

The Almanac

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

APRIL 9, 2021 | VOL. 56 NO. 31



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The end of an era: Ann's Coffee Shop to close

Downtown diner was a Menlo Park mainstay for 75 years

By Kate Bradshaw

After 75 years, Ann's Coffee Shop, known for its 1950s atmosphere, bottomless carafes of coffee and homemade soups and pies, is set to close April 19, according to Nicki Poulos and George Paplos, the mother-son duo that has run the diner for the past 13 years.

The building housing the 772 Santa Cruz Ave. coffee shop, along with the adjacent Menlo Bazaar at 780 Santa Cruz Ave., has been sold by Allan Aldrich, a landlord who kindly didn't collect rent in the months that the shop was closed over the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and reduced rent when the shop faced reduced capacity due to limited outdoor dining availability, Paplos said.

The pandemic hurt the vintage cafe, which is as old as the San Francisco 49ers and has been open during nine decades

— from the 1940s to the 2020s, Paplos said. The coffee shop was only able to keep one cook and one waitress on staff, and could seat less than half of its indoor capacity outdoors, he added. But the final nail in the coffin was the building being sold, he said.

Because of the skeleton crew still working at the cafe, including Poulos' grandchildren, visitors coming to say goodbye to the coffee shop and the family that runs it are encouraged to be patient and accept a more limited menu than usual, Paplos said.

Poulos said the family asked whether the coffee shop might be permitted to remain open while the new owners decided what to do with the property, but the request was declined.

According to the Menlo Park Historical Association, the shop was first opened in 1946 at

See **ANN'S**, page 11



Magali Gauthier

Nicki Poulos, co-owner of Ann's Coffee Shop, talks to customer Steve Mercer on April 7. The 75-year-old diner, a mainstay in downtown Menlo Park, is closing April 19.

San Mateo, Santa Clara counties in race against virus mutations

Health leaders encourage residents to seek COVID-19 vaccination appointments despite short supply

By Sue Dremann

In a continued race to vaccinate residents quickly and stay one step ahead of the mutating coronavirus, health officials from Santa Clara and San Mateo counties are urging patience and a renewed effort to follow safety guidelines.

Both counties are struggling to receive adequate COVID-19 vaccine doses from the state to meet the needs of currently eligible groups. On Tuesday, April 6, health leaders expressed concern about what will happen when the state unleashes eligibility to all adults ages 16 and older on April 15. As the counties seek to reach a 70% to 80% population vaccination rate to attain herd immunity, they also face the reality that some

people won't choose to be vaccinated — or might give up.

Anticipating frustration by the public, Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian on Tuesday urged staff to find ways to encourage people who don't find a vaccination appointment right away to "please keep trying."

Health leaders in both counties said the number of administered vaccinations is rising, but positive virus cases have been flattening in the past two weeks, a sign that forward progress in weakening the virus's onslaught could stall. Health leaders are hopeful that people will continue to follow protocols for mask wearing and social distancing to avoid another infection surge.

They are also in a race against time before the virus further

mutates and potentially renders the vaccines less effective, county health staff told their respective boards of supervisors on Tuesday.

The variants currently in Santa Clara County that are on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "variants of concern" list include the United Kingdom B.1.1.7, which is 50% more transmissible and causes more severe symptoms than the original strain; the South Africa-originated B.1.351, which is 50% more transmissible; the Brazil-based P.1; and two variants originally found in California, B.1.427 and B.1.429, which are about 20% more transmissible, county Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody told the Board of Supervisors on April 6.

"I think it's really the variants

that threaten to undo the progress that we've made," she said. "The good news is that so far, the vaccines that we have deployed are performing well against these variants. But we just have to continue to be watchful because, of course, it's the virus's job to evade — whatever it is that we put up. And so the goal here is to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible, particularly in communities that have been hardest hit, where the virus has amplified most prominently over the pandemic."

An additional 300,000 Santa Clara County residents will be eligible for the vaccine starting April 15, said Dr. Marty Fenstersheib, the county's COVID-19 testing and vaccine officer.

Countywide, 40.3% of people

ages 16 and older have received at least one dose of the vaccine and 25% have completed their vaccinations, he said. Santa Clara County's allocation, which includes community clinics and other county health care entities, received a total of nearly 72,000 vaccine doses this week compared to 58,670 last week. The number excludes retail pharmacies, Kaiser Permanente and Sutter Health/Palo Alto Medical Foundation, according to county health data.

San Mateo County

In San Mateo County, health officials also continue to face a shortage of doses. They were forced to curtail their mass

See **VIRUS MUTATIONS**, page 10

INSIDE

VIEWPOINT 18 | ARTS 19 | FOOD 20

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Magali Gauthier

Steven Kryger teaches advanced algebra II to in-person and remote students at Menlo-Atherton High School on April 6, the second day students were allowed back for in-person instruction.

Wristbands, partitions and health surveys as high schools reopen

Sequoia district teens and teachers are back on campus

By Angela Swartz

Students and teachers streamed into high school classrooms in Menlo Park, Woodside and Atherton on Monday, April 5, but not before each student completed a health screening and received a spray of hand sanitizer. This was the first time many had returned to campuses for classes since the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown over a year ago.

Some 120 M-A students

contended with a lockdown their second day back after someone called Atherton police threatening to “shoot up” the school. The threat appeared to be fake, police Chief Steve McCulley said, but police took precautions to clear every classroom.

“This is not exactly how we wanted to return to school, but our preparedness for situations like these kept everybody safe,” said Principal Simone Rick-Kennel in an email.

About 600 students, or roughly

one-third of Woodside High School’s student body, opted to come back for in-person learning, divided into two cohorts of 300, according to Principal Diane Burbank. During the first two weeks on campus, there are only 150 students on-site per day because those cohorts were split in half, she said.

“(Woodside) had a smooth opening for the 150 students assigned to the first cohort,” she

See **HIGH SCHOOLS**, page 14

Resident group sues city over planned Sharon Road sidewalks

By Kate Bradshaw

A group of residents called Save our Menlo Park Neighborhoods has filed a lawsuit over a recent City Council decision to install sidewalks on Sharon Road near La Entrada Middle School, claiming that the approved sidewalk will result in “significant physical change and harm to the existing environment.”

The lawsuit argues that the sidewalk plans don’t comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and asks that the approvals be invalidated “unless and until” the city complies with “the applicable requirements of state and local law, including CEQA.”

The lawsuit springs from the City Council’s Jan. 26 decision to approve sidewalks on Sharon Road between Alameda de las Pulgas and Altschul Avenue, after hearing public comment and deliberating for about five hours over whether to install raised sidewalks or an asphalt strip to the side of the road with restricted parking during the day, but with parking allowed at night.

The sidewalks were favored by the Complete Streets Commission, which had previously voted in support, while the asphalt strip was the option recommended by city staff. Staff favored the asphalt strip because it would be wider, making it more maneuverable for students traveling in groups, and

was the lowest-cost option with fewer impacts to the frontages of the properties on the street, according to a staff report.

The council ultimately approved the raised sidewalk because it would offer a car-free walkway for pedestrians of all ages, especially the children who walk to and from nearby La Entrada Middle School, while the asphalt strip would not guarantee car-free pedestrian access all the time. In approving the sidewalks, the council also eliminated street parking on that section of Sharon Road and agreed to narrow the street.

Council members decided against the asphalt strip in part because it would not offer guaranteed compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act since, if a car was parked there, there would likely not be enough room for wheelchair access.

“Obviously, this project is about making Menlo Park streets safer for everyone, and that’s an underlying goal of the council, and that was a specific goal of this project,” said Menlo Park Mayor Drew Combs. “I’m obviously disappointed that it has come to this.”

He added that the city planned to respond to the lawsuit.

At the time the sidewalks were approved, the primary opponents were residents or property owners on Sharon Road, or their friends, who argued that the

See **SHARON ROAD**, page 15

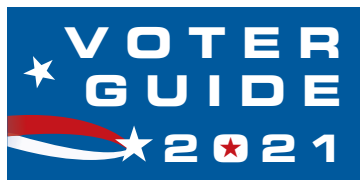
Portola Valley School District asks voters for a smaller parcel tax in special election

Measure S is on the all-mail May 4 ballot

By Angela Swartz

A parcel tax measure will again come before those who live within Portola Valley School District’s boundaries this spring after voters failed to renew a soon-to-expire tax last March.

Measure S is the only item on San Mateo County’s all-mail ballot May 4 election. The district is asking for less money this time around: \$471 per parcel annually versus the current rate of \$581.



It would raise \$997,000 annually for the district and requires two-thirds of voters’ support to pass. It has an eight year term and would expire in 2029.

District officials are asking taxpayers for less because the district has made \$1.3 million in cuts over

the last three years, said district Chief Business Officer Connie Ngo. The district saved money by eliminating an assistant principal position at Corte Madera School; eliminating a district office classified staff position; freezing the hiring of the director of learning and innovation; eliminating 30 telephone lines; and reducing its workforce by seven teachers and classified staff positions through attrition, Ngo said.

