

The Almanac

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

FEBRUARY 19, 2021 | VOL. 56 NO. 24



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It's not landlords versus tenants — everyone's losing

'2021 is starting to look like 2020's fraternal twin,' one property manager says

By Lloyd Lee

Linda Nichols is a Menlo Park massage therapist who saw only 20% of her clients return when San Mateo County allowed personal care services to reopen last June, before she was promptly shut down again due to a spike in COVID-19 cases. The landlord waived a month's rent, but the relief meant little as the costs stacked up over the year.

By the end of this March, her savings depleted, she'll be leaving the Bay Area to stay with her family in Texas.

Jon Goldman is a co-president of Premier Properties management company, which manages around 100 properties in Palo Alto and others in Redwood City and Menlo Park. Since March, he has overseen all kinds of arrangements between tenants and property owners: restructured leases, companies practically using their Class A office space as a storage room,

or tenants idling along without paying any rent.

It's the worst crisis for commercial real estate in Palo Alto since the dot-com bust and the 2008 recession, he said. Availability rate, or the amount of space that can be advertised, in downtown Palo Alto alone is at an all-time high — around 15%, according to Goldman. But, he said, he's almost certain the true rate is even higher.

This is an 11-months-old disaster that has yet to see a clear end date or an elegant solution. Commercial tenants, many small business owners, are looking for rent relief on spaces they aren't using to full capacity, to avoid further cutbacks on top of other cutbacks. Landlords and property managers have little to no choice but to work with their tenants to avoid souring what can already be complicated relationships and risking vacancies that will

See **TENANTS**, page 16



Magali Gauthier

Linda Nichols, a Menlo Park massage therapist, said that after losing clients during the pandemic, she's leaving the Bay Area and going to Texas.

Local teachers pleading for priority access to vaccines may soon get their wish

In Portola Valley, some teachers considered walking out of classrooms and going on strike

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

Local teachers are among the few in the state who have returned to classrooms during the COVID-19 pandemic and they have united loudly and clearly behind one thing: They want to be vaccinated. And their wish seems to be coming to fruition with the announcement from San Mateo County on Feb. 11 that it will expand COVID-19 vaccinations beginning Feb. 22 to teachers and child care providers, first responders, and food and

agricultural workers who are eligible under the state's Phase 1B, as supply allows.

Teachers union presidents from five county public school districts — Portola Valley, Los Lomitas Elementary, Woodside Elementary, Menlo Park City and Hillsborough City — wrote to county Health Officer Dr. Scott Morrow and San Mateo County Health Chief Louise Rogers on Jan. 15, urging the county to vaccinate teachers, especially those — such as themselves — who are teaching students on campuses. Teachers from these districts began

in-person instruction as early as September, but San Mateo County teachers have not been scheduled to receive doses of one of the two COVID-19 vaccines.

"This requirement puts these teachers in direct, physical contact with large numbers of students and other adults most, if not all, days of the week," the union presidents wrote. "Such contact increases dramatically the likelihood of disease transmission and offers a stark contrast between educators working in a distance-learning environment and their counterparts in the physical space of a classroom

... It is our hope that you share that concern and will accord special status to teachers who are already on campus every day doing their jobs despite the risks they face."

CalMatters reported last week that, faced with a limited supply and dueling priority groups, many of California's largest counties haven't started offering teachers vaccines.

Some counties expect to begin vaccinating teachers in the coming weeks, but several others said that the scarcity of vaccines makes it difficult to project when their teachers should

expect to be vaccinated. Currently, San Mateo County is vaccinating people ages 65 and up and health care workers (the state's first designated priority group).

John Davenport, whose union represents 57 teachers in the Portola Valley district, decided to share the letter with The Almanac after union members began to talk earlier this week about striking if they aren't vaccinated soon.

"People weren't paying attention," he said. "To take it to

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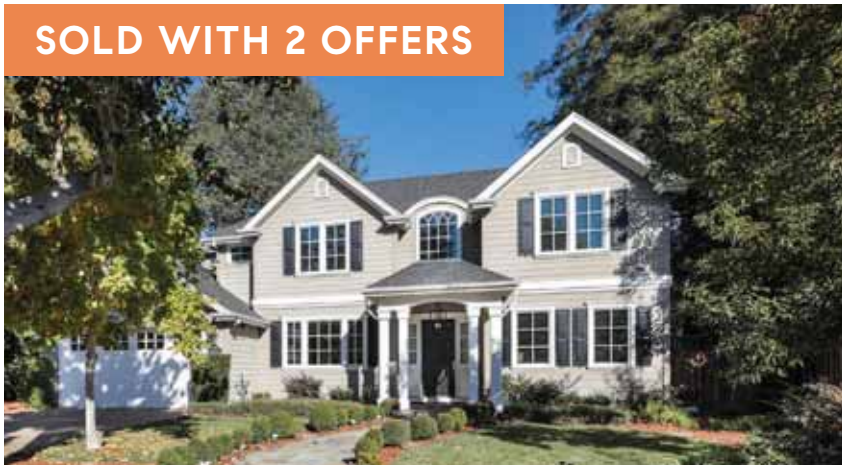
COMPASS

	January 2021	2020	2019
TOTAL HOMES SOLD	23	289	342
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$2,400,000	\$2,562,000	\$2,380,000
MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET	16	10	13
SALE PRICE VS. LIST PRICE	100.4%	100.8%	102.1%

Data includes single-family homes reported on MLS only as of February 16, 2021

Recent Menlo Park Sales

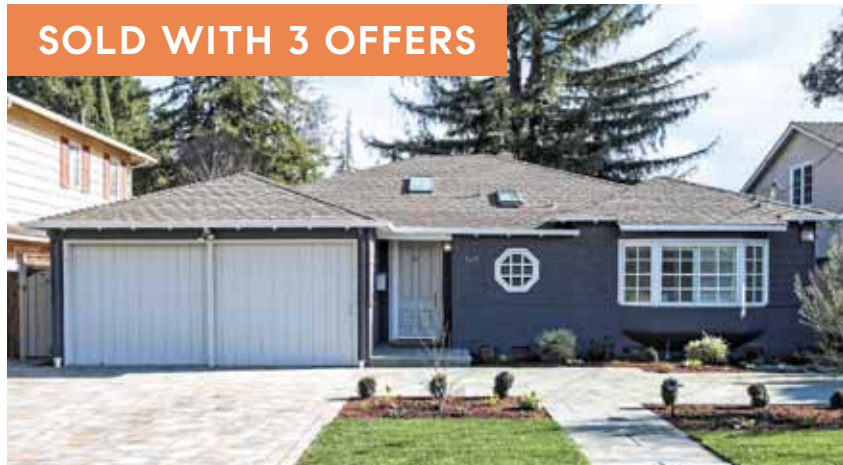
SOLD WITH 2 OFFERS



380 Claire Place | Menlo Park

6 beds, 5 baths | \$6,395,000 | 380Claire.com

SOLD WITH 3 OFFERS



348 Concord Drive | Menlo Park

3 beds, 2 baths | \$2,450,000 | 348Concord.com

SOLD IN 2 WEEKS



631 Harvard Avenue | Menlo Park

3 beds, 3.5 baths | \$2,850,000 | 631Harvard.com

THE REAL ESTATE MARKET IS OFF AND RUNNING IN 2021.

23 homes closed escrow in January compared to 13 in January of last year (per the Multiple Listing Service). Also per the MLS, the median price was up 7.6% last year.

Our *Menlo Park Profile* sent out last month, and our 36th edition, includes off-market sales. That data shows the median price was up 8% to \$2,698,000 in 2020 with 22% of the homes last year sold off-market.

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Local News

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Magali Gauthier

The Spring Down Equestrian Center in Portola Valley. The Town Council recently accepted the future donation of the center to the town.

Spring Down owner gifts equestrian center to Portola Valley

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

The Portola Valley Town Council accepted the future donation of the Spring Down Equestrian Center to the town at its Feb. 10 meeting.

The gift includes an option to acquire the Western Parcel, including the existing single-family residence, and an endowment of \$7 million to acquire the Western Parcel

and to maintain both Spring Down and the Western Parcel, according to a town press release.

Spring Down owner Carol Goodstein, with late husband Stan who died in 2016, donated lands that now make up the Spring Down Open Space Preserve in 2005. Under the agreement made last week, the town will maintain the equestrian property at 725 Portola Valley Road (adjacent to the Portola Valley Town Center)

in perpetuity. Should the town no longer be able to continue its equestrian use, the property would become open space.

“My goal for Spring Down has always been to keep horsemanship and connection with horses affordable to everyone,” said Goodstein in a statement. “Spring Down has been my peaceful paradise in Portola Valley since 1984. It’s been a gift to our horses, horse loving

See **SPRING DOWN**, page 20

On Valentine’s Day, one Menlo Park couple opens up about a relationship strengthened by doing good

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park couple Gail and Ben Brian have spent more than 20 years acting in quiet ways to do good. They donate blood together. They’ve adopted rescue dogs. And, after raising their own children, they’ve spent the last several years as foster parents.

They’re also humble and wary of the spotlight. In a recent interview held over Zoom, Ben explained that the pair is pretty media shy and agreed to talk mainly with a hope that their story could inspire others to consider donating blood or providing foster care.

About every two weeks for years, the pair has visited the Stanford Blood Center, where they sit for roughly 60 to 90 minutes to each donate 2 units of platelets. Ben has donated around 515 units and Gail has now donated around 370, they said in an interview. They make it a point to schedule their appointments together and over the years, have gotten to know the small staff at the center. They have come to treat their joint donation sessions as “donation dates.”

When asked why they keep going back, month after month, Gail replied, “How can you not, once you know what people are

going through?”

“We’re such a small part of a real, giant team,” she added. “Everyone is working so hard to get these people better. You can’t walk away from that once you’ve started.”

“They do a good job of making you feel appreciated,” Ben said, describing some of the rewards programs Stanford Blood Center offers to encourage donations. Today, he said, most of the T-shirts he owns have come from the center’s promotional T-shirt programs, expanding his collection of each year’s summer tie-dye shirt or winter “ugly sweater” long-sleeve shirts over many seasons.

Since 2017, they’ve also been foster parents, and have hosted a total of 11 children in their home over the years.

“There are so many great foster families out there that are in the trenches with these kiddos — and these kids are dealing with some heavy stuff. We’re kind of just toiling away in the background (but) we want people to know that this is very doable,” Gail said. “We’ve built this great network around us and that’s what helps us. Nobody’s going through it alone.”

“We don’t see ourselves as anything other than run-of-the-mill folks that can do this,”

See **VALENTINE’S DAY**, page 12

Task force on homelessness helps unhoused near Bay in pandemic

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

The number of people living in encampments near the Bay in Menlo Park has dropped to around 10 from a high of around 60 people in the summer, thanks to efforts by a number of agencies to connect unhoused people with services, according to city officials.

