildfire on Instagram and often selling out within minutes.

The Basque cheesecakes started as a quarantine baking project for Chen, alongside bread and other desserts. But he kept coming back to the cheesecake and eventually turned to a friend in Japan who made a Basque cheesecake with what looked like a perfect texture. She attributed this to the quality of dairy and eggs she used.

"That's a flavor I've been trying to achieve in America but it's extremely difficult to get that quality of dairy around here," he said.

But he eventually found it in Alexandre Family Farm, a regenerative organic dairy farm in Crescent City, whose cream he describes as the "soul" of the cheesecake. He picks it up the same day it's bottled, and it goes into the cakes with pasture-raised organic eggs from Vital Farms, sugar and cream cheese. Chen has honed his recipe, tinkering with ratios and taking the additional step of pouring the



Elena Kadvany

Bombolini, cream-filled Italian doughnuts, from Borrone MarketBar in Menlo Park.

batter through a sieve to ensure a smooth, homogeneous texture that falls somewhere in between a jiggly Japanese soufflé pancake and a firm cheesecake.

What was once a home baking project unexpectedly snowballed into a full-on side hustle that he's now working on expanding.

"All I'm going to do is I'm going to make this one cake, there's going to be one flavor, doing one thing and I'm going to use the best ingredients I can find," he said.

They're available for pickup at Maum, 322 University Ave. via Tock (exploretock.com/maum); preorders open Mondays at noon.

For more information:
@basukucheesecakes on Instagram.

Bombolini

Borrone MarketBar, Menlo Park

Borrone MarketBar, Cafe Borrone's long-closed sister restaurant, quietly reopened for takeout in late July. Located around the corner from the main cafe, MarketBar is making some of its own specialty grab-and-go items and baked goods, including fresh pasta, sauces and double-baked biscotti, plus a selection of natural wines.

MarketBar's fresh bombolini also have made a triumphant return. If you can pass by the large, cream-filled Italian doughnuts on the counter and not leave with one, I commend your willpower. Here's hoping MarketBar's seriously excellent focaccia makes a comeback, too.

Borrone MarketBar at 1010 El Camino Real Suite 140, Menlo Park, is open for takeout Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information:
cafeborrone.com.

Chocolate chip toffee cookies

Love for Butter, Palo Alto

I recently ran out of John Shelsta's toffee chocolate chip

cookie dough and had a minor panic attack.

Chocolate chip cookies seem to be on almost every restaurant takeout menu these days, so I've been sampling them for months as part of a very unofficial research project that was sanctioned by no one except me. Shelsta's remain the best, in my opinion. They're made with large hunks of Valrhona chocolate and toffee and have that ideal chewy bite (don't @ me if you're a crispy chocolate chip cookie person). He bakes them into delightfully enormous spheres, almost the size of a small dessert plate.

I prefer the cookies fresh when I can get them, but he also sells pints of dough, which means you can make them at home whenever the craving strikes.

Shelsta's baked goods are available for pickup at Zola at 565 Bryant St. in Palo Alto, usually on Sundays. Sign up for his newsletter at loveforbutter.com to get notified about bake sales. A small selection of pastries — often including those cookies — are available Wednesday-Sunday at the Tono Coffee Project pop-up at 369 Lytton Ave. in Palo Alto.

For more information:
Loveforbutter.com. ▣

Email Elena Kadvany at ekadvany@paweeekly.com. Check out her Peninsula Foodist blog at AlmanacNews.com/blogs.

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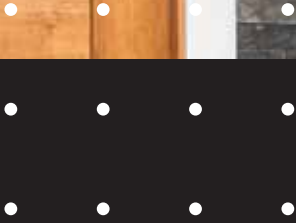
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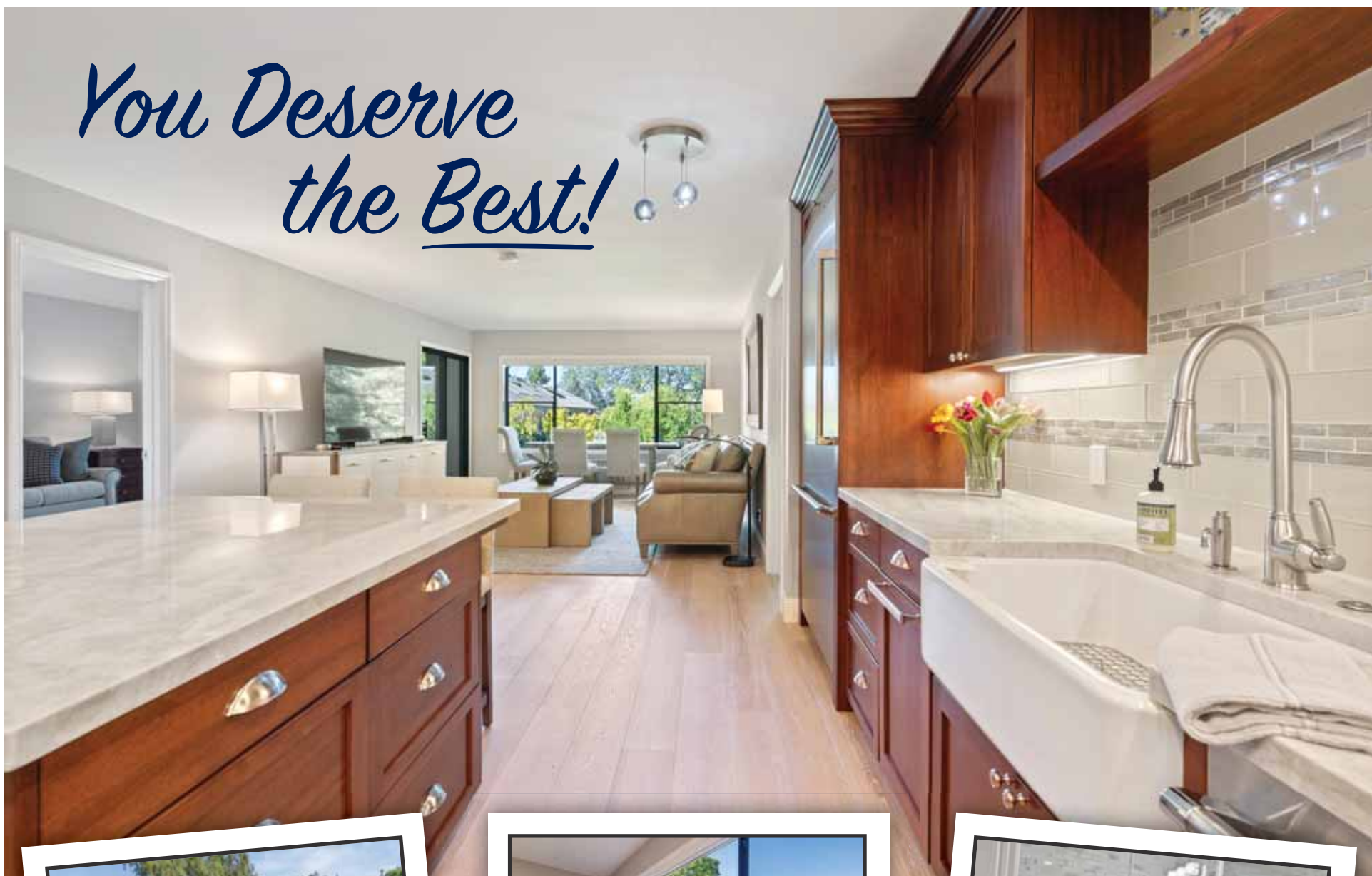
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