“The reduction in parcel tax (rates) reflects us listening to the

community,” Ngo said. “It’s what we have determined we need.”

Ngo said the district must continue to be prudent and is asking for what it “needs today.”

The current parcel tax, Measure O, expires in June and raises about \$1.2 million annually for the district. It funds advanced math, science and technology, reading, writing, art and music programs; reduced class sizes; and retention of teachers for the district’s two schools, Ormondale and Corte Madera, according to

the district website. The tax also covers 17% of district teachers’ salaries, according to the ballot measure.

Measure P failed to pass last spring just as the pandemic hit. Many people did not go out and submit ballots because of fears they would contract COVID-19, said school board trustee Anne Fazioli-Khiari. Voters are also no longer contending with a “chaotic stock market” and presidential

See **PARCEL TAX**, page 15

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Editor

Andrea Gemmet (223-6537)

Assistant Editors

Julia Brown (223-6531)
 Heather Zimmerman (223-6515)

Staff Writers

Kate Bradshaw (223-6536)
 Angela Swartz (223-6529)

Embarcadero Media Staff Writers

Sue Dremann (223-6518), Kevin Forestieri
 (223-6535), Lloyd Lee (223-6526),
 Gennady Sheyner (223-6513)

Contributors

Kate Daly, Maggie Mah

Special Sections Editor

Linda Taaffe (223-6511)

Chief Visual Journalist

Magali Gauthier (223-6530)

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown (223-6562)

Designers

Linda Atilano, Amy Levine,
 Paul Llewellyn, Doug Young

ADVERTISING

Vice President Sales and Marketing

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Display Advertising Sales

(223-6570)

Real Estate Manager

Neal Fine (223-6583)

Legal Advertising

Alicia Santillan (223-6578)

ADVERTISING SERVICES

Advertising Services Manager

Kevin Legarda (223-6597)

Sales & Production Coordinator

Diane Martin (223-6584)

The Almanac is published
 every Friday at

**3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,
 Menlo Park, CA 94025**

■ Newsroom: (650) 223-6525

Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

■ Email news and photos with captions

to: Editor@AlmanacNews.com

■ Email letters to:

Letters@AlmanacNews.com

■ Advertising: (650) 854-2626

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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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CRIME BRIEFS

Menlo Park house damaged in fire

A house in the Stanford Weekend Acres neighborhood sustained significant damage in a fire that broke out April 1, according to the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

The fire district received a report of a fire at the rear of a house in the neighborhood along Alpine Road. An engine arrived on scene at 1:52 p.m. and reported that the fire involved the rear and side of the building and had pushed into the eaves of the home. Firefighters tackled the fire on the outside of the home, and then went inside. While the fire appeared to not have damaged much of the interior space, firefighters found damage in several attic crawl spaces. They had to cut holes in the roof to let the smoke and heat escape and pull down ceilings to extinguish the fire, according to the district.

By 2:20 p.m., the fire was reported to be completely knocked down. Elements that helped the district battle the fire so quickly were the lack of wind, a drone used to fly over the scene, and the fact that it's not yet fire season, fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman said.

Investigators with the fire district later determined that the fire had started near the mechanical and electrical equipment for a swimming pool and hot tub on the property. In addition, there was an earlier report of a PG&E power outage that coincided with the reported time of the incident, which district officials said they were looking into.

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 10

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Atherton traffic management plan workshops

The town of Atherton is working on an action plan to address residents' concerns about traffic-related issues, according to a town newsletter.

The town will host two identical virtual workshops on April 14 and 22, both at 6 p.m., to share proposed traffic calming measures and strategies, as well as discuss priorities.

Go to athertontrafficmanagement.com to RSVP and read more about the project. For more information, contact Public Works Director Robert Ovadia at rovadia@ci.atherton.ca.us.

Bygone Portola Valley roadhouses talk

Tune in Sunday, April 11, for a webinar on the history of Portola Valley's reputation as the "Roadhouse Valley," a reference to the lineup of restaurants and hotels in town, according to event organizer Bo Crane.

Some of the more notable bygone roadhouses that opened in Portola Valley after the Prohibition era included Mama Garcia's La Casa Blanca, The Portola Club, Jan's Valley Inn (briefly Maloney's), and Mangini's (briefly Rudy's), according to the Palo Alto Historical Association, which is hosting the event. Their "once existence seems almost mythical," members write on the association's website.

The free webinar is from 2 to 3 p.m. on April 11 at tinyurl.com/mamagracias.

Atherton hosting e-waste event

The town of Atherton will be hosting a recycling event on Saturday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave.

Acceptable e-waste items include TVs, computers, printers, monitors, laptops, cables/cords, cellphones, MP3 and DVD players, and more (working or not). Residents may come pick

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 9

CORRECTION

The photo that ran with the obituary for Gary Riekes in last week's issue credited the image to the Riekes Center for Human Enhancement, which provided it, but it was later discovered to be an image from InMenlo.

Police put Menlo-Atherton High on lockdown due to threat

Caller claimed to have guns to 'shoot up the school' on the second day students returned to classrooms

By Angela Swartz

Menlo-Atherton High School was put on lockdown on Tuesday, April 6, after a man called Atherton police, threatening to "shoot up the school," said Atherton Police Department Chief Steve McCulley. It was students' second day back in classrooms in over a year after the Atherton campus closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The caller told the police dispatch operator around 2:10 p.m. that he was in an unused classroom on campus with "guns and ammo." Around the same time, police believe the same person called Menlo Park's police dispatch and said he was holed up in a residence in the 2300 block of Tioga Drive with a gun and had shot someone in the home, according to McCulley and Menlo Park Police Department spokesperson Nicole Acker. It turned out to be a false "swatting" call, she said.

When officers arrived, they found a family at their residence with "no suspicious activity or any extraordinary events taking place," Acker said. The officers determined it was swatting, a term coined because the false reports are meant to trick police into mounting a huge response that includes SWAT teams.

There was a prior swatting call at the same address last year, she said. Police suspect it may be due to an "online gaming dispute,"



Magali Gauthier

Alexander Pfistner, a Menlo-Atherton High School sophomore, completes a health screening before entering the school on April 6. A little after 2 p.m. that afternoon, the campus was put on lockdown following a threatening phone call to Atherton police.

but this has not been completely vetted, Acker said.

Police released one classroom, or space, at a time, according to an email administrators sent to parents around 3:30 p.m. There were 60 students on campus for zero period (which is the last class held on Tuesdays, from 1:25 to 2:35 p.m.), Principal Simone Rick-Kennel said. There were also about 60 students there for athletic practices. About 120 staff were on campus, which included classified staff, certificated staff, coaches and administration. Teachers are able to work remotely during prep periods and office hours so not all were present for the zero period if it was their prep time, she said. The

school is at 25% capacity during its initial reopening.

The school resource officer, KC MacDonald of the Atherton Police Department and other Atherton officers, in coordination with the Menlo Park Police Department and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, were able to secure the campus, Rick-Kennel said. Police went "room to room" checking for any threat, as they "were not taking any chance in case it was real," McCulley said.

Students were dismissed from the front of the school, according to an email sent to parents. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

Teachers say Sequoia district promised, then denied, remote work accommodations

By Angela Swartz

Sequoia Union High School District administrators violated a memorandum of understanding with teachers by denying employees who have extenuating health or family circumstances that affect their ability to return to work the ability to continue to work from home when district classrooms reopened on Monday, April 5, a frustrated Sequoia District Teachers Association president told the district's governing board last month.

The denials came via what teachers described as "impersonal" mid-March emails. The emails instructed employees to work with their site administrators to find a solution if it was a child care issue, according to a copy of the email obtained by The Almanac. If it was related

to a medical accommodation, documentation would need to be resubmitted.

The MOU, signed in early March, states: "regardless of the county tier that the district is in, the district will work with employees who have extenuating health or family circumstances that may affect their ability to return to work. SDTA and the district will work together to determine the application process and criteria for applications to work remotely for reasons other than medical condition or disability."

"At this point we have members under great mental and emotional stress," teachers union President Edith Salvatore said during a March 24 meeting. "These were members who voted for our MOU because we assured them that the district agreed to this. It's in writing (that) they will live up

to their end of the bargain. ... It is very difficult to look forward to the very heavy load we will carry knowing the district doesn't have our back on this."

The union filed grievances on March 22 and 23 "to hold the district accountable" for the language in the agreement the district violated, Salvatore said. The district has denied the first of the two grievances, claiming in its response that officials did not "blanket deny" all accommodation requests, though they have not provided any documentation to corroborate that claim despite the union's request for a list of the names of all applicants and whether they were approved by the district, she said. On Tuesday, April 6, Salvatore shared an update from the district: of the 174 applications

See **TEACHERS**, page 8



Las Lomitas Elementary School District Bond Oversight Committee

The District is currently searching for members of the Las Lomitas Elementary School District Community to serve on a Citizens' Oversight Committee for Bond Measures to fulfill the criteria of:

- One (1) member who shall be a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District.
- One (1) member who shall be active in a senior citizens' organization
- One (1) member of the community at large

Individuals interested in being appointed to the Bond Oversight Committee can access application information online at www.llesd.org, by emailing sfuentes@llesd.org or calling 650-854-6311.