“I say progress has been made,” Cecilia Taylor said, reporting the decrease in the number of people living in the

triangle in her Dec. 15 “State of the City” remarks as mayor.

The Ravenswood Triangle — a marshy, 60-acre area bordered by Willow and University avenues and Bayfront Expressway and owned mainly by Caltrans — has long been the home of a small number of people who have made their homes outdoors in the isolated area.

About a year ago, the City Council announced its goals to increase the city’s homeless outreach and created a task force to bring together a group

of stakeholders, said Rhonda Coffman, Menlo Park’s deputy community development director. Taylor convened a subcommittee with Councilman Ray Mueller to represent the council on the task force.

Members of the task force included city staff, Caltrans, the California Highway Patrol, the Menlo Park Fire Protection District and nonprofit service providers, including the county public health department, Ravenswood Family Clinic,

See **HOMELESSNESS**, page 12



Magali Gauthier

The population at an encampment in the marshlands bordered by Bayfront Expressway, University Avenue and Willow Road in Menlo Park has been reduced, due to the concerted efforts by local agencies to connect people with resources during the pandemic, according to city officials.

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TOWN OF ATHERTON, CA

The Town of Atherton will accept bids for construction of the following public work:

2021 OVERLAY PROJECT

Removal and replacement of 2 inches of asphalt concrete pavement on Various Streets. Crack sealing and grind and replace approximately 10,000 square feet of asphalt to a 4-inch depth of pavement failures and placement of thermoplastic/paint striping. Some hand work around utility access-hole covers will be necessary.

Plans & Specifications may be obtained at <http://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/bids.aspx> at no cost. The Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town's website.

SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 150 Watkins Avenue, Atherton, California 94027, until **1:30 p.m.** Pacific Standard Time on **Wednesday, March 3, 2021**, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for **2021 OVERLAY PROJECT**", along with date and time of bid opening.

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The Almanac (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County. The Almanac is delivered to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2021 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Atherton couple donates \$80M to Stanford Hospital

An Atherton couple has given \$80 million to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford and Stanford University's School of Medicine to improve the services available to Bay Area mothers and babies.

Elizabeth and Bruce Dunlevie's gift is the largest ever from individuals to the hospital, the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health announced Tuesday.

A majority of the donation — \$50 million — will fund a new labor and delivery unit on the first floor of the children's hospital's West building. The unit will include 14 private suites and a maternity antepartum unit for mothers who need to be hospitalized before giving birth.

More than 4,400 babies are delivered each year at the children's hospital in Palo Alto, hospital officials said.

The remaining \$30 million will help further the Maternal-Fetal Medicine program at the School of Medicine by hiring more faculty members. With close to two-thirds of expectant mothers at the children's hospital considered at high risk, part of the program's goals is to help expectant mothers with conditions such as heart disease, cancer and epilepsy.

"Knowing from personal experience how transformative world-class medical treatment can be for mothers and babies, we're thrilled to help advance the state of the art in medical science for maternal-fetal research, and to give every mother and baby the highest-quality medical care," Bruce Dunlevie said in a statement.

Dunlevie, who has previously served on the Stanford University board of trustees, is chair of the Stanford Management Company board of directors. Elizabeth Dunlevie is chair of the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health.

"The impact of this incredible gift will be felt for generations — for the mothers and babies we help and, perhaps even more importantly, for those we will never have to treat because of new discoveries and cures made possible by this investment," Paul King, Packard Children's Hospital and Stanford Children's Health CEO, said in a statement.

—Bay City News Service

Sequoia superintendent application deadline

Applications are due Feb. 26 at 5 p.m. for the top job in the Sequoia Union High School District.

Former superintendent Mary Streshly stepped down in September after the teachers union and 22 principals and top administrators called for her firing. Former Assistant Superintendent Crystal Leach is filling in as interim superintendent until the board hires a replacement.

Local leaders, including East Palo Alto Councilman Antonio Lopez, have called out the lack of diversity in Sequoia district leadership. Lopez recently helped form an ad hoc committee to address the issue (in response to the district's unwillingness to form an official ad hoc committee to address these issues, according to a Feb. 10 press release from Lopez). During a Feb. 12 committee meeting, members said they'd like the group to focus on potentially helping with the hiring of a new superintendent.

Candidate interviews are scheduled for the end of March. For more information, or to apply, go to tinyurl.com/sequoiasupe.

Menlo Park school district hosts community meetings on budget cuts, parcel tax

The Menlo Park City School District will hold community meetings on Zoom this month to discuss an upcoming parcel tax measure that its school board placed on the November ballot.

The input sessions are intended to help inform the board's decisions around cost savings and the replacement parcel tax, according to a Feb. 11 district press release.

The first meeting is Feb. 22 from 7 to 8 p.m., while the second is Feb. 25 from 10 to 11 a.m.

In January, the school board decided to place a parcel tax on the November ballot to replace Measure X, which has provided four years of revenue to the district. When Measure X passed, it was part of the board's plan to create a four-year

Menlo Park's interim police chief to head San Rafael Police Department

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

The city of San Rafael announced Feb. 10 that it has hired Menlo Park's interim police Chief David Spiller as its new police chief, starting March 16.

Spiller is a former chief of the Pleasanton Police Department and previously worked for the Mountain View and San Diego police departments.

After a seven-month retirement from the Pleasanton department, he took on the role of Menlo Park's interim chief at the end of July, filling the vacancy created when former Chief Dave Bertini abruptly announced his departure from the department during a June City Council discussion on police reform.

"I genuinely look forward to lending my experience to San Rafael and working with a team of committed public service professionals," said Spiller in a statement. "San Rafael is a wonderful, supportive community



Courtesy Pleasanton Police Department
David Spiller, recently retired Pleasanton police chief, plans to depart as Menlo Park's interim police chief to head San Rafael's police department.

and I am eager to be a part of this very special place."

His starting salary will be \$16,152 per month.

The city of Menlo Park is making progress toward selecting a new police chief. According to City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, the city has received applications from a number of qualified candidates and interviews were scheduled to begin last week.

"We have an excellent slate of candidates," she said. "I'm feeling very excited about that."

"Chief Spiller has been of great value to our organization, and I genuinely appreciate his time with the city of Menlo Park. I wish him the best in his future endeavors," she said in an email to The Almanac. "With his eminent departure, the city is moving forward efficiently with the police chief recruitment, with the intention of having a new chief in place in the near future."

She added that the city plans to conduct a thorough background check of the next chief, who will need some time to notify his or her current agency before leaving.

"We are proceeding as quickly as possible, but I need confidence that the new chief has the right skill set, professional experience and fit for the police department, and the city," she wrote. ■

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

Portola Valley schools project fosters creativity, gratitude

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

Next-door neighbors, nurses, firefighters, coaches, siblings and more were the recipients of handmade and computer generated artistic awards created by Portola Valley School District students to show appreciation for their work.

This winter, for the 10th year in a row, TK-5 district students participated in the Bezos Family Foundation's annual "Students Rebuild" project that aims to rally children to address global challenges through creative projects. The theme this year? Honoring everyday heroes, or change-makers, people who make major contributions to the world. So far 190 district students, under the group name PVSD Cares, have submitted 223 pieces of art, raising \$1,115. (PVSD Cares surpassed its goal of creating 200 awards.)

"It's something we should be doing all the time: recognizing the people who are helping out," said Sarrie Paguirigan, the district's design and innovation coach, who led the district's project. "Without those people where would we be? Nurses and doctors especially with



Courtesy Makena Bailey

Ormondale School fourth grader Makena Bailey acknowledged her dad and teacher through the 2021 Changemakers Challenge.

COVID." She said the project is a good opportunity for students to show empathy for others.

Students could present an award in whatever way they chose — some constructed awards out of recycled materials, while one student created an award within the game Minecraft. One student attached a rubber cleaning glove to a tea bag and other small items as an award for a helpful neighbor.

Ormondale School fourth grader Makena Bailey used a laser printer at home to create

gears out of wood for Paguirigan for her teaching work and her father, David Bailey, for his work as a mechanical engineer (he makes robots for surgeries at Intuitive Surgical).

"It was really fun creating," Makena said.

Paguirigan kicked off the project with a week of lessons on criteria for being a change-maker. Then they picked people to honor — dead or alive, strangers or people in their own

See **SCHOOLS PROJECT**, page 10

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Making the Decision to Sell

Dear Monica: We are trying to decide whether to stay in our home of many years, or to sell and move to a smaller home. What are the pros and cons of this decision? Patricia C.

Dear Patricia: This is not an easy decision but it starts with you. If it is a burden managing the maintenance of your home, you should consider moving to a smaller one. If you do move from a property you have owned for many years, you will have capital gains to

pay, which can be substantial. On the plus side however, because of the recently passed Proposition 19, you can move to another residence anywhere in California and carry your present property tax with you. This will at least keep some of your expenses the same.

Whatever you decide to do, you have the benefit of having an asset that has probably served you well and will help you in your move to your next home.

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Coronavirus central: Stanford lab finds South Africa variant in traveler

Drive-thru vaccination clinic opens at SFO for county residents

By Embarcadero Media staff

San Mateo County as of Tuesday had 37,948 cumulative cases of COVID-19, with 481 deaths. There were 73 people hospitalized. Santa Clara County as of Tuesday had 107,769 cumulative COVID-19 cases and 1,669 deaths. The

rolling seven-day average of new cases ending Feb. 8 was 367. There were 280 hospitalized, 28 of which were new.

First local case of South Africa strain

California's first confirmed cases of the South Africa

coronavirus variant have been identified in Santa Clara and Alameda counties, health officials announced Feb. 10.

The Stanford Clinical Virology Lab identified two cases, one in each county, as the B.1.351 variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The patients in both cases

have recovered. Dr. Sara Cody, Santa Clara County's health officer and director of public health, said the case in her county involved a person who had returned from international travel in mid-January and first experienced symptoms several days later. A traveling partner also got sick but recovered before being tested for the disease; that person, who lives in the same household, is presumed to have had the mutated virus as well.

Health officials are trying to piece together where the person who tested positive might have contracted the disease. The case is complicated by the pattern of travel the pair engaged in.

There is little evidence so far that the case spread beyond the pair. They followed Santa Clara County's 10-day mandatory quarantine after travel of more than 150 miles outside the county and were isolated in their apartment for the entire infectious period, Cody said.

"This is an important example of how public health measures can help break the chain of transmission and why it is critical that we as a community continue to avoid travel and quarantine upon return," Cody said.

Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County's health officer, said little is yet known about the case in his county other than the identity of the patient. His staff is investigating how the person contracted the variant and whether the patient came into contact with others.

The South Africa strain, so called because it has become the dominant coronavirus variant in that country, and the Brazilian P1 strain are troubling because they have multiple mutations that could make vaccines and immunity from the currently dominant COVID-19 strain less effective.

Teachers, food workers to get vaccine priority

On Feb. 22, San Mateo County will begin performing COVID-19 vaccinations to teachers and child care providers, first responders and food and agricultural workers who are eligible under the state's Phase 1B, as supply allows.