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Portola Valley Chiropractic

TEACHERS

continued from page 7

for accommodations, the district indicated it approved nine requests. None was for child care purposes; all were for the health of a family member or other reasons, according to Salvatore. Seven were for certificated employees (SDTA bargaining unit members plus a few administrators) and two were classified staff, she said. Four of the applications were for medical reasons (those applications were supposed to be submitted to and handled by the individual sites), 26 were due to concerns for the health of a family member and 88 were for child care purposes. There were an additional 56 that were listed as “option 4: other.”

Salvatore said the board commended the union’s 91% approval of the MOU, but to her the approval was “embarrassing” because the union normally ratifies agreements with 98% approval.

“Apparently those 9% knew better than we did about who we could trust,” she said, noting that she feels as if the union members were naive.

During the meeting, Woodside High School Principal Diane Burbank and Menlo-Atherton High School Principal Simone Rick-Kennel said that there

haven’t been blanket denials of teacher accommodations at their school sites. Burbank said at least two were approved by the district for lack of child care or someone in their household who had medical issues.

“It was not our intention to appear that we do not care about our teachers and staff,” said Jacqueline McEvoy, assistant superintendent of human resources and student services, during the meeting. She apologized if teachers thought their applications were not read and she said the lack of teachers’ trust in district administrators “saddens (her) greatly.” “We read each application. ... As we went through those documents, we realized that as a team of three (people), that it was difficult for us to make decisions regarding flexibility because teachers’ schedules are different, their needs are different. ... Based on the information we had, we couldn’t make a lot of decisions about flexibility.”

She noted that for every teacher who works remotely, there is another person, a substitute teacher, paraprofessional or an instructional aide, who needs to be in the classroom with the students. “That is a large human resources cost — financial and human cost,” she said. School site administrators have a better

ability to determine if they have enough substitutes to cover staff members who want accommodations, she said.

Trustee Chris Thomsen said the district needs to acknowledge the “real hurt feelings” teachers have. Board Vice President Carrie Du Bois said there’s healing that needs to take place in the community.

Trustee Shawneece Stevenson said the district is going through a difficult transition of “going back to normal” with the reopening. There needs to be different communication styles with staff and students going forward to be more sensitive to the crisis the community is enduring, she noted.

“The more you are divided, the more you are conquered,” she said.

Accommodation denials

Some teachers went into spring break not knowing if they would be required to return to campus or could continue to work remotely.

As of the early afternoon on Thursday, April 1, Pablo Aguilera, a social studies teacher at Sequoia High School, said he was still awaiting word if he could take a leave instead of returning to his classroom after his accommodation request was denied by

the district. By 3 p.m. he heard back from a school administrator that he could work remotely.

Aguilera’s 5-month-old daughter’s pediatrician said her age range would be at high risk of getting sick if he was exposed to the virus at school. He is vaccinated, but it’s still unclear if vaccinated people can spread the virus to people who are unvaccinated. He also lives in the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park, where he is already facing increased exposure to the virus, and the majority of his students live in North Fair Oaks, which would put him at higher risk of getting infected and spreading it to his daughter. Both communities have been hard hit by the virus.

Conversely, his wife, a high school teacher for the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District, emailed her district’s HR department at the same time, with the same letter from their pediatrician, and got a response back in 12 hours saying she was approved to work remotely.

Aguilera said it is hard to have faith that the district will provide a safe learning environment during the pandemic when teachers had to buy their own tissues and hand sanitizer for their classrooms for weeks before remote learning started last March.

Glenda Ortez-Galan, the head

counselor at East Palo Alto Academy, said during the meeting that her principal was able to accommodate her request to continue to work at home since she has two children continuing with distance learning, including one who has a disability. Her initial request to work remotely was denied via a “canned email” from the district, she said.

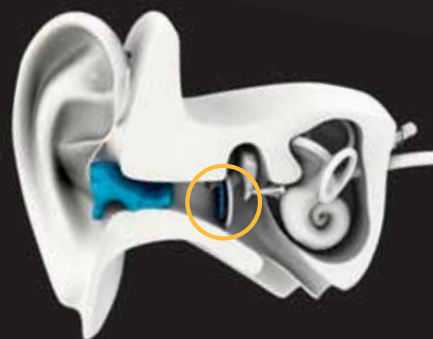
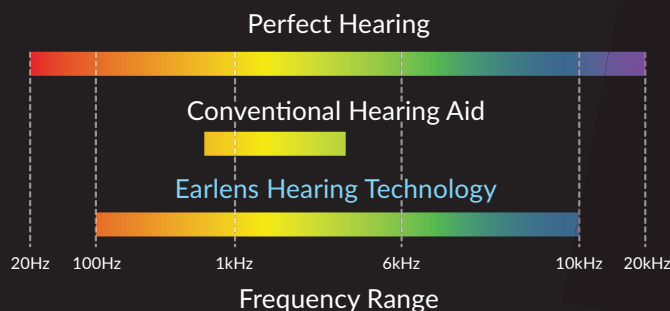
“While I’m thankful our principal will accommodate me, I worry about my classified and certified staff throughout the district whose administrators are not willing to accommodate them and are left to figure it out on their own,” she said.

Other teachers advocated for their colleagues at the meeting. Ellen Jacobson, a district teacher, said she was “disheartened” to hear the district has denied her colleagues the ability to continue to work from home because of their lack of child care and that site officials are having to handle the “fallout.” Another teacher said she was horrified by the violations of the MOU and that the denials made teachers feel that they are not valued by the community.

Video of the meeting can be viewed at tinyurl.com/sequoia-march24. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

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California sets June 15 goal for full reopening

By Ana B. Ibarra and Barbara Feder Ostrov

As the pace of vaccination picks up, California state officials on Tuesday announced the date they plan to fully reopen the state's economy: June 15.

Reopening by then will largely depend on two criteria: Vaccine supply must be sufficient for anyone 16 and older who wants a shot and hospitalization rates must remain low and stable. The mask mandate would remain in place, however.

"It is incumbent upon all of us not to state mission accomplished, not to put down our guard, but to continue with vigilance that got us to where we are today," Gov. Gavin Newsom said April 6 from San Francisco.

The move would eliminate the complex web of county-by-county tiers and replace it with a statewide reopening of businesses. Businesses would open up to full capacity, although individual counties can still opt to have more restrictions depending on their circumstances.

Schools would be allowed to reopen to all in-person learning; however, the school districts will

maintain control.

"I want kids back in school safely, and on June 15 we anticipate there will be no barriers to getting kids back in person, not just K-12 ... (also) including institutions of higher education," Newsom said.

Dr. Mark Ghaly, the state's health secretary, said he feels comfortable allowing businesses to operate at full capacity in mid-June because the state will continue to track local conditions.

"What we could see is fully occupied settings, but yet still with masks," Ghaly said Tuesday.

Until at least Oct. 1, events at large settings like convention centers will only be allowed if organizers can show that attendees are either vaccinated or are tested. There is still no plan, however, for large, multi-day events like music festivals to take place, Ghaly said.

As of Monday, April 5, the state had administered more than 20 million vaccines — more than entire countries. That includes 4 million doses in the state's hardest hit ZIP codes. This progress allows the state to move forward, and leave behind its colored

See **REOPENING**, page 15

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 6

up up to 1 cubic yard of compost for free during the event. The town will provide shovels and bags while supplies last. Proof of residency is required.

For questions about the community e-waste collection, paper shredding and compost giveaway, contact Anthony Suber at asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us or Francesca Reyes at freyes@ci.atherton.ca.us, or call 650-752-0500.

Portola Valley company announces \$350 million in investments

Portola Valley-based venture capital firm Canvas Ventures announced March 30 it is investing \$350 million to fund investments for early stage fintech, digital health, marketplaces and logistics companies, according to a press release.

Clients of Canvas, which was founded in 2013, include Thrive Global, Arianna Huffington's business that provides health and wellness tips for companies' employees; Zola, an online wedding registry; and Casetex, a legal research tool.

Atherton committee applications open

The town of Atherton is recruiting for several committees.

The Audit and Finance Committee has two vacancies for four-year terms.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee has two vacancies. One of the appointments is for a term ending in June 2023 and the second is for a term ending in June 2025.

The Environmental Programs Committee has one vacancy for a four-year term.

The Parks and Recreation Committee has one vacancy for a two-year term. The appointee must be a member of the Holbrook-Palmer Park Foundation.

The Planning Commission Committee has one vacancy for a four-year term.

The Rail Committee has four vacancies, one for a term ending in June 2022 and three others for four-year terms.

The Transportation Committee has a vacancy for a four-year term.

Submit applications at ci.atherton.ca.us by June 7 at 5 p.m. They can also be submitted to the Office of the City Clerk at 150 Watkins Ave., Atherton, CA 94027.