"People are understandably clamoring for the vaccine, and we need to move as swiftly as possible to make that happen as soon as possible," Supervisor

Carole Groom said in a statement Feb. 11. "We must do everything we can under the constraints we have to limit the enormity of the pandemic as COVID-19 continues to ravage our community."

The county intends to provide the vaccine to eligible residents in this group who can't be served by their health care provider. Certain grocery store employees are considered agricultural workers eligible for the vaccine under the state's Phase 1B, according to the county.

The county is currently vaccinating people in the 65-plus age group, health care workers, and residents of long-term care facilities. As of this week, the county has administered at least one dose to one-third of residents ages 65 and up, according to a county press release. Eighty-four percent of the county's 447 COVID-19 deaths are people in this age group, a statistic that has heightened efforts to vaccinate them.

"Getting vaccines into the arms of San Mateo County residents is our highest and most urgent priority," Supervisor Dave Pine said in a statement. "While we are doing everything possible to ensure everyone who is eligible for the vaccine receives one, we are facing serious supply limitations that complicate our efforts. We ask for patience and understanding in these very trying times."

SFO launches drive-thru vaccine clinic

A vaccination clinic at San Francisco International Airport launched a drive-thru COVID-19 vaccination pilot program open to all San Mateo County residents 65 years and older, regardless of insurance.

The clinic was held Wednesday and Friday morning at the SFO Long Term Parking Garage, 806 S. Airport Blvd.

"We need to end COVID and partnering with SFO will allow us to do just that. If this pilot proves successful, as I'm sure it will, it will allow us to scale up the operation at one of the nation's greatest airports as more of the vaccine becomes available," said county Supervisor David Canepa in a statement.

The SFO clinic, which began Feb. 12, was previously limited to residents covered under the Health Plan of San Mateo or those with no other access to the vaccine. County officials decided on Feb. 14 to expand the clinic's reach to fill remaining appointments. Canepa said he could imagine the airport clinic being able to offer vaccinations

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Menlo Park weight loss surgeon shares fitness and health advice in new book

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Fitness and weight loss have long been the focus of Dr. Sanjoy Dutta, a Menlo Park resident and bariatric surgeon.

In his practice over the past 17 years, he has counseled thousands of patients about diet and exercise and, in the process, picked up some tips about what tends to work in the long term and what doesn't, he said in an interview.

"I do a lot of research in fitness and nutrition, and my focus is how to do that in a way that you can stick to lifelong," he said. "A lot of the diets and information out there are about how to lose weight very quickly, or get in shape very quickly."

He said he's also personally been interested in the subject, and collaborates with friends to figure out what routines to stay in shape work best for busy lifestyles.

The surgeon shares his recommendations in his newly published book, "Get Strong Lifelong: Three hours a week to gain muscle, lose fat and stay healthy for life."

Many traditional weight-loss programs are very intensive and demand so much of participants that the program can feel like a full-time job, Dutta said.



Magali Gauthier

Dr. Sanjoy Dutta, a bariatric surgeon and Menlo Park resident, in Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton on Feb. 8. He's written a book with advice for staying healthy and fit.

That's not what his book and guidance are about, though. Instead, he said, he's giving people information about how to become healthy and fit in a way that may take longer, but doesn't involve spending hours a day counting calories or being a gym rat. What's more realistic, he said, is to start with a simpler program most people can manage, and then modify it. "It doesn't have to be a full-time job or an obsession — and it doesn't have to be exceedingly difficult, costly or restrictive if they exercise and eat in a smart way," he said.

When it comes to exercise,

efficiency is useful for people with busy schedules, he added, and said that his book "focuses on what exercises give you the most fitness in the shortest amount of time: resistance and aerobic exercise."

As far as dietary guidance goes, Dutta said, in looking at the bulk of the science on the subject, one general rule for better health is to keep sugar intake

down and protein intake high.

Another emphasis of the book is to focus on little changes, he said. Many times, he said, people take on a lot of changes all at once, and when they can't stick to them they give up, creating what's considered a "yo-yo" phenomenon.

"The idea is not to be impatient, but do tiny changes, measure for small improvements and continue to adjust," he said. "You can do it for years and hopefully a lifetime."

The practices he describes are ones he's incorporated into his own life, he said. "I'm 53 right now and I feel like I'm in better shape than I was in my 30s."

Dutta said he manages to maintain his fitness with two to three hours of resistance training and an hour of aerobic activity spread out throughout the week, bumping up training occasionally when he's preparing for an event like a sprint triathlon, he said. Generally, he also enjoys swimming, running and cycling in the area.

Not every week is perfect, but when he returns to his routine,

he finds it comes back pretty easily and he can catch up to where his previous fitness level was without too much effort, he said.

For many people, three to four hours a week is enough to stay in relatively good shape, he said. "I would say that some people can get by with less, and some need more, but you don't need a lot more than that."

He noted that these recommendations are not tailored for someone who's trying to become a performance athlete or a bodybuilder, but for those with relatively normal lives and busy schedules who still want to carve out some time to stay in great shape.

A key point of his book is that it's OK to be flexible and take short breaks.

"The key is not to take long breaks or give up," he said. "Always keep trying, even if you stop for a little while."

"Get Strong Lifelong" is available on Amazon at [is.gd/strong](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B089LQV89L) book in paperback for \$8.99. **A**

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

CORONAVIRUS

continued from page 8

"round the clock, 24/7, just like it accommodates its international travelers."

Preston Merchant, spokesman for San Mateo County Health, said that the county anticipates that 12,000 residents will have been vaccinated at the SFO clinic by the end of Friday, Feb. 19.

As of Feb. 15, 109,793 county residents have received at least the first dose of the vaccine, representing 17.1% of individuals 16 years and older in the county.

People needing support can contact (650) 263-1867 or email vaccine-sm-support@carbonhealth.com. To learn more about COVID-19 vaccination in San Mateo County, visit smchealth.org.

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. **A** *CalMatters and Bay City News Service contributed to this report.*

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Philip Edward Berghausen Jr.**, 74, a psychologist and Portola Valley resident, on Jan. 30; **Darrell D. Dorfmeier**, 70, a Palo Alto native and longtime Menlo Park resident, on Feb. 5; and **Remo "Ray" Dominic Ferrari**, 91, founder of Ferma Corporation and Woodside resident, on Feb. 10.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at almanacnews.com/obituaries.



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Crimes and courts updates

Doctors split on alleged murderer's sanity, suspected bike thief nabbed

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

A cash drawer was stolen from Mitsunobu Restaurant, doctors came to split conclusions in a high-profile murder case and an alleged bike thief was caught.

Crime briefs

■ Between Feb. 6 and 7, 300 block Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park. Someone entered Mitsunobu Restaurant and stole a cash drawer. The estimated loss is \$100. It's not known how the suspect entered the restaurant. The door was found open the following day, but there were no signs of forced entry.

■ Feb. 7, 1100 block of Madera Ave., Menlo Park. A man got into an argument with a male relative over money owed to him. The relative allegedly hit the man over the head with a glass beer bottle, causing a cut to his head. The relative had left the residence when officers arrived and the victim was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

■ Feb. 7, 300 block of Terminal Ave., Menlo Park. A woman reported that an adult suspect, whom she knew, came to her home to challenge to her a fight, alleging that the victim was using her address. When the victim did not come out of her home, the suspect allegedly sent a message on social media

threatening to physically assault and kill the victim.

Courts briefs

Doctors split on alleged murderer's sanity

Doctors tasked with determining whether murder suspect Francis Wolke of Cincinnati was sane at the time former Ather-ton arborist Kathleen Anderson was fatally stabbed in her Menlo Park home in December 2018 have returned with split conclusions, according to prosecutors from the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office. One doctor concluded that the defendant was sane and the other concluded he was not.

A trial readiness conference and jury trial assignment date has been set for May 14. Wolke remains in custody on \$10 million bail.

Alleged bike thief nabbed

On Feb. 8, a 19-year-old Menlo Park resident was at home when he heard his dog barking, according to a report from the San Mateo County District Attorneys' Office. The teen went downstairs and saw that the gate and front door had been opened. He closed them. An hour later, he went downstairs again and noticed that the gate and front door had been opened again. He asked his mother to check their home surveillance cameras and they observed that a man had stolen the teen's \$4,000 bike from inside their home's entryway.

The next day, around 2:15 a.m., a Menlo Park police officer responded to an attempted vehicle theft and saw a person who matched the suspect description from the bike theft. He was wearing the same clothing and was found in possession of the

stolen bicycle, prosecutors said. When shown the surveillance video, the defendant, Larrypeter Guinn, a 50-year-old from Daly City, reportedly admitted he was the one who had stolen the bicycle, according to prosecutors. The case was set for a preliminary hearing on Feb. 23 and the defendant remains in custody on \$50,000 bail.

Drunk driver may face state prison time

A 27-year-old driver who failed to stop at a red light in Menlo Park and struck a 1960s vehicle with four people inside in May 2019 has pleaded no contest to drunk driving on the condition that he serve no more than two years and four months in state prison.

The driver, Luke Quinton of Menlo Park, was driving a small SUV when he struck the victims' car at the intersection of El Camino Real and Oak Grove Avenue. The victims' car, a 1960s-era Buick Riviera, burst into flames, and the vehicle's four occupants became stuck inside because the collision had jammed the doors shut. Pounding and kicking on the driver's side door, they were eventually able to get out. The driver was injured at the time of the accident, but showed some indications of intoxication, according to prosecutors.

In addition, three hours after the collision, his blood alcohol level was found to be 0.147%, prosecutors said. The case has been continued to April 13 for a pre-sentence report and for the sentence to be imposed. The defendant is out of custody on a \$45,000 bond. ■

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

SCHOOLS PROJECT

continued from page 7

lives — and planned what their awards would look like. Once complete, students took photos of their awards to send to Students Rebuild.

Paguirigan teaches transitional kindergarten through fifth graders STREAM (science, technology, reading, art, engineering, mathematics). The lessons cover everything from using physical and technological tools such as 3D printers and projects that involve social and emotional learning themes.

For each award submitted to the project, the Bezos Family

Foundation donates \$5, up to \$1 million, to organizations such as Donors Choose, Peace First and Creative Reaction Lab.

Student Rebuild, a collaborative program of the foundation, aims to inspire students to connect, learn and take collective action on global issues. It began in 2010 to enlist young people to help their peers after a devastating earthquake in Haiti, according to the group's website.

The challenge runs until June 4. For more information, go to studentsrebuild.org/challenges/changemaker. ■

Email Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com

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Developing leaders within the community

New name, new rules: Foothills Park is in for more changes

City Council to consider creating an annual pass, refining visitor cap for popular nature preserve

By Gennady Shenyer

When Palo Alto leaders voted last November to allow the broader public to visit Foothills Park, they officially closed a large, decades-old debate but opened a slew of smaller ones.

Many of these will return to center stage on Monday, Feb. 22, when the Palo Alto City Council will debate and possibly adopt rule changes for accessing Foothills Park. It also will consider a menu of new recommendations from the city's Parks and Recreation Commission, including further refinements of the visitor cap to the park, creation of an annual pass for park entry and enactment of discount rates for

low-income visitors and those with disabilities.

Also, to underscore its environmentally sensitive nature, the council is set to officially change the park's name to the Foothills Nature Preserve, a move that was unanimously endorsed in recent weeks by both the parks commission and the Palo Alto Historical Association.

The city's policies for managing the park have been in a state of flux since Dec. 17, when the new policy allowing nonresidents to enter the park took effect. The number of visitors instantly spiked, with about 33,637 people visiting the park between Dec. 17, 2020, and Jan. 2 — up from 5,687 visitors over the same period

in the prior year, according to Daren Anderson, division manager at the Community Services Department.

Concurrently, the council has seen a spike in anecdotes about traffic jams, parking shortages and environmental damage, including a growing number of "social trails" — pathways made by visitors who veer off existing trails. Anderson said the problems are particularly noticeable at Vista Hill and Boronda Lake.

The council reacted to these trends on Feb. 1, when it adopted an emergency ordinance lowering the number of visitors who can be at the park at any one time from 750 to 400, while giving staff leeway to raise it to 500. Council

members also voted to charge \$6 for park entry, though the fee has yet to take effect.

Both changes were intended to be stop-gap measures that would only remain in place until the city gathers more data and hammers out long-term policies for managing the preserve. On Monday, the council will consider the city's next steps for adopting these policies.

The Parks and Recreation Commission, meanwhile, has offered its own ideas. On Feb. 11, the commission unanimously recommended raising the limit to 650 visitors at any one time, while allowing staff to adjust the limit to as low as 300 if needed. The commission also supported creating an

annual pass, which would cost residents \$50. Nonresidents would be required to pay \$65. Seniors, veterans and individuals currently serving in the military would receive 25% discounts, while low-income visitors would get reductions between 25% and 50%.

The commission also voted 5-2 to recommend a 25% discount for individuals with disabilities. The two dissenting commissioners, Vice Chair Jeff Greenfield and Commissioner Amanda Brown, both supported allowing free entry for vehicles with disability license plates or placards.

In discussing the visitor limit, the commission considered

See **FOOTHILLS PARK**, page 20

Woodside foundation helps larger community get through 2020

By Kate Daly

Special to The Almanac

Flexibility. One of the best words to describe 2020 also applies to the Woodside Community Foundation's stepped up approach to helping others during a difficult year.

Between the pandemic and the wildfires, the nonprofit recognized the need to switch from being reactive to proactive. Instead of waiting for locals to come to it with ideas, the organization ramped up its outreach, starting new funds to benefit families, employees

and animals in the larger community.

The foundation provides a platform to groups that qualify for tax-deductible donations, and has its own general fund that can be used for matching grants. Between the two sources more than \$200,000 was donated in 2020.

Some of that went to three community-led funds that are now closed: Roberts of Woodside Employees Gratitude Fund, WES COVID-19 Community Coalition Fund, and B.O.K. Ranch Equestrian Scholarship Fund.

The Roberts fund led to \$540 checks thanking 75 essential workers at the market, the Woodside Elementary School fund distributed \$1,000 to 17 families to help them stay afloat, and the B.O.K. fund supported eight children participating in the program at the Horse Park in Woodside.

Another new fund, the Local Disaster Relief Fund, paid to rescue, evacuate and feed livestock and large animals during the CZU Lightning Complex fires. WCF President Marsha BonDurant calls it "a preparedness fund," with

reserves at the ready in case winter rains cause landslides and flooding in the impacted area and more evacuations are needed in the future.

Established in 1952, the foundation "was pretty hyperlocal in the past, but this year we've reached out beyond our borders" BonDurant says, to Fair Oaks and Redwood City where people who work or go to school in Woodside live.

For example, the foundation recently joined San Mateo County's Child Care Relief Fund to raise money for subsidized child care homes and

centers that serve low-income families. That fund is still open.

The foundation's general fund covers administrative costs and is used to promote funds. The desire for rapid response in 2020 has spurred on changes in the way the organization communicates with the community, through group email blasts, and the now-digital newsletter which is linked to the town of Woodside's website.

Go to woodsidegiving.org for more information about the foundation. ■



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Another parent switches plea to 'guilty' in college admissions scam

By Sue Dremann

A former Palo Alto resident and one-time Gunn High School student has agreed to plead guilty to a single federal charge in the 2019 national college admissions scam that involved more than 50 parents, sports staff and test proctors.

William McGlashan, 57, a former senior executive at the global private equity firm TPG Capital and co-founder of the nonprofit The Rise Fund, was scheduled to plead guilty to one count of aiding and abetting wire fraud and honest services wire fraud by Feb. 15, according to federal court documents.

McGlashan is among 57 people charged in the pay-to-play college admissions scheme, in which certain parents are accused of falsifying college admission test results and bribing some college employees to get the children of well-heeled parents into top colleges and universities. Some coaches admitted the students through

athletic recruitment for sports they had never played, according to federal prosecutors.

McGlashan was initially accused of participating in both the college entrance exam cheating scheme and the athlete recruitment scheme, including conspiracy to bribe Donna Heinel, then the senior associate athletic director at the University of Southern California. Prosecutors alleged that he wanted to ensure that his older son was accepted to the university as a recruited athlete, according to a U.S. Department of Justice court filing.

He initially agreed to pay \$50,000 to William "Rick" Singer and The Key Worldwide Foundation, a nonprofit organization. Singer had Mark Riddell, of Palmetto, Florida, serve as a proctor for McGlashan's son's ACT exam in 2017 at a test center that Singer "controlled." Riddell allegedly corrected the son's answers after the test was completed, according to the affidavit. The son did not know about the scheme.

McGlashan and Singer also discussed a \$250,000 payoff with a "donation" through the Key Worldwide Foundation to the University of Southern California Women's Athletics. A fake athletic profile of McGlashan's son with Heinel's help would help him to be admitted to the university as a recruited athlete, according to the federal indictment.

The plea deal relates to the testing conduct only, however, and prosecutors dropped three other more serious charges against him. He maintained he didn't pay for or use the so-called "side door" deal regarding the athletics recruitment.

According to prosecutors, Singer and McGlashan also allegedly discussed repeating the cheating scheme for his daughter and younger son.

The aiding and abetting wire fraud and honest services wire fraud charge against McGlashan carries a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000 or twice the

gross gain or loss, whichever is greater. Under the plea agreement, McGlashan could be sentenced to three months in prison, two years of supervised release with 250 hours of community service and a fine of \$250,000, pending the court's approval.

The plea agreement also reserves McGlashan's right to appeal a previous court ruling, which denied his motion to dismiss the charge. Under the plea deal, he can appeal parts of the ruling on his motion, in which he claimed that test scores cannot constitute property under the mail or wire fraud statutes; that if standardized tests might be considered property under the mail or wire fraud statutes, the indictment did not adequately allege facts to establish a scheme to fraudulently obtain standardized tests in this case; and that the indictment did not adequately allege facts establishing that test administrators owed a fiduciary (monetary) duty to testing companies in the case. If he wins the motion

on appeal, McGlashan has the right to withdraw his guilty plea.

McGlashan is the ninth Bay Area resident to plead guilty in the nationwide scam. Other residents, who have taken plea deals and were sentenced to punishments ranging from fines with no jail time to a few months in prison with hefty fines, include former Stanford University sailing coach John Vandemoer; Menlo Park residents Marjorie Klapper and Peter Jan Sartorio; Atherton residents Manuel Henriquez and Elizabeth Henriquez; and Napa vintner Agustin Huneeus Jr.

Hillsborough residents Bruce and Davina Isackson have pleaded guilty but have not yet been sentenced.

Three people have pleaded not guilty and await trials: Palo Alto residents Amy and Gregory Colburn and Hillsborough resident Marci Palatella. ■

Email Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweb.com

HOMELESSNESS

continued from page 5

WeHOPE, LifeMoves and pastors from local churches.

The area had become a public safety hazard, with fire district staff responding to a significant number of both fire and medical emergency-related calls. As of last July, Menlo Park Fire had responded to 77 blazes in the area since 2017. The area lacks restroom facilities, creating sanitation problems, and some residents had rigged booby traps near their encampments that posed additional hazards to first responders, something fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman has raised concerns about for years.

The pollution was also in violation of the federal Clean Water Act, The Almanac reported in July.

But encouraging unhoused people to relocate isn't easy. Normally, San Mateo County's Human Services Agency and its Center on Homelessness work with Samaritan House to coordinate assistance for the unhoused. Generally, at least in Menlo Park, outreach staff from LifeMoves ask unhoused people if they are willing to be assessed to figure out what resources they may be eligible to receive, such as health care, financial assistance or a housing voucher, said Coffman.

For those who refuse assessment, it cannot be forced on them, she said. And in

Menlo Park, the "vast majority" of homeless people generally refuse to be assessed, she said.

"It's presented a number of logistical difficulties," Mueller said. "All those things we've been trying to navigate to try and figure out how to move people there into transitional housing."

During the pandemic, the outreach team continued to visit individuals two or three times a week to check in, bring them cards to purchase food or groceries and hygiene items, and see if they needed medical assistance.

In many cases, Coffman said, they also call out the street medicine team, which provides both physical and mental health assistance.

There have been two concerted cleanup efforts, in October and January, to reduce the environmental hazards in the area.

While it's not completely clear where everyone who had been living in the triangle has gone — it's likely a combination of people moving into shelters, in with family or to other locations — Coffman said, one takeaway from the effort is that the collaborative approach proved useful.

"We've really strengthened our relationship with the county," she said. "We've been working really hard." ■

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

VALENTINE'S DAY

continued from page 5

she said. "The real heroes are the kids."

Throughout the interview, both insisted that they're not that special. Gail called herself and her husband simply "average humans who want to help out little humans."

"It's not like we're out there curing cancer," Ben said. "I think we get a lot more out of (the blood donation) than we put into it. But it's a partnership. Our marriage is clearly a partnership."

And by engaging in trainings and committing to help the young people in their care, Gail said, they're becoming better at being humans and partners. "I

would say that being foster parents has made us better partners to each other," Gail said. "That comes from learning how to communicate, readjust and manage expectations."

"You become better at being a human when you do foster care," she said.

It's hard work, but dogs and chocolate can help, they noted.

"I'm happier now than I've ever been," Gail said. "Knowing that he (Ben) has my back, it means so much. It's the little things you learn to appreciate."

Learn more about Gail and Ben on the Stanford Blood Center blog at is.gd/brians384. ■

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com



Courtesy the Brian family

Gail and Ben Brian are foster parents and longtime platelet donors at Stanford Blood Center.

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TENANTS

continued from page 1

be difficult to fill in the future.