—Angela Swartz

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VIRUS MUTATIONS

continued from page 1

vaccination events at the San Mateo County Event Center to just one this week, which was “very disappointing,” Health Chief Louise Rogers told the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday morning.

The county is making considerable progress on its goals to vaccinate the most vulnerable groups and communities through more targeted events. Dr. Anand Chabra, the COVID-19 mass vaccination section chief, said 48.6% of the county’s eligible population has been vaccinated; 39.8% of vaccinated residents live in places that fall in the lowest quartile of the Healthy Places Index. The county has recorded inoculations among more than 65.6% of people of color, 29.1% of white residents and 5.3% of unknown race. The county has also vaccinated 83.8% of residents ages 65 and older and 87.4% of those who are 75 and older, he said.

But “we still do not have sufficient supply to meet the demand,” he said.

Of more than 101,000 first and second doses managed by the county, 91.4% have been administered or distributed. The county plans to hold six targeted, first-dose vaccination events this week in highly impacted communities and several second-dose events.

One first-dose, mass vaccination event for 4,100 people will take place at the San Mateo County Event Center and 4,400 people will receive second doses, he said.

Last week, all San Mateo County jail inmates were offered vaccines, resulting in 325 adults and 13 juveniles receiving shots. Newly booked inmates are being offered vaccines as they enter the facility, he said.

The county also has vaccinated more than 300 residents and staff at homeless shelters. Last week, 120 unhoused homeless people also were vaccinated.

“We’ve seen enormous progress in reaching out with the vaccine to all the corners of our county, and we still have a ways to go,” Rogers said.

The county expects to have offered all adults vaccinations by early summer. Vaccinations for children are not likely to roll out until early 2022, Rogers said.

“We’re really at a point of transition. This is not over yet,” she said.

Both counties’ health officials offered a carrot of sorts: the possibility that if people remain patient and continue to maintain social distance, wear masks and follow other health protocols, the counties could soon move into the state Blueprint for a Safer Economy’s least restrictive yellow tier. (The state announced it would eliminate the tiers altogether on June 15

if it maintains a sufficient vaccine supply and hospitalization rates stay low.)

There are a few hopeful signs. To move into the yellow tier, counties must have been in the previous orange tier for three weeks and then meet a set of factors, including a low adjusted case rate and a testing positivity or “community transmission” rate. The state lowered the threshold for the adjusted case rate on Tuesday after reaching a vaccination goal of 4 million people living in its lowest vaccine equity quartile, which represents the 25% most vulnerable communities. To move into the yellow tier, a county must demonstrate that it has a testing positivity rate and adjusted case rate of less than 2% for two consecutive weeks prior to moving to the less-restrictive tier.

Santa Clara County has a testing positivity rate for this week of about 1%. Its ranking in the state’s lowest Healthy Places Index census tracts based on testing positivity rate is just above 2%, Cody said. The county has an adjusted case rate of 2.4%.

San Mateo County has a COVID-19 positivity rate of 0.8% and a rate of 1.4% in the lowest Healthy Places Index census tracts. The adjusted case rate is 2.4%, Rogers said. ■

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com.

CRIME BRIEFS

continued from page 6

Structural damage was estimated at \$125,000, and other damages were estimated to be about \$32,000.

“We were very fortunate that the fire was quickly called in by the resident,” Schapelhouman said.

—Kate Bradshaw

Child pornography arrest

A Redwood City man who worked at Palo Alto schools was arrested April 1 for allegedly possessing and distributing child pornography.

Alex Jessup, 32, was placed into custody after the sheriff’s Detective Bureau received a tip from the Internet Crimes Against Children task force about child pornography associated with his address on Feb. 2, the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office said in a press release.

On April 1, detectives served a search warrant on his home in Redwood City’s Emerald Hills neighborhood after an investigation. They recovered what they said are allegedly several pornographic images from his computer and phone. He was arrested away from his home on suspicion of possession of child pornography and distribution of

child pornography.

Jessup was actively seeking employment as a teacher, coach and babysitter, the Sheriff’s Office said.

His LinkedIn and Facebook profiles list jobs at various schools and programs over the past decade, including the Palo Alto Unified School District, Keys School, Palo Alto Family YMCA, Avid4Adventure, CCLC and the Palo Alto Family YMCA.

Jessup previously lived in Palo Alto, according to his Facebook profile.

Superintendent Don Austin said information on Jessup’s LinkedIn page regarding his employment at Palo Alto Unified School District is inaccurate. Anne Le, school district director of classified human resources, confirmed that Jessup was an hourly campus supervisor who worked from Aug. 16, 2017, to Nov. 30, 2018. Every employee and volunteer goes through U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation background checks before they are allowed on campus, she said.

The Sheriff’s Office is conducting an ongoing investigation and is encouraging anyone who has information about Jessup to contact Detective Wang at 650-363-4055 or email at jwang1@smcgov.org.

—Sue Dremann

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MENLO PARK FIRE DISTRICT

ANN'S

continued from page 1

728 Santa Cruz Ave., where Le Boulanger is now. The shop relocated to 772 Santa Cruz Ave. around 1962.

Pete Pappas bought the location in 1992, where his son Nick and cousin Danny Kevetos ran it for many years, according to the association.

In 2008, Poulos and Paplos bought the cafe.

"I always wanted to run a coffee shop," Poulos said. Over time, her son went on to pursue other work opportunities, leaving her to run the coffee shop.

"It was exciting," she said. "I would go and listen to the regular customers there."

Over its decades of operation, it has developed a following of loyal regulars that spans generations. "It was like a home to them," Poulos said. "It was a loud place, a gathering place."

On Wednesday morning, April 7, the diner was bustling as families, couples and individuals were served hearty breakfasts with pancakes, bacon and eggs.

Julie Mercer was there with her son and two grandsons from out of town. "It's a gem of a place to come to," she said. "I feel nostalgic to be here."



Magali Gauthier

Julie Mercer eats breakfast with son Steve Mercer and grandsons Levi and Zach Mercer. Her husband and his friends were regulars at Ann's Coffee Shop and she wanted to eat there "one last time," she said on April 7.

Her husband and his friends had a long tradition of going there every week to talk and pray together, she added.

"I needed to come and experience it one more time," she said.

Dorothy Hersey, another regular who has been coming to Ann's for six years, said she likes the unpretentious atmosphere, the friendliness and the service. It's somewhere she's felt comfortable dining alone and called it her "favorite breakfast stop."

Diners Patty and Terry, who have been frequenting Ann's

since 1994, described as the last of the old-school diners in Menlo Park following the closures of Ken's and Jason's Cafe. Ken's Pancake House on El Camino Real shuttered in 1999, and Jason's Cafe closed in 2019 after being hit with lawsuits claiming the facility did not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Poulos described another regular, a woman over 100 years old whose family brings her to the coffee shop several times each week. Faced with its

closure, the family has asked to buy a booth and place settings from Ann's to install in their grandmother's garage, Poulos said.

She added that the place has long been popular with mothers who called first thing in the morning to order breakfast for their kids before school.

There have also been plenty of high-profile visitors to the shop, she noted: Shirley Temple Black, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, former quarterback Y.A. Tittle and football coach and former quarterback Jim Harbaugh.

And several years ago, she said, the cafe also worked with a security detail to serve then-Speaker of the House of Representatives John Boehner.

The diner has also been a mainstay for generations of Poulos' family.

Vasili Panagiotopoulos, Poulos' grandson who grew up around his family's diner since he was 3 years old, said it'll be "strange not having it in my life."

"It's very, very bittersweet," said A'lex Paplos, Poulos' granddaughter, about the closure of Ann's Coffee Shop.

She began working at the shop at age 16 — now she's a lawyer nearing 30. She said she enjoyed interacting with

the wide spectrum of seniors, young people and families who were customers. She especially liked working at the 1950s-style counter, where she'd often fall into conversations with customers.

'It's going to be hard to say goodbye.'

A'LEX PAPLOS

"It was always like, every day I got a new story from someone," she said. "You just get to hear a lot of interesting things from the community."

"It's been a big part of our lives. We feel very much like a part of the community. It's going to be hard to say goodbye," she said. At the same time, she added, she's looking forward to seeing her grandmother, who is almost 76, take the opportunity to retire.

As for what's next, Poulos said she plans to travel to her country of origin, Greece, and spend time with her family. ▣

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.

Healthy Hearing, Healthy Brain



Michelle Inserra, MD is an otologist with the Earlens Hearing Center. She holds a medical degree from Stanford University and completed a fellowship in Neurotology at the California Ear Institute.

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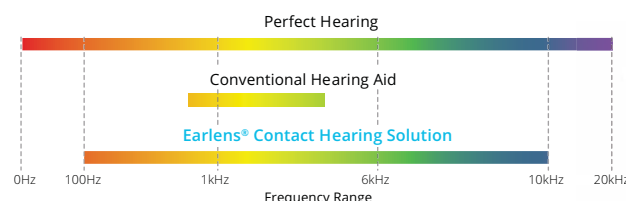
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Robert Lesh Baldwin

September 30, 1927 – March 6, 2021

Robert L. (“Buzz”) Baldwin died on March 6, 2021, at the age of 93, in his home in Los Trancos Woods. He was born on September 30, 1927, in Madison, Wisconsin, the son of Ira Lawrence Baldwin and Mary Lesh Baldwin. He was called Buzz because an older sister couldn’t pronounce “brother,” and the name stuck when there were four Roberts in his first-grade class.