“Everybody’s been working together because it’s obvious there’s nothing you can do about this,” Goldman said.

While state and local ordinances have mostly leaned toward the side of the commercial tenant by effectively halting evictions, regulations have done little to alleviate fears of legal repercussions against the smaller occupants struggling to find relief from their landlords or, on the more extreme side, to prevent business operators like Nichols from shutting down permanently and making an involuntary Bay Area exit.

Sally Hayman, a longtime psychotherapist in Palo Alto, for months has sought a reduction in the rent on her California Avenue suite but with little results. She and three of her colleagues, who are also licensed clinical social workers and work out of the same office, are currently paying for a space they haven’t stepped foot in since March when mental health services started to go virtual.

“Everyone I know is working remotely,” Hayman said. “We’re liable not only for ourselves and our health, but we’re also liable for our clients and their health.”

It’s not just health concerns stemming from their age — they’re all older than 65 — but from the layout of the office suite, which Hayman said includes a shared waiting room that can’t hold multiple clients at 6-feet distance, rooms with windows that can’t open while they meet with clients, and a rattling HVAC system that none of the tenants is sure has been improved or looked at by the property manager.

Hayman also is bringing in less income now. She lost six clients, is booking fewer sessions for her remaining patients, and gave a few people discount rates. Still, she manages to pay rent on time, as she has done for the past 20 years.

At one point, Hayman did consider what the consequences would be if she refused to pay the rent. A few retailers like Gap and luxury brands that can afford to be litigious have stopped paying rent, tried suing to break from their leases, and have even been countersued by their landlords. But Hayman is not a big retail operation, and she’s unsure whether the stipulations in her lease are too strong for her to just default on rent. She says she can’t afford to be sued.

She’s asked the property managers at Alhouse Deaton, which received a \$450,000 PPP loan,



Magali Gauthier

Jon Goldman, co-president of Premier Properties in Palo Alto, said the local commercial rental market is in its biggest crisis since the Great Recession.

for a 15% discount. The most the property management company offered was to reduce rent by half for June and July 2020, through a deferred payment plan in which the tenants could repay the remainder over a three-month period starting in October.

After many fruitless email exchanges, Hayman is now trying to buy herself out of the lease that ends this year in July by offering five months rent in advance. Alhouse Deaton, which did not respond to multiple requests for comment for this article, declined.

“It’s been upsetting because we feel like we’ve been really great tenants for a very long period of time,” Hayman said. “To make a request that felt genuine and authentic and had good reasoning behind it and just be shut down — we’re very upset about it.”

Some small business owners and tenants report better experiences with landlords and property managers, or at least situations where they have been more sympathetic to their circumstances.

Nichols, who pays \$1,200 a month for her office on Oak Grove Avenue in Menlo Park, said she believed her landlord handled the situation as fairly as possible — at least to her immediate knowledge.

A few generous clients have either continued to pay Nichols as if they were still receiving her services or made donations, but the lifelong Bay Area resident still had more expenses than income.

“My savings are gone,” she said.

Unlike Hayman, Nichols was given an early lease termination, originally set to end in July. She’s currently in the

middle of drafting goodbye letters to her remaining clients. If she plans to continue her massage therapy business in Texas, where she is relocating, Nichols estimates that she won’t be getting back to the same number of clients until the end of this year.

‘This crisis has just begun’

In the fourth quarter of 2020, eight leases by a handful of Silicon Valley corporations like Alphabet Inc. in Mountain View, Facebook in Menlo Park and Amazon, which has a lease in East Palo Alto, were responsible for what Colliers International, a real estate service and investment management company, characterized as a “signaling (of) confidence in Silicon Valley’s future.” Each lease entailed over 100,000 square feet each, the report stated.

But looking into Silicon Valley’s cities and further into their respective neighborhoods can paint a wholly different picture, one where once prime locations like downtown Palo Alto and Menlo Park have become dead zones for commercial real estate brokers as leasing deals dried up.

“This crisis has just begun,” said Goldman of Premier Property, which specializes in property management in downtown Palo Alto.

A city like Palo Alto won’t transform into the “Dust Bowl,” according to Goldman, but because employees and sometimes entire companies have moved out of their offices, the economic tolls of COVID-19 will be much worse for commercial real estate than the prior crises.

“You see, 2009 was a bad

recession, but it really recovered very quickly here, and people wanted to get back to work,” Goldman recalled. “And a lot of shorter term leases came out of that. This is different because people can’t leave the house, they’re *afraid* to leave their house, and their kids are not in school.”

Even when employees and companies are willing to come back to their offices, Goldman feels Palo Alto in particular will have delays filling in the leases, the consequence of a market impacted by a “micro-managing” City Council and increasing vacancy rates pre-pandemic. (Office vacancy rate was 5.2% in the quarter of 2018, according to a report by the San Francisco Business Times, and increased to 7.2% the following year.)

In the meantime, Goldman said his firm has emphasized working with their tenants, trying to renegotiate leases based on their unique circumstances, whether that be restructuring a lease that charges rent based on a percentage of sales or providing a business looking to extend their lease with a good rate.

What Goldman emphasized Premier Properties won’t do is having a landlord threaten a tenant to pay rent or be taken to court or collections.

“We don’t do that,” Goldman said. “Especially in COVID.”

John McNellis, founder of McNellis Partners, which maintains a portfolio of neighborhood shopping centers, supermarkets and drugstores, echoes the sentiment and believes that’s just good business sense.

“You don’t have to be a Mother Teresa or Gandhi, as a retail or office building owner, to be cutting rents or to be giving forgiveness because the demand is

way down,” he said.

In March, McNellis Partners was among the first prominent local property managers to call on other commercial property owners to support “mom and pop tenants” during the lockdown and, by way of example, announced it would waive rent for the month of April. In a previous interview, he called it “the right thing to do.”

But McNellis later admitted he held an overly optimistic projection of the pandemic’s timeline, in which the world “will have substantially returned to normalcy by May 1, even if it takes months to fully recover.”

“I was totally wrong on that,” McNellis said in a recent interview. “Now, 2021 is starting to look like 2020’s fraternal twin — a little bit smaller, not identical, but it’s not coming out so great.”

Unlike in downtown Palo Alto, McNellis has seen 75% of his tenants thrive during the pandemic since his firm mostly focuses on outdoor shopping centers and grocery stores. But other sectors of retail — in particular personal care services such as hair salons and massage parlors — have suffered since the beginning of the pandemic and continue to suffer today, he said.

According to McNellis, one tenant who operates a massage service hasn’t paid rent since March and was given an early break from their lease by paying “10 cents on the dollar.”

But it’s not always the case that a dying business is dependent on the mercy of a towering landlord with all the “financial muscle,” as he puts it. During the pandemic, some “multi-billion-dollar” tenants, whom McNellis chose not to name, have leveraged their positions as companies with plenty of money and hundreds of locations and threatened to move out unless they receive a 20% rent reduction.

“In a crisis like this, people’s, unfortunately for better or worse, characters come out,” he said. “We have people like the little massage center guys who are truly destitute. ... And we also have people who try to take advantage of this.”

State and local eviction moratoriums have given landlords little recourse to enforce rent, McNellis said. But he isn’t expecting anyone to cry about him or his firm.

“Nobody in the world feels sorry for landlords,” he laughed. “It’s properly viewed as kind of comical, and it’s the cost of being a landlord I guess.” ■

Email Lloyd Lee at llee@paweekly.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 6

runway of stability while it pursued options for longer term financial sustainability.

"The board seeks to provide the district with a measured and sustainable financial path as it practices student-centered stewardship that achieves efficiency without sacrificing quality," the press release states.

As the district considers its financial future, the board is currently in conversation about \$1.5 million to \$2 million in possible cuts to its budget, according to the press release. The district is considering cutting overall administrative roles at the district level; modifying the music, drama and world language programs; "combination classes;" and making cuts to classified positions. A full list of proposed reductions is available in the Feb. 11 board meeting packet.

Parcel taxes and philanthropic giving together make up approximately 25% of the district's budget.

RSVP for the upcoming meetings on the district's new community engagement page at district.mpcsd.org/engage.

A volunteer committee is also forming to support the parcel tax campaign. Those interested in joining the Friends of Menlo Park Schools Committee are asked to complete a form at bit.ly/FriendsofMPCSD.

For more information, email Parke Treadway, the district's public information officer, at ptreadway@mpcsd.org.

Longtime Atherton officer retires

After 22 years with the Atherton Police Department, Cmdr. Joe Wade will officially be retiring on March 16.

During his time with the department, he served as a patrol officer, school resource officer, SWAT team member, gang task force member, defensive tactics instructor, detective, patrol sergeant, detective sergeant, lieutenant, commander, emergency operations manager, public information officer and acting chief, according to a Jan. 29 town newsletter.

Wade will continue to serve the local law enforcement community during retirement as an Academy Police Recruit defensive tactics instructor.

—Angela Swartz



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RESOLUTION NO. 2235 - (2021)

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

Lands of Kavanaugh

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

- A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR"), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.
- B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the "Parcel") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the "Zone"). The Parcel is described in Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit "B" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.
- C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:
 - X. All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit "B" and are incorporated by reference.
- D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.
2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: March 10, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices, 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025 & via Zoom

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i.).
4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.
5. The District Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

Exhibit A

EXHIBIT "A"

Date: September 26, 2020
Annexed to: West Bay Sanitary District
Name of Annexation: West Bay Sanitary

Geographic Description

All that certain real property, situate in Rancho El Corte Madera, Town of Portola Valley, County of San Mateo, State of California, described as follows:

Beginning at the South corner of West Bay Sanitary District Resolution No. 1117;

From the Point of Beginning:

Course 1.) North 19°12'29" West, 60.00 feet, along the Southeastern line of existing boundary, thence,
Course 2.) Leaving the existing boundary, South 73°30'00" East, 260.00 feet, thence,
Course 3.) South 30°12'07" West, 242.82 feet to the center of Arapahoe Court cul-de-sac, thence,
Course 4.) North 59°45'44" West, 215.33 feet to the Southeastern line of West Bay Sanitary District Resolution No. 936, thence,
Course 5.) North 19°12'29" East, 102.25 feet along the Southeastern line of existing boundary to the Point of Beginning containing 1.08 acres, more or less.

For assessment purposes only. The description is not a legal property description as defined in the Subdivision Map Act and may not be used as the basis for an offer for sale of the land described.

APPROVED
SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION
455 COUNTY CENTER
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

EXHIBIT A PAGE 1 OF 2

Exhibit B

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT
EXHIBIT "B"
SITE LOCATION
25 ARAPAHOE COURT
PORTOLA VALLEY, CA
STEP OR GRINDER SYSTEM

(1) STEP or Grinder Pump System
200 Gallons Per Day (GPD)
APN: 077-300-080
Lands of Kavanaugh
25 Arapahoe Ct.
Portola Valley, CA
Location of System: Front of property

TEACHERS

continued from page 1

another level, we said, ‘Why don’t we just try to get our story out there?’”

Davenport said the mood among teachers has darkened since the district first reopened in the fall.

“Teachers came back and thought (the pandemic) will be over soon,” he said. “Now with new variants, people are really becoming nervous, they feel very much every day that we are putting ourselves at an increased risk.”

In the Las Lomitas district, the majority of K-8 students attend school on campus five days a week, and the Las Lomitas Education Association strongly advocates prioritizing in-person teachers to receive COVID-19 vaccines, said teachers union co-presidents Martha Lampert and Heather Peterson in a Feb. 10 email.

“We have demonstrated that we can operate school safely when all teachers and staff are healthy,” they wrote. “In the meantime, however, there are few substitute (teachers) available and operating the technology and in-person protocols requires a specialized skill set. It would only take a few teachers out to shut down



Courtesy Menlo Park City School District

Marifi “Murphy” Dizon, left, and **Misty Blue Foster**, school nurses with the Menlo Park City School District, receive a dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Midpeninsula teachers are advocating that anyone working at schools open for in-person instruction get priority for vaccination.

our schools, due to cohort and contact restrictions. If we want to keep schools open, our best guarantee is to vaccinate our teachers as soon as possible.”

Most other school districts in the county have stuck with distance learning. La Honda-Pescadero Unified and Redwood City Elementary school districts were not included in the letter, but are also holding in-person instruction (with Redwood City open in a more limited capacity).

Rogers noted in an email Feb. 11 that “given the persistent shortages in the supply of vaccine to meet the needs of everyone who is eligible, and the likelihood it will take time

to receive adequate supplies, the County Office of Education has been leading the effort with local schools and the major health care providers for education personnel to design the approach.”

County education leaders have developed a prioritization and logistics plan for school employees, according to a Feb. 11 newsletter from the Redwood City school district. The stages of this prioritization process are as follows:

■Priority 1A: All in-person special day class teachers and instructional aides

■Priority 1B: All teaching and support staff required to report in person interacting regularly with students and their families, including teachers and instructional assistants; child nutrition staff; maintenance, facilities and operations staff; psychologists, occupational therapists and physical therapists; support staff working on campus, such as office personnel and yard duties staff; and school site leaders such as principals and assistant principals.

■Priority 2: All staff reporting in person at sites or district facilities who are not required to interact with students, but who interact with the public (including district office staff).

■Priority 3: All teaching and support staff who are currently not working in person, including teachers conducting distance learning lessons.

Regional calls for teacher vaccinations

San Francisco teachers, who have been teaching remotely, are set to begin receiving the vaccine on Feb. 24, Mayor London Breed announced last week.

The plea from local teachers unions comes the same week that state Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, called for San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to set aside a week to vaccinate teachers and school district employees who have direct contact with children.

With San Mateo County averaging 9,000 doses per week, and the number of teachers in the county at 5,000, Becker said that the overall numbers allow for a countywide vaccination effort that can be managed efficiently.

“This is doable,” Becker said. “Vaccinating teachers and beginning to safely reopen schools will be the most meaningful move yet to return to normalcy for everyone.”

District level advocacy

The Portola Valley, Woodside and Menlo Park districts’ governing boards passed resolutions late last month in support of vaccinating teachers. The Menlo Park district noted in a Feb. 9 newsletter to parents that school nurses and other staff who qualify are already receiving their vaccines.

“We are so proud that we have been open for in-person learning since September, and also offer a rigorous virtual academy,” said Portola Valley Superintendent Roberta Zarea in an email Feb. 9. “The success of our in-person program hinges on our stringent safety protocols. We are anxiously awaiting news on when our staff can receive vaccinations.”

San Mateo County Office of Education Superintendent Nancy Magee explained that the state’s vaccine distribution plan has been quickly evolving, “resulting in confusion and anxiety,” in a letter to local families sent Feb. 4. Magee is working with district superintendents, the county health department and health care providers such as Kaiser Permanente to develop

a plan for rolling out the vaccine to local educators. The Office of Education has surveyed public and private school staff, and in case the vaccine supply continues to be restricted, it has worked with school district superintendents to develop criteria for prioritizing access, she said.

The criteria give priority to staff members in the county who are working in any in-person capacity with students, starting with staff from schools with the highest percentage of students who qualify as socio-economically disadvantaged, English learners and foster youth. Magee is also exploring options to expedite mass vaccinations of school staff.

“The most critical factor in understanding the vaccine rollout is to know there is a shortage of vaccine not only in our county, but across the state and the country,” she wrote. “This challenge is real and is significantly slowing efforts to advance through the priority tiers. It is also confusing that despite every county in California having the same guidelines to follow, each region has a different combination of vaccine supply and eligible population sizes. This means that some counties are able to start vaccinating individuals in group 1B, and others are not.”

Patricia Love, the Office of Education’s executive director of strategy and communications, said in a Tuesday email that the office is working on a rollout plan for vaccinating teachers. ▀

Email Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

THE MIDNIGHT RAVEN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 286417

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
The Midnight Raven, located at 1885 East Bayshore Rd. #82, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
ZOE YOUNG
1885 East Bayshore Rd. #82
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on Jan. 19, 2021. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 19, 2021.

(ALM Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 2021)

HUMBLE HELP STUDIO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 286326

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Humble Help Studio, located at 1250 Arguello St. Apt. 7, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County, USA.

Registered owner(s):
VAHRAM ANTONYAN
1250 Arguello St. Apt. 7
Redwood City, CA 94063

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 12, 2021.

(ALM Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2021)

THE COIN BROKER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 286342
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

The Coin Broker, located at 23 Shasta Lane, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County. Registered owner(s):

JIMMIE JOE BEER
This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on May 1980. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 13, 2021.

(ALM Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2021)

997 All Other Legals

*** NOTICE OF LIEN SALE ***

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE is hereby given pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the California Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of the UCC, and Section 535 of the Penal Code. The undersigned, Menlo-Atherton Storage (“MAS”) in Menlo Park, CA, will sell via online public sale by competitive bidding the personal property of Henke, Janice C. Property to be sold: Many wood furniture items, sofa, many cardboard boxes (contents not known), bicycle, game table, suitcases, general household goods.

The auction will be held online at www.storagetreasures.com. The sale will begin March 5, 2021 at 11am and end on March 11, 2021 at 11am. Goods must be paid for in CASH at MAS and removed at completion of the sale. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between MAS and obligated party. Menlo-Atherton Storage, 3757 Haven Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025 650.366.3757. Please refer to www.storagetreasures.com for all other terms and conditions governing the bidding and auction process.

(ALM Feb. 19, 26, 2021)

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State officials agree on COVID-19 relief funding package

By Eli Walsh/Bay City News

Gov. Gavin Newsom and the leaders of the state Senate and Assembly announced an agreement Wednesday, Feb. 17, on a package of financial relief programs, including \$600 payments to the state's low-income taxpayers.

Newsom, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, D-Los Angeles, and Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, D-San Diego, jointly announced the legislative package, which state legislators are expected to consider in the coming days.

The package is headlined by the payments that Newsom has dubbed the "Golden State Stimulus" and would benefit households that received a state

earned-income tax credit for 2020 and taxpayers that have Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers.

Also eligible for the \$600 payments are households that are enrolled in several state programs including CalWORKS, Supplemental Security Income, State Supplementary Payment and the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants.

Residents with an annual income of \$30,000 or less are eligible for the tax credit, while ITIN taxpayers include people like undocumented residents who were not eligible for federal stimulus payments.

"As we continue to fight the pandemic and recover, I'm grateful for the legislature's partnership to provide urgent relief and support for

California families and small businesses where it's needed most," Newsom said in a statement.

Newsom called for a similar funding package as well as immediate funding to reopen schools and an extension of the state's moratorium on pandemic-related evictions last month while unveiling his initial budget proposal for the coming fiscal year.

So far, state legislators have taken up those proposals in pieces, first focusing on extending the eviction moratorium through June 30. Newsom said state officials continue to hash out the details of funding for school reopenings.

The package also includes more than \$2 billion in grants of up to \$25,000 for small

businesses and cultural institutions affected by the pandemic and two-year fee waivers for more than 650,000 restaurants and barbering and cosmetology individuals and businesses.

State-subsidized child care and preschool providers would receive \$525 stipends per enrolled child via the legislative package, which would also extend child care for essential workers through June of next year.

The legislation would provide \$24 million in funding for the state's Housing for the Harvest program, which supports agricultural workers affected by the coronavirus, and \$35 million for food banks and diapers for low-income families.

Qualifying students taking

at least six or more units would have access to an additional \$100 million in emergency financial aid through the funding package, according to state officials.

The state would also provide some \$6 million for outreach efforts for state school and community college students that are newly eligible for the CalFresh food assistance program and \$12 million for associated local administration.

"From child care, relief for small business owners, direct cash support to individuals, financial aid for community college students and more, these actions are critical for millions of Californians who embody the resilience of the California spirit," Newsom said. ■

FOOTHILLS PARK

continued from page 11

the city's recent experience with the new 400-person cap. Anderson said that on Feb. 6, the first Saturday since the policy was adopted, the city had to bar entry into the park three times because the number of visitors reached the capacity limit. The following day, the city raised the limit to 500. Once again, it closed the park three times because of the capacity limit.

Anderson suggested that early experience with the new policy suggests that the 400-person limit is too constrictive.

"We were shutting down really quickly because we hit capacity so fast," Anderson said at the Feb. 11 meeting. "The repercussions are that there are more people driving up and down Page Mill Road and people making strange U-turns in inappropriate places on Page Mill Road."

He noted that the park was very quiet throughout the day, with no parking issues of any kind. The following day, when the limit was raised to 500,



Veronica Weber

Hikers walk toward Wild Horse Valley in Foothills Park, the upstream area of Buckeye Creek.

there was "no appreciable difference in experience," with parking available even in popular outdoor areas. The park, he noted, did not feel overcrowded that day — a sharp contrast to December, when the visitor limit was 750.

Greenfield said while it will take time to fully understand the impacts of visitor limits on the park's ecosystem, the

400-person limit appears to be "lower than we wanted it." He visited the park on Sunday and said it felt "pretty empty."

Commissioner Jeff Lamere, who serves on an ad hoc committee charged with refining Foothills Park policies, also urged his colleagues not to make the limits too restrictive.

"We want to keep in mind how to best serve the underserved

communities, which is one of the reasons we pushed to open the park," Lamere said.

If the council approves the commission's recommendation, the new policies pertaining to annual passes and capacity limits could be adopted immediately through the passage of an emergency ordinance, which would require approval from six of seven members. The city can also concurrently move ahead with a regular ordinance that would take effect 31 days after the council approves it on a "second reading."

To date, the council has been largely in accord on adopting new measures on Foothills Park, with some notable exceptions. During a Jan. 19 discussion, council members Lydia Kou and Greg Tanaka both pushed for lower visitor limits, while council member Alison Cormack argued against restricting access too much.