Buzz was drafted into the army at the end of World War II and trained in code-breaking school. Following the war, he reentered college and received a B.A. in Chemistry in 1950 from the University of Wisconsin. Buzz went on to become a Rhodes Scholar, and earned a D. Phil in Biochemistry in 1954 from Oxford University in England. During the subsequent five years, he served as a postdoctoral fellow and then faculty member at the University of Wisconsin, and as a Guggenheim Fellow in Copenhagen.

In 1959, Buzz joined the newly created Department of Biochemistry (chaired by the late Arthur Kornberg) at Stanford University School of Medicine. He was promoted to Professor in 1964 and served as Chairman of the Department from 1989 – 1994. He became Emeritus in 1998, but continued to work actively in his field for another ten years.

During his first year at Stanford, Buzz lived in an apartment in Mountain View. While visiting a friend for lunch in Los Trancos Woods one weekend, he looked around at his beautiful surroundings and thought to himself, “What am I doing in Mountain View?” Soon after that, he bought the house in which he lived until he died, and in which he and his wife, Anne, raised their two sons. He and Anne had been married next door in the garden of George and Myrtle Black in 1965. He very much valued the Los Trancos Woods community, with neighbors who were also good friends and supportive of each other.

Buzz was a gentle person, who loved the woods. He knew the local wildflowers by their Latin names, and loved to hike, and to garden. He also enjoyed skiing and rock climbing. He took his family on backpacking trips to the Sierras, and also annually took his research group for a week of skiing. Buzz enjoyed travelling. He was grateful for the opportunities he had to attend international scientific meetings. His whole family benefited from a sabbatical in Paris in 1972-73, and another in Cambridge, England, in 1978-79.

Buzz thought deeply about many things, and enjoyed art and music, but he was first and foremost a scientist. He dedicated his life to thinking about the important unsolved problems in biochemistry. His career spanned the years when fundamental questions about life were becoming accessible to experiments at a molecular level, and he often remarked how lucky he was to be a scientist at just this time.

The structure of DNA, which led to the solving of the genetic code, was only the beginning of this explosion of knowledge. Each gene defined the amino acid sequence of a protein, but the activity of the protein depended on its three-dimensional, folded shape. The subtle factors that determined the fast and reproducible folding process were the subject of Buzz’s research over much of his career. In the process, he trained many students who went on to successful careers of their own, and to whom he was devoted. He advised them to focus on important problems, and they took his advice to heart.

Buzz was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 1980 and to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1981. He received the Stein & Moore Award from the Protein Society in 1992, the Wheland Award in Chemistry from the University of Chicago in 1995, the Merck Award from the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 1999 and the Founder’s Award from the Biophysical Society in 1999. He has been an editor of the Journal of Molecular Biology and of Biochemistry.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Anne Norris Baldwin; two sons, David N. Baldwin of Seattle, WA, and his wife, Jen Johnson, and Eric L. Baldwin, of Urbana, IL, and his partner, Sarka Petranova; three grandsons, Elias A. Baldwin, Julian N. Baldwin, and Kasper J. Baldwin; and two step-grandchildren, Al and Twyla Johnson. He was devoted to his immediate family, and also to the family of his sister, Helen Guptill, who predeceased him. He will be greatly missed by all.

PAID OBITUARY

HIGH SCHOOLS

continued from page 5

said in an email. About 70% of those expected to attend classes on April 5 reported to campus, she noted.

Students get colored wristbands to indicate they’ve completed their health screenings. Students are instructed to walk in hallways on the right hand side (just like driving) and line up 6 feet apart for the restroom.

Teachers are leading classes over Zoom for students attending class remotely, but the school invested \$20,000 in 20 high-tech cameras that track a teacher as they walk around the classroom giving a lesson, Burbank said. The hope is that for some teachers, this may replace the need to talk directly to the Zoom screen and offers a more natural teaching experience, she said.

At M-A, students are given two wristbands. One colored band indicates that they passed the health screening for the day and the other colored band indicates which zone they can eat lunch in that day.

Some M-A freshmen got the chance to meet for in-person cohorts starting in February.

Of the 9,300 students in the Sequoia Union High School District, those who opted to return to campuses are divided into four groups (A, B, C and D), according to the reopening plan submitted to San Mateo County on March 1. For example, on April 5 and 6, Group A attended class on campus. On April 8 and 9, it’s Group B’s turn. Students are on campuses Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays are designated for asynchronous learning, which is done from home.

After the first two weeks of testing the system on 25% of the student body, a school will combine the four groups into two new groups, bringing the campus up to 50% of returning students at a time.

Staff perspective

The district reopening comes on the heels of complaints from some teachers at a school board meeting that they were not granted accommodations to continue to work from home due to health



Magali Gauthier

Erika Zelaya shows Woodside High School freshman Brady Payne where to go on a campus map on April 5, the first day back in classrooms.

or family circumstances.

Rachel Andres, who teaches math at Menlo-Atherton High School and is also a district AVID resource teacher, said some students can’t return for in-person learning because they have to watch younger siblings or can’t afford to get COVID-19 if they’re exposed at school. She’s seen some families “absolutely decimated by COVID” who are struggling to pay both rent and funeral costs.

“Mental health problems that existed pre-pandemic for staff and students have been exacerbated by our collective trauma and grieving over the lives we used to lead,” she said in an April 5 email. “I understand how hard it is for parents/guardians to see their students suffer and struggle, and I understand why they see bringing students back to campus as the way to heal their pain. I think health care providers deserved some of the anger directed at the district, (school) board, and staff because families could not easily access mental health appointments to cope with the challenges of living through a pandemic.”

The district’s reopening has been imperfect, she noted. COVID-19 testing of district teachers is infrequent (once a month) and she is not sure why anyone thinks that improper mask wearing amongst students or staff will not be an issue. There are rooms that cannot have doorstops where it’s recommended the door stay open for ventilation. Some rooms were set up with teachers’ desks positioned so that computers could not be connected to the projectors, and lunch plans weren’t shared until the last minute, she said.

“We know from social media and seeing people in the community that not all of our staff, students, or parents/guardians wear masks at all times around others,” she said. “A quick check in today with my students suggests that several of them traveled over the spring break, and some of those who traveled were in person for instruction today. ... I have heard far too many people dismiss the possibility of

COVID spread in schools and also several who suggest that those pushing for a reopen don’t care about teachers’ lives. I don’t think either of those viewpoints capture the complexity of the situation. I think both narratives are damaging to our community.”

For Steve Kryger, co-athletic director at M-A, a math teacher at the school and a parent whose children attend public schools in the area, the reopening has been both “exhilarating” and “exhausting.”

“It’s exhilarating because this is what we (teachers) love to do,” he said. His classes have had anywhere from three to six students in them. “We love to be in the classroom with kids.”

There are challenges. Trying to try to keep the students on Zoom and the ones in the classroom engaged is exhausting, he said, and the air purifier is really loud.

“It’s well worth it. The kids in the classroom don’t have to be on any device; the kids in the classroom are getting as close to the old experience as they had,” Kryger said.

M-A Mental Health Support Specialist Shionda Nickerson said returning to campus should help some students struggling with isolation during the pandemic, but for others it won’t be a fix.

“Some students had mental health concerns present before the pandemic, which only exacerbated them; those things are not going to go away,” she said. “Some issues were solely around isolation; for those students, coming back will absolutely impact their mental health in a positive way. It will look different (to be on campus): They can only walk one way, they’re wearing masks, sitting behind a partition — it’s not normal, but it is something.”

But for some students, it’s going to take more than just coming back to school to improve their mental health, she said. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

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PARCEL TAX

continued from page 5

election this time around, she noted.

The district's enrollment has declined. It had 495 students as of Sept. 18, 2020, compared to 548 at the same time during the 2019-20 school year, according to the district.

Mark Hinkle, president of the Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association, said he doesn't see the need for an extension of Measure O.

"Clearly a year ago (Portola Valley taxpayers) said 'no,'" he said. "They're asking for a tax extension — if there are a declining number of students, there are declining needs for expenses. It's always 'more, more, more.'"

Portola Valley resident Mark Waissar said many Portola Valley taxpayers saw their taxes go up as a result of the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017." He added that the trillions of dollars in federal deficits because of the pandemic will cost taxpayers money, too.

"Our children and our children's children will pay the price for our profligate expenditures," said Waissar. "The most important financial lesson we can teach our children is to spend less than

we make, give some of the excess to charity, and make a few investments along the way."

Classrooms reopening

The district was one of the few in the state to reopen for in-person learning this fall, in part because of the parcel tax funding, Ngo said. It spent nearly \$1 million for safety measures such as COVID-19 testing of staff, physical distancing markers, cleaning supplies, personal protective gear and more, according to the district.