Vice Mayor Pat Burt initially proposed setting the cap at 500 visitors, but ultimately supported the lower limit championed by Kou and Tanaka. At the same time, he and

the council majority rejected Tanaka's initial suggestion to set their entrance fee at \$10.

"I don't think any of us yet know what is the right number of people who can be allowed at the park," Burt said. "I think we need to have a little bit more latitude there. ... Are we going to restrict it so much that residents just won't be able to go there on the weekend?"

Cormack, who was the only council member to vote against the emergency measure to lower the visitor cap to 400 visitors, reiterated her opposition on Feb. 1, when she suggested that the council may have acted too fast in supporting an emergency ordinance that does not include annual passes or discounts for students and low-income residents. The council, she suggested, has created a situation that "harms Palo Alto residents who use Foothills Park often."

"Throwing out our favorite number for a capacity limit is a pretty careless way to make policy," Cormack said. ■

Email Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@pawebkly.com

SPRING DOWN

continued from page 5

community and my entire staff. Our wonderful family atmosphere has helped support mental and physical health for both myself and our many clients..."

She said she often wondered about what she could do to show her gratitude for all the joy she's had living in Portola Valley. "Now you have my answer, it's Spring Down."

Goodstein, a San Francisco native, has ridden horses since

learning at summer camp at age 7, according to Spring Down's website. She also took lessons at San Francisco's Stanyon Street stable across from Golden Gate Park as a child before teaching riding lessons.

Spring Down is a key part of Portola Valley's equestrian history, said Mayor Maryann Derwin in a statement.

"The town is honored to be considered as a future steward of this land," Derwin said. "Carol's generosity to the community will be enjoyed by

generations of equestrians and the legacy she provides will enable the community to live the values we all cherish."

In July, the Town Council held a closed-session discussion on the possible town acquisition of a parcel at Spring Down.

"Ever since 1968, when our town was a mere four years old, Spring Down has been a fixture on Portola Road, beloved by children and adult riders, and even passersby," said Nancy Lund, the town historian and

chair of the Historic Resources Committee, in a statement. "This remarkable bequest will allow it to continue as a key feature in town into a distant future. As a place with deep equestrian roots, we are grateful to Carol Goodstein for her thoughtful generosity."

After Goodstein's death the

gift would need to be formally accepted by the Town Council at a public meeting.

Later this year, town officials hope to hold a public celebration once the pandemic restrictions have been lifted. ■

Email Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com



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Philip Edward Berghausen, Jr.

October 13, 1946 – January 30, 2021

Philip Edward Berghausen, Jr., 74, died on January 30, 2021 in Palo Alto, CA, of complications from kidney cancer. Peb, as he was affectionately known, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on October 13, 1946, to Philip Edward Berghausen, Sr., and Alma Louise Berghausen (nee Guckenberger). He is survived by two brothers, Thomas (Ann) and James (Eleanor), his children Alexander/"Sasha" (Sara) and Elizabeth Galla (Matthew), as well as his grandchildren Charles, Ellen and Jane Berghausen and Jonah, Justus and Jesse Galla. Peb was a gifted psychologist, a world traveler, and a car nut. He will be remembered for his charitable giving, endless curiosity, love of fun and silliness, and for being the best father and grandad he could be. In lieu of flowers, the family request that gifts in Philip's memory be directed to Beech Acres Parenting Center, (beechacres.org/donate-now), 6881 Beechmont Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45230. A graveside remembrance and a Bay Area gathering will be held post-pandemic.



PAID OBITUARY

Joan Cherie Bohannon

November 17, 1933 – January 15, 2021

Joan Cherie McFarland Bohannon, 87, of Menlo Park, California passed away January 15, 2021, at Stanford Hospital. Joan was born November 17, 1933, in Santa Clara County, CA, to Hiram and Rosalie McFarland. Joan grew up in Redwood City, California and was a lifelong resident of San Mateo County. She graduated from Sequoia High School and attended San Jose State University. In 1959, Joan moved to Menlo Park with her husband, David E. Bohannon. She raised three children (David, Lisa and Scott) and later, as the children entered their teens, began a long and successful career as a real estate broker. Joan retired from real estate in the early 90's not long after becoming a grandmother. Her true passion in life was being a devoted mother to her three children, six grandchildren, and in 2020, the arrival of two great grandchildren.



Joan is survived by her sister Barbara McFarland, brother Steve McFarland, children David (YuQin Wen), Lisa, and Scott (Mary) Bohannon, grandchildren Abigail (Ian Dunckel) Dunckel, Madeline (Ryan Johnson) Johnson, Sarah Bohannon (Jason Lowenthal), Christine Bohannon, Kevin Bohannon, Ryan Bohannon, great grandchildren Carson Dunckel and Rosalie Johnson.

Joan was known for her quick wit and wonderful sense of humor. She loved time with family – her door was always open, welcome to unannounced visits from her children and grandchildren. She loved family gatherings, as well as annual family trips to Lake Tahoe.

There will be a small service for immediate family members only. The family kindly requests no donations.

PAID OBITUARY

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Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

Help the Menlo Park City School District create a new financial plan

Strategy could include \$2M in permanent budget cuts, new parcel tax

By Sherwin Chen

GUEST OPINION

Dear Menlo Park and Atherton communities, As the Menlo Park City School District (MPCSD) develops a sustainable financial plan that supports the high-quality public education we provide our children, I invite you to share your input with the governing board. We are hosting a series of community engagement sessions beginning Feb. 22 as we consider a strategy that includes both budget cuts and a replacement parcel tax.

In spring 2017 voters overwhelmingly passed the Measure X parcel tax to provide our K-8 district a four-year runway to develop our long-term plans. The district embarked on a multiyear financial planning process. Hundreds of community members worked with us to refine what an outstanding education means and how a visionary community could fund its public schools, while ensuring that MPCSD could recruit, retain, and invest in its teachers for generations.

The district developed the Vision for Outstanding Public Education, an aspirational statement that outlines the resources necessary to provide equitable access to a whole-child education where every student can thrive. The board adopted a "teacher compensation philosophy" that stated that gifted teachers are the single most important factor in fulfilling our mission. It affirmed our commitment to elevating the teaching profession and paying teachers an attractive Bay Area salary. And we pursued the possibility of significantly growing our education foundation's endowment to a point where it could reliably roll off a meaningful contribution to our budget every year, thus reducing what we needed to ask of taxpayers.

Then, one year ago the pandemic struck, triggering the current recession and forcing everyone to adjust their financial outlooks.

I am enormously proud of how MPCSD has responded to the pandemic. We were the first Bay Area school district to welcome students back on campus in September. With comprehensive health and safety protocols in place, we are fortunate to have kept our campuses open ever since. We have maintained low

rates of COVID cases in schools, with no confirmed instances of on-campus transmission. I am humbled and grateful every day for my colleagues and every entity we work with to keep our schools open and our children and teachers safe.

Our pandemic response efforts have benefited not only MPCSD families, but neighboring districts and members of the public as well. We have helped bring free and accessible COVID testing to our entire community by partnering with Curative, SRI and others to locate a testing kiosk at Middlefield Road and Ravenswood Avenue. It is accessible to neighboring school districts and other local communities, including Redwood City and East Palo Alto. More recently, we have advocated for teacher vaccinations and are working with the San Mateo County Office of Education to plan vaccine events for educators throughout the county.

However, from a financial perspective, the pandemic and recession have brought new funding challenges as well as additional COVID-related expenses, amounting to millions of dollars.

Even in normal times, MPCSD relies on the generosity of our community to fund the excellent education that Encinal, Laurel, Oak Knoll, and Hillview Middle schools provide. Due to arcane unintended consequences of Proposition 13, MPCSD receives far fewer property tax dollars

per student than neighboring districts. As a result, community investment in the form of philanthropic giving and parcel taxes represents over 20% of our annual budget.

Our community has supported its schools time and again because we all benefit from the excellent education that our local public schools provide, and we know how valuable it is to live in a community with great schools. More importantly, we all recognize the importance of educating the next generation. Directly or indirectly, the quality of the MPCSD experience affects us all.

Now I come to you with another opportunity to engage with us to develop a financial plan that maintains our high-quality programs as we emerge from the pandemic and its economic repercussions. We are considering over \$2 million in permanent budget cuts, including reducing district office administration, modifying our music, language and physical education programs, and tightening our class sizes. Replacing Measure X is also part of the plan, and we look for your input on the size and duration of our new parcel tax. Please attend an upcoming school board meeting or a special community engagement session to share your voice with me and my colleagues. You can find session dates and more information at district.mpcsd.org/engage. ▣

Sherwin Chen is president of the Menlo Park City School District school board.

What's on your mind?

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

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

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

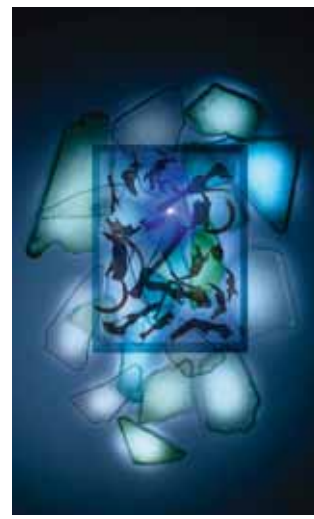
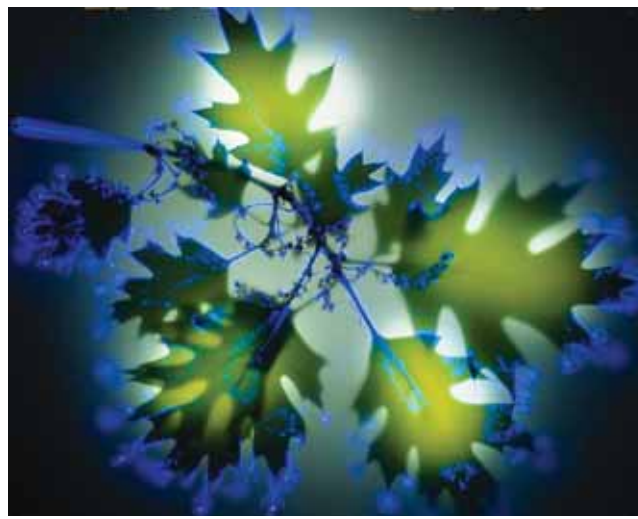
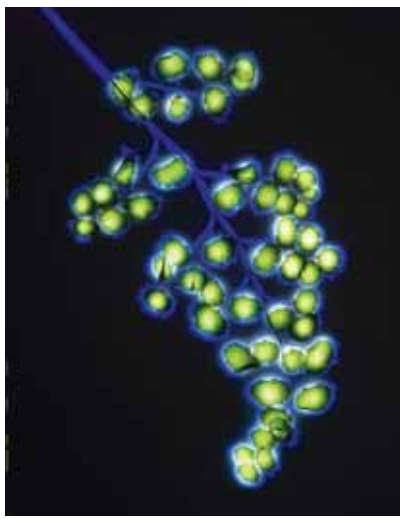
You can also submit a longer piece of 450 to 600 words for consideration to publish as a guest opinion column.