"We have to plan for these economic uncertainties," she said. "Who could have guessed about this COVID (pandemic)? The parcel tax is why we were able to achieve that. We have to be ready to weather any situation that comes our way."

About 90% of students are back on campus, while the other 10% are learning remotely, Superintendent Roberta Zarea said.

"The pandemic itself has really unified our community; there's so much support for what we're doing in our schools," Zarea said. "There's widespread acclaim for our reopening."

If the measure doesn't pass,

the district will need to lay off eight teachers, cut programs and potentially increase class sizes, said Fazioli-Khiari. The district doesn't have a specific plan for cuts at the moment and would begin that discussion after the election, she said.

Hinkle said every district claims that the taxes are needed to fund special programs, but he doesn't understand why the district's costs are so high. The district spends an average of \$26,966 per student, according to February data from the state. The state average is about \$14,861.

"Yet every district does it for less than they charge," Hinkle said. "Are the expenses in Portola Valley twice the statewide average? How much better of an education are they going to get for double the money?"

The district could lose one resource that's particularly important to students dealing with the effects of isolation during the pandemic: mental health support. The parcel tax funds the district's counselors who provide social and emotional support.

"This year more than ever, we're seeing that's what's needed," Zarea said.

Campaigning during a

pandemic has looked a little different. Campaign president Linda Kamran said there has been campaign phone banking over Zoom and socially distanced campaigning outside of Roberts Market and the Portola Valley farmers market wearing "Yes on S" face masks.

Measure O passed in 2013 with 69% of the vote. It consolidated two expiring measures: Measure C (with an annual tax of \$290 per parcel) and Measure D (\$168 per parcel), and increased the rate by \$123 per parcel to \$581, Ngo said.

All voters who live within the school district boundaries — which go beyond those of the

town of Portola Valley — can vote on the bond measure. The district includes Woodside residents who live in the Skylonda and Skywood Acres neighborhoods and off Philips and Family Farm roads, and part of Mountain Home Road.

The county mailed ballots to voters April 3, according to the Elections Office.

For more on the measure and to read the arguments for and against it, go to smacre.org/current-election. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

SHARON ROAD

continued from page 5

raised sidewalks would hurt the street's rural feel, that sidewalks might make the road look wider and encourage faster driving, and that the road has had no major injuries in many years. Many also objected to the fact that adding a sidewalk would mean removing the roughly 11 street parking spots from that stretch of the road.

Back in February 2019, the only named plaintiff in the lawsuit, Pat Connolly, asked the City Council via email to consider installing a sidewalk on the nearby Harkins Avenue instead of on Sharon Road.

In a statement made on behalf of his clients, attorney Ryan Patterson, who represents the group of residents that filed the lawsuit, said his clients are "a group of neighbors who will be harmed by

the city's decision" and that they "were forced to file a lawsuit challenging the city's illegal approval of the sidewalk plan."

"We hope the city will reconsider its decision and adopt a context-sensitive solution for each 'complete streets' project," he added.

In the statement, Patterson criticized the volunteer Complete Streets Commission that advises the City Council.

"The Complete Streets Commission has indicated that it's tired of listening to residents who had lived on a street for 30 years, and that they want to implement a 'standard solution' for the whole city. None of the members of the Complete Streets Commission has a degree in transportation engineering or works in a related field, so the result is unsurprising: an out-of-date process, a more dangerous

project, destruction of natural resources, and a streetscape that will be harder for disabled residents to navigate," he said.

So far, a case management conference has been set for May 25. The city was served with the lawsuit last week and the City Council discussed the suit in closed session at its April 6 meeting, according to City Attorney Nira Doherty.

One law passed by the state last year, Senate Bill 288, may come into play: it appears to exempt projects related to public transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, sustainability and safety from having to undergo an analysis for environmental impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act. ■

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.

REOPENING

continued from page 9

blueprint that has been determining reopenings by county.

State officials chose the June 15 date because it is eight weeks after April 15, when everyone 16 and older becomes eligible for vaccinations. That gives people three weeks to find an appointment, another three weeks in between their first and second dose and two more weeks after their second dose, which allows them to

acquire full protection.

"It makes sense to me," said Dr. George Rutherford, an epidemiologist at UC San Francisco. "On the one hand, vaccination is going gangbusters, I think that will give us the out, but we also have to see what happens with the variants, and if people who are vaccinated are getting infected."

Infections are skyrocketing in some other parts of the country, some linked to new variants of the virus. But California has been able to keep its positivity

rate under 2% for several weeks now.

"What we're asking is for people to hunker down for another two months and when we get there, then it's Miller time," Rutherford said. ■

CalMatters COVID-19 coverage, translation and distribution is supported by grants from the Blue Shield of California Foundation, the California Wellness Foundation and the California Health Care Foundation.

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Max A. Capestany**, 87, a longtime Menlo Park resident and OB-GYN at Kaiser Permanente in Redwood City, on Dec. 17; and **Robert Lesh "Buzz" Baldwin**, 93, a Portola Valley resident and founding member of Stanford University's biochemistry department, on April 6.

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

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

WHAT THE BIKE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 286966
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
What The Bike, located at 1271 Bellair Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
SHERIF TADROS
1271 Bellair Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2021.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 16, 2021.
(ALM Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2021)

LANDA CLEANING SERVICE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 287097
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Landa Cleaning Service, located at 671 Stanford Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ANA L. LANDA VERA
671 Standord Ave.
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 March 25, 2021.
(ALM Apr. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021)

GABRIEL V. GARCIA GARDENING SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 287154
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Gabriel V. Garcia Gardening Services, located at P.O. Box 51187, Palo Alto, California, 94303, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 1657 Purdue Ave., East Palo Alto, California 94303.
Registered owner(s):
GABRIEL GARCIA VAZQUEZ
1657 Purdue Ave.
East Palo Alto, California 94303
This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 29, 2021.
(ALM Apr. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021)

NUCLEATION CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
CLIMATE COALITION
U.S. CLIMATE COALITION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 287183
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Nucleation Capital Management, 2.) Climate Coalition, 3.) U.S. Climate Coalition, located at 750 Menlo Avenue, Suite 300, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County; Mailing address: P.O. Box 15, Menlo Park, CA 94026.

Registered owner(s):
KIT VENTURES LLC
18 McCormick Lane
Atherton, CA 94027
California
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 31, 2021.
(ALM Apr. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021)

NELSON CAPITAL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 286974
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Nelson Capital, located at 545 Middlefield Road, #200, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 545 Middlefield Road, #200, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
NELSON CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC
545 Middlefield Road, #200
Menlo Park, CA 94025
CALIFORNIA
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on Not Applicable.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on Mar. 16, 2021.
(ALM Apr. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021)

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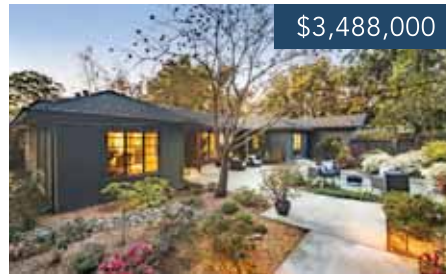
\$2,988,000

301 Arbor Road, Menlo Park
3 Bd | 3 Bth
www.301Arbor.com



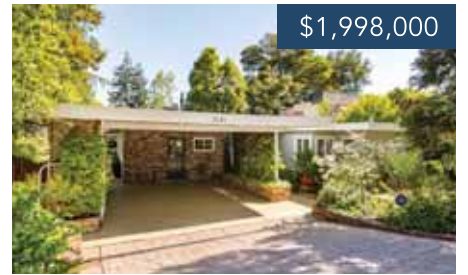
\$4,988,000

307 Walsh Road, Atherton
5 Bd | 4.5 Bth
www.307WalshRd.com



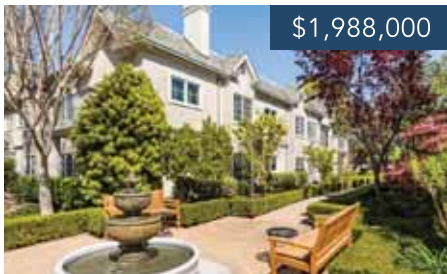
\$3,488,000

1100 North Lemon Ave, Menlo Park
3 Bd | 2.5 Bth
www.1100NorthLemon.com



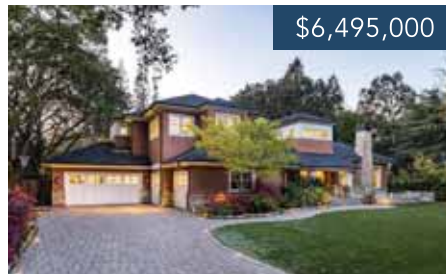
\$1,998,000

2121 Santa Cruz Ave, Menlo Park
3 Bd | 2.5 Bth
www.2121SantaCruz.com



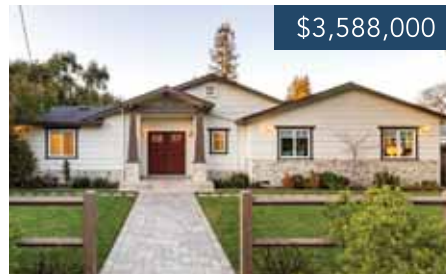
\$1,988,000

1 W. Edith Ave. #C116, Los Altos
3 Bd | 2 Bth (for residents aged 55+)
www.1WEdithC116.com



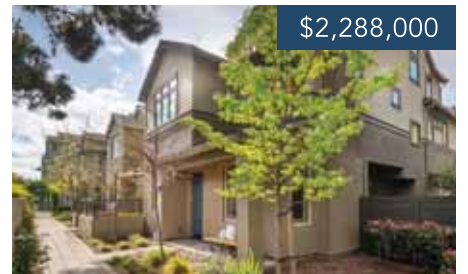
\$6,495,000

601 Menlo Oaks Drive, Menlo Park
5 Bd | 5.5 Bth
www.601MenloOaks.com



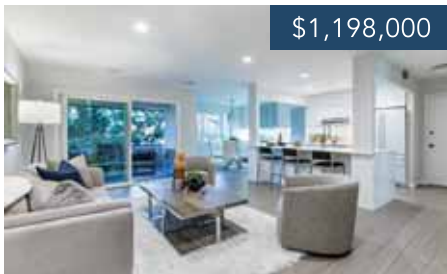
\$3,588,000

221 South Springer Rd, Los Altos
5 Bd | 3.5 Bth
www.221SouthSpringer.com



\$2,288,000

3483 Alma Village Circle, Palo Alto
4 Bd | 5 Bth (3 full, 2 half)
www.3483AlmaVillage.com



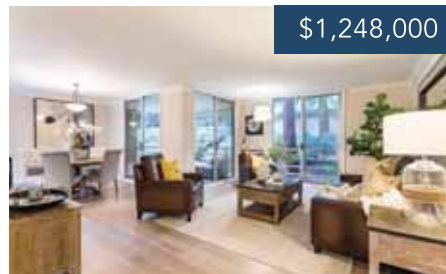
\$1,198,000

461 Burgess Dr #8, Menlo Park
2 Bd | 2 Bth
www.461Burgess.com



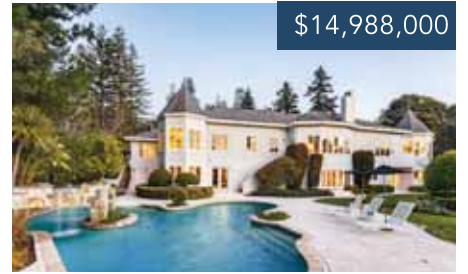
\$988,000

4250 El Camino Real #C328, Palo Alto
2 Bd | 2 Bth
www.4250ElCamino.com



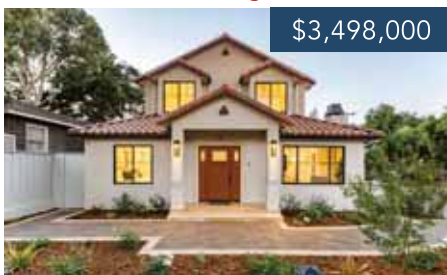
\$1,248,000

1100 Sharon Park Dr #9, Menlo Park
2 Bd | 2 Bth
www.1100SharonParkDr.com



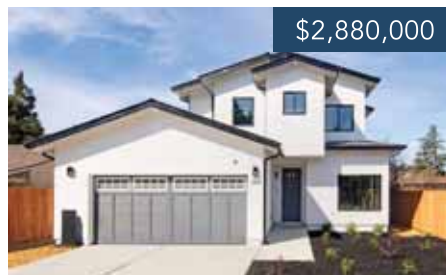
\$14,988,000

97 Ridge View Drive, Atherton
6 Bd | 7.5 Bth
www.97RidgeViewDr.com



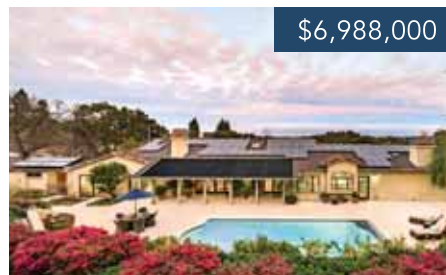
\$3,498,000

103 Stanford Ave., Menlo Park
4 Bd | 3 Bth
www.103Stanford.com



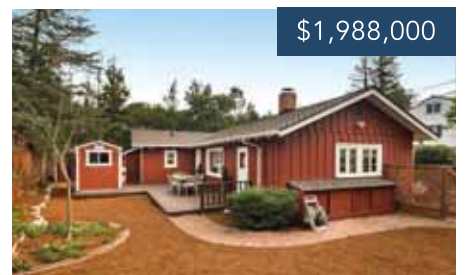
\$2,880,000

751 San Benito Ave, Menlo Park
4 Bd | 4 Bth
www.751SanBenito.com



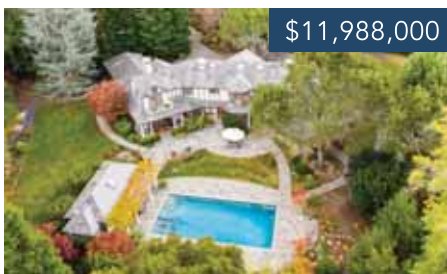
\$6,988,000

26946 Dezahara Way, Los Altos Hills
4 Bd | 4.5 Bth
www.26946Dezahara.com



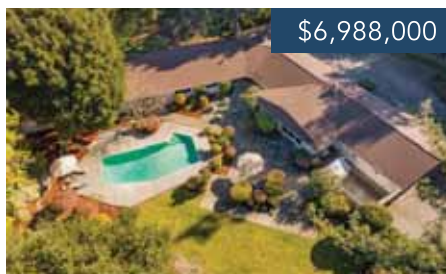
\$1,988,000

11691 Par Avenue, Los Altos
3 Bd | 2 Bth
www.11691Par.com



\$11,988,000

3787 Woodside Rd, Woodside
6 Bd | 5.5 Bth
www.3787Woodside.com



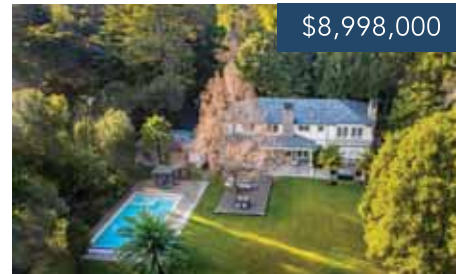
\$6,988,000

35 Edge Road, Atherton
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\$6,488,000

1170 May Brown Ave., Menlo Park
3 Bd | 3 Bth
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\$8,998,000

242 Oak Grove Ave., Atherton
5 Bd | 6.5 Bth
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Vote yes on Measure S

Portola Valley district's tax measure lowers the current rate and supports schools at a crucial time

It may seem like déjà vu for residents of the Portola Valley School District — another spring parcel tax measure, just over a year after voters narrowly rejected a measure that would have renewed the current parcel tax that is set to expire this June.

But things have drastically changed since the last time a parcel tax was on the ballot in the district on March 3, 2020. Schools soon shuttered and pivoted to distance learning due to COVID-19, leaving children homebound and limited to online communication with their teachers and classmates. About seven months later, Portola Valley was one of the first public school districts in San

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

Mateo County to get the green light to reopen for in-person instruction, which it did in a phased approach beginning in mid-October.

With COVID-19 vaccinations ramping up and talk of the California economy fully reopening in June, there's hope that school life can begin to return to some semblance of normalcy statewide this fall. But that continued transition will be hampered should voters fail to support Measure S, a district parcel tax initiative on the all-mail ballot May 4.

According to district officials, eight teachers would need to be laid off and programs cut should Measure S not receive the necessary two-thirds support from voters. The current parcel tax, Measure O, raises about \$1.2 million annually and helps pay for teacher salaries, reduced class sizes, and programs such as advanced math, science and technology, and art and music.

District officials say the new parcel tax initiative is indicative of an effort to listen to the community and only ask for what's necessary, as Measure S would implement a tax of \$471 per parcel annually versus the current rate of \$581. So for \$110 less per year, Portola Valley

district voters can help local schools retain their renowned programs and teachers, which benefit the entire community regardless of whether you have a child in the district. One could argue that it's more important than ever before to keep class sizes small, have teacher continuity and fund academic programs that have enriched the lives of so many children, especially ones like science and music that heavily rely on in-person interactions and have been harder to engage in virtually.

Opponents of the measure argue that the parcel tax is unnecessary because enrollment has declined in the district, meaning there should

be fewer expenses. But the enrollment decline will not necessarily continue, nor does a decrease in enrollment automatically translate to a decrease in expenses at a time when schools are spending money on air filters, cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment to help create a safe environment for students and staff amid the pandemic.