Questions? Email editor@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6537.

The Almanac

NATURE, ELECTRIFIED

Art Ventures Gallery presents Robert Buelteman's explorations around Jasper Ridge



Robert Buelteman

Robert Buelteman uses a cameraless, lensless method of photography involving high-voltage electrical pulses. Pictured from left to right: "Buckeye Leaves," "Maidenhair Fern," "Black Oak" and "Some Kind of Blue."

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

Art can take us to places we have never been and places we cannot access. Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve has been closed to the public since the pandemic began, but even before that, one could only enter the 1,193-acre haven for research and education via a docent-led tour. Thanks to the work of Montara-based photographer Robert Buelteman, we can vicariously enjoy the unique flora and fauna of this protected region.

Art Ventures Gallery in Menlo Park is featuring an exhibition of Buelteman's black-and-white and chromogenic prints taken at the preserve from 2010 to 2014. "Chasing the Light at Stanford's Jasper Ridge" will be on view until March 31.

"I asked for the privilege of access to this unique land, as it was a place I frequented as a child," said Buelteman, who grew up in Woodside, explaining how he was allowed to work in the restricted area.

Growing up, he enjoyed family field trips to the Searsville Lake recreational area. In 1973, the university formally designated the area as a biological preserve and ended the public's recreational use. The executive director of the preserve, Philippe Cohen (now retired) was familiar with Buelteman's work in documenting the wild lands around the Crystal Springs Reservoir.

"I felt strongly that artists and scientists were engaged in similar endeavors: discovery and finding connections. I had always gotten the sense that discovery was an

important component of Rob's work and that it could help communicate the importance of the preserve," he said.

Visitors to the exhibition will note that there are two very distinctive styles of photographic process on display. There are 15 prints that utilize a traditional gelatin silver process (think Ansel Adams and Edward Weston). These works, of trees, fog over the lake and morning mist in meadows, are quiet, evocative studies of natural, undisturbed beauty. In "Spring Willows," the emerging new buds light up the branches of this venerable tree, while in "Jasper Morning," tendril-like tree branches kiss the ground before rising to take in the sun's rays. Buelteman explained that he has two audiences for his work: collectors of fine art photography (like these black-and-white prints) and those who are more drawn to the works in the other half of the show — the unique, cameraless prints. A look back at Buelteman's evolution as an artist is helpful in understanding these pieces.

He began in the early 1970s as a commercial photographer, focusing on restaurant and corporate work. His success in this arena allowed him to explore more artistic endeavors, using black-and-white film. His landscape work also met with success and he continued in this style until 1999, when a visit to the Arizona desert resulted in an epiphany — he needed a change of working method. Having studied science in college (physics of light, optics and chemistry) he was familiar with early efforts at capturing images that required just paper

and light. He had also been introduced to the work of Russian scientists Semyon and Valentina Kirlian, pioneers whose visionary photographs used an electrical discharge process. Buelteman decided a return to basics — cameraless, lensless, computerless photography — would be his new endeavor, with a twist of his own.

The process is complex and dangerous. Electric currents are sent through objects that rest directly on a photographic plate. Buelteman had to construct a large sheet metal easel that floats in a solution of liquid silicone. He also devised a way to add light sources to the process, in the form of xenon strobe, tungsten and fiber optics.

"When the correct voltage, frequency and polarity and duration are used, it generates a straight Kirlian photograph: a black sheet of film with ultraviolet tracings," he said. "I then introduce the natural color and texture of the plant onto the film by passing light through it."

He must work in the dark, relying on touch and with high-voltage electrical pulses. He has been shocked while working.

"I wanted to explore the outer limits of my medium and avoid the digital tsunami," he said. "These images, made where the subject is incorporated both as subject and filter for the light that makes the exposure, was exciting for the challenge (3,000 sheets of film to make the first 25 images) and for the fact that the process consumes the subject, making traditional reshoots impossible. And yes, 80,000 volts is dangerous but I survived the injuries

sustained in the process."

The results of this "Buelteman method," which he says no one else is doing, are stunning. Familiar flora like bougainvillea, black oak and buckeye become transcendent with light and color. It is as though the natural beauty of a leaf or petal has been electrified, emitting a glow or aura not seen by the naked eye, as can be seen in "Buckeye Cluster." The colors in these prints are iridescent blues, greens and reds; the effect is ethereal.

Whether the viewer truly understands his process is not important to the artist.

"For myself, the work is the same vision — one that celebrates the natural world and the biophilia that is my inspiration."

And like the fleeting quality of the natural world, Buelteman's unique technique also

has an end point. "The film that can record these images is no longer available, with the exception of the 300 sheets in my freezer, so I will be moving on. After all, life is just an exploration, isn't it?"

Luckily, exhibitions such as this and the artist's monographs will allow us to enjoy his images in perpetuity and support his passion, and hope, for the future of our environment. The current executive director of Jasper Ridge, Anthony Barnosky, said, "A huge part of our mission is communicating why we people need nature and how we interact with it. Exhibitions such as Rob's tell that story better than words." ■

Art Ventures Gallery is located at 888 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. More information is available at artventuresgallery.com.

Email Sheryl Nonnenberg at nonnenberg@aol.com

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Food & Drink

Boba, baked goods and burgers: What's new in Burlingame

By Elena Kadvanly

Looking for something new to eat, without venturing out of San Mateo County? Downtown Burlingame is home to several new or soon-to-open businesses, including a Taiwanese boba shop, a local baked goods pop-up, Turkish street food and an outpost of a national burger chain.

TRUEDAN

Before opening a boba shop in the U.S., Dickson Sum went to Taiwan to sample his way through the country's best boba. He'd usually finish about half his drink and move on to the next one.

But when he first tried Truedan's boba, he found himself finishing the entire thing. He was impressed by the Taiwan chain's quality and wanted to bring it to the Bay Area.

Sum opened the first U.S. location of Truedan at Skyline Plaza in Daly City in the fall, then another at the nearby Westlake Center. He's gearing up to open his third shop at 346 Lorton Ave. in Burlingame on Feb. 22.

Truedan started as a small kiosk at the famed Shilin Night Market in Taipei in 2010 and has since grown to over 100 international locations. It's known for its brown sugar boba, a trend that's steadily sweeping the Bay Area as well-known Taiwanese chains open up shop here, like Tiger Sugar in Cupertino.

Sum imports the brown sugar and boba pearls from Taiwan — the pearls are a little smaller at exactly 0.85 centimeters to ensure a more consistent texture throughout, he said — but uses local ingredients for everything else, including organic milk from Straus Family Creamery. They

soak the boba in brown sugar, which amplifies the caramelized flavor.

Truedan's menu is purposefully small, with about 10 drinks. (Sum also chose to not offer delivery, worried that the quality of the drinks would suffer.) There's the popular brown sugar boba, plus a jasmine green tea latte with crema, black tea with roasted buckwheat, Thai tea latte and mango ice with coconut milk and agar jelly, among other drinks. Topping options include boba, pudding, grass jelly, crema and fresh taro.

The sugar and ice levels of all drinks are customizable. For the brown sugar boba, Sum recommends 30% to 50% sweetness.

Sum has teamed up with Cafe Mei in Fremont to serve Taiwanese breakfast sandwiches at all Truedan shops on Thursdays. The sandwiches come on soft white bread with three layers of house-made mayonnaise, cucumber, egg and ham or a pork patty. The sandwiches are usually only sold on Cafe Mei's Facebook and sell out quickly, Sum said. He hopes to collaborate with other local businesses to offer specials at the boba shops.

He's also planning to open Truedan locations in Cupertino and Milpitas.

Truedan, 346 Lorton Ave.; true-dan.ca.

BUSY LIZZY'S BAKED GOODS

Lizzy Detert has, indeed, been busy: After selling her made-from-scratch brownies, cookies and cakes at the Burlingame

farmers market, she moved into 1400 Burlingame Ave. for a temporary pop-up in October. (The space was last occupied by David's Tea.)

Detert's pop-up was slated to close at the end of 2020 but the San Mateo native and home baker happily was able to extend it for the next few months.

Head there for caramel-oatmeal-pretzel cookies, brown butter butterscotch blondies and other sweets. You can order online or place a special order by emailing info@busylizzysbakedgoods.com. You can also still find Detert at the farmers market on Sundays.

Busy Lizzy's pop-up, 1400 Burlingame Ave.; Wed.-Sat., noon to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. busylizzysbakedgoods.com.

MEDITERRANEAN PIZZA AND GYROS

This new restaurant specializes in Turkish "pizza" — including etli ekme, crispy flatbread that stretches no less than 25 inches long and is covered with ground lamb, beef, tomatoes, onions, parsley and green pepper.

Mediterranean Pizza and Gyros opened in February at 1199 Broadway, formerly Lara Mediterranean. The menu also includes lahmacun, "cracker-thin" dough covered with lamb, beef, onions, parsley, bell peppers, herbs and spices; several kinds of pide, a thicker dough baked with toppings like meat, potatoes and cheese; as well as gyros, kebabs and moussaka. All meat served is halal.

Mediterranean Pizza and Gyros, 1199 Broadway; Tuesday-Sunday,



Courtesy Truedan

Brown sugar boba tea is a specialty at Truedan.

11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; mediterranean-pizzas.com.

SAPORE ITALIANO PASTA MARKET

Sapore Italiano Ristorante has been hosting a fresh pasta market in front of the Burlingame Avenue restaurant on weekends. You can buy the restaurant's squid ink linguine, pappardelle and other housemade pastas.

Sapore Italiano Ristorante, 447 Burlingame Ave.; Saturday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. saporeitalianoristorante.com.

WAHLBURGERS

"Coming soon" signs for national burger chain Wahlburgers are up at 1218 Burlingame

Ave. The company, owned by celebrity family the Wahlbergs, did not immediately respond to an inquiry about when this location will open.

Paul Wahlberg, together with his two brothers — actor-producer Mark and actor Donnie — started Wahlburgers in the Boston area in 2011. They opened their first Northern California location in downtown Palo Alto in 2017. The menu includes classic hamburgers, a patty melt, turkey burger and, of course, a plant-based Impossible Meats burger, plus truffle fries, bacon macaroni and cheese and sweet potato tots.

Wahlburgers, 1218 Burlingame Ave.; wahlburgers.com.

Email Elena Kadvanly at ekadvanly@pawebly.com

LEHUA GREENMAN



"Life imposes things on you that you can't control, but you still have the choice of how you're going to live through this."

650.245.1845 COMPASS



Courtesy Busy Lizzy's

Above: Cookies are stacked at the Busy Lizzy's pop-up in downtown Burlingame. **Right:** Burger chain Wahlburgers is set to open on Burlingame Avenue.



Veronica Weber



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