It's hard to complain about being overtaxed by the district when voters are being asked to approve a decrease from the current rate, and the well-respected local schools are a big factor in keeping the town's property values high. The Almanac recommends a yes vote on Measure S.

Not just a drop in the bucket

Proposed water service rate hikes unfair for many Menlo Park families

By Jay Siegel

Menlo Park Municipal Water (MPMW) provides water to roughly half of the city of Menlo Park and is planning to introduce new water rates. A water service rates public hearing notice has been mailed to all property owners and mailboxes in the MPMW district. They are proposing a new three-tier set of increasing water rates as "... the best compromise between fairness and the promotion of water conservation."

The tiers were built upon assumptions of household water consumption: Tier 1 is based on the assumption that individuals in a family each use up to 55 gallons per day for normal indoor use. Tier 2 represents excess indoor plus outdoor usage of up to 110 gallons per day per persons in the family. Tier 3 represents outdoor usage that results in water usage greater than the maximum of Tier 2. The critical reality is that MPMW's residential customers are not families but water meters. For single-family residences this is not an issue — one meter measures the water usage of one family. However, for multifamily residences — condominiums and apartments — this is a serious difference as one meter measures the water consumption of many families, depending on the size of

the structure.

For example, I live in a condominium complex that has one meter measuring the water usage of 57 families. For our water meter to measure usage in tier 2 for the month, every single person in the 57 families would have to use less than 2 gallons of water a day (110/57), or just one flush of a low-flow toilet per day! This is clearly not possible and in fact, our water meter goes into tier 3 by the second day of the month. Multifamily residences are essentially stuck in tier 3 even if they practice exceptional water conservation, and are charged a water consumption rate that is 71% higher than tier 1 and 27% higher than tier 2. Clearly an increasing tier structure is unfair and doesn't promote conservation for multifamily residences. The inequity impact gets worse over the five-year horizon of the proposed water rates. In 2022 multifamily residences will represent 6.84% of all residences, and this percentage grows to 9.93% as a result of a 40% increase in multifamily residential connections over the next five years.

California is currently experiencing a drought, and the likelihood that future droughts could be more severe due to climate change is significant. The

MPMW district has a six stage drought contingency plan that can be triggered by a declaration of a drought emergency by the Menlo Park City Council. Stages 1 through 6 require all water customers to reduce usage by 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, and finally, greater than 50%, respectively. To achieve this, the district has set customer water reduction requirements for each of the usage tiers. Taking stage 3 as an example, customers in tier 1 are required to reduce consumption by 2.0%, tier 2 by 5.5%, and tier 3 by 40.3%. If residential water customers were families, these requirements would be reasonable to reach an overall reduction of 30% for stage 3. However, in reality MPMW customers are water meters, not families.

As noted above, virtually all multifamily residences' water meters will be in tier 3. This means that every family living in a multifamily complex will have to reduce their water consumption by almost seven times more than single-family residences to reach the water reduction goals of the district. Families living in apartments and condominiums have a smaller footprint in terms of land use and water consumption than families living in single-family residences and should not shoulder a significantly larger water use reduction requirement.

The Menlo Park City Council

will vote on adopting the new water rates at a public hearing on Tuesday, May 11, starting at 5 p.m. The meeting link is available at menlopark.org/waterrates along with other background information. You can oppose the new water rates by filing a protest, but only property owners, in a written letter (or digitally signed email) can protest. However, it

is the City Council that will vote to accept or reject the proposed new rates and you, whether you are a renter or home owner, can email all the council members via a single email address, city.council@menlopark.org, and express your opinion of the new rates.

Jay Siegel is a Menlo Park resident.

LETTER

Our readers write

Pass the For the People Act

My name is Quentin Lewis and I work with developmentally disabled adults in Menlo Park. I want Sen. Dianne Feinstein to do whatever it takes to get the For The People Act passed in the Senate and signed into law. The House voted in support of the For The People Act (HR1/S1) — which will strengthen our democracy by putting more power into the hands of everyday people by strengthening our voting, elections, campaign finance and ethics laws.

Then it will be up to the Senate to pass the bill to get it on President Biden's desk. Reforms in this act are tried and true and have taken hold across the

nation. Reforms have already passed in red, blue and purple states and localities, often with bipartisan support.

With authoritarian forces on the rise in the United States, and more and more people being shut out of the political process through racist voter suppression laws and barriers to participation, it's time for Congress to take bold action to build a democracy that is for the people with solutions that have already been tried and tested.

Nothing, including the filibuster, which is a relic of the Jim Crow era and subverts the basic notion of majority rule in a democracy, should stop Congress from passing comprehensive democracy reform to strengthen our elections like the For The People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

*Quentin Lewis
Oakley Avenue, Menlo Park*

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Local roots and global dreams: The Song Gardeners grow their sound

Los Altos band releases new 'New Age pop'

By Karla Kane

It's been a difficult year for artists, but for a pair of Los Altos songwriters, singers and multi-instrumentalists, it's also been a fruitful time to watch their music blossom. The Song Gardeners (Mary Gospe and Corrie Dunn) have been hard at work writing, recording and releasing original songs with empowering messages, in a genre they call New Age pop.

"It is our intent to bring peace, beauty and harmony into the world through our music," Dunn said. "Songwriting is our therapeutic creative outlet."

The band (which also previously included Mountain View musician Chris Day), has released a number of well-received singles and plans to release an album in the coming months, with producer and fellow Los Altos David Scheibner at the helm. With titles including "Love Flows," "Warrior of Light" and "Love is the Magic of Change," their songs offer uplifting and affirming lyrics set to chill grooves and danceable beats, with vocal harmonies and more of a contemporary-pop sensibility than one might usually associate with the "New Age" tag. It's a natural association for Gospe, though, who teaches meditation, among other spiritual pursuits, while also having roots in rock, folk and jazz.

"We've really found an audience in the New Age genre," Gospe said, noting that both The Song Gardeners and her solo songs have found success on New Age radio charts, critical acclaim from international listeners, and even earned several honors. The jazz-harmony infused "Love Is the Magic of Change," written by Dunn, recently won the "Oneness" award from One World Music radio station, for the song "that best represents the hope for global harmony, peace and a oneness of heart, regardless of colour, creed, age, religion, gender or sexuality."

Their sixth single, "Reveal," is out April 8 on all streaming platforms. With a world-beat flavor, a chant sung by Gospe

in Farsi, Spanish and English, and lead vocals by Dunn, the song "is an invitation for women across the globe to break free of outdated patriarchal, religious and cultural norms that keep them silenced and hinder their choices and freedom of expression," according to a press release by the band.

Gospe and Dunn both grew up in music-loving families. They met 20 years ago, when their sons were in kindergarten and have been friends ever since, with a mutual love of organic gardening (hence the band name). They played together in the Los Altos cover band Cool Fire, then formed The Song Gardeners to nurture their original material.

Dunn has long been involved with music professionally; she holds a degree in music from University of California at Los Angeles and works in the Los Altos School District, teaching choir, orchestra and band to local elementary school students. She also plays violin in the Palo Alto Philharmonic and has taken bluegrass fiddle lessons with local legend Jack Tuttle. While she's composed songs since her youth, sharing them with the public is a fairly new endeavor.

Gospe earned an MBA and worked in high-tech marketing and consulting for years, with music on the back burner, although she, too, dabbled in songwriting, taking a class at Foothill College multiple times, "until I maxed out," she said with a laugh. In 2018 she decided to take a short sabbatical to follow her heart's true delight. A fortuitous introduction to producer David Vito Gregoli led to the recording and release of an album of original music, "Time to Soar," in 2019 and before she knew it, "My six-month sabbatical turned into a forever sabbatical," she said, transitioning to an "encore career" as an independent musician.

"I always dreamed of being in a band or doing something with music but I don't know if I ever thought it would take off," she said. "I'm kind of living my dream right now."



Courtesy The Song Gardeners

The Song Gardeners, Mary Gospe (left) and Corrie Dunn, perform original New Age pop music with an empowering message.

Obviously, the year of pandemic restrictions have put a damper on Gospe and Dunn getting together to play, record and perform, but they've kept up with their collaborations from a (short) distance.

"We all are really close together physically but we each record our own parts at home and then send tracks to the producer," Gospe said. "I'd say the biggest challenge in home recording is the leaf blowers!"

When writing, Gospe said she often starts with the lyrics.

"I've had a few songs drop in while I was meditating," she said. For the song "I Choose Love," the words struck

suddenly mid-meditation as a sort of divine download: "In this moment I get to choose. No one else is standing in my shoes. It's up to me how I want to be," she recalled. "That was really cool. Those are like gifts, when that happens."

The band marked its return to live, in-person performance with a gig as part of downtown Los Altos' First Fridays event on April 2.

"With technology, we can still create and share our music; we've even had some online performances. But nothing beats live music, both for the performers and for the audience," Dunn noted.

Ultimately, Gospe said she'd love to tour both locally and internationally, especially to Europe, where the band has received some nice airplay and attention. But in the meantime, it's all about continuing to develop their songs and keep the positive vibrations humming.

"We feel really good about the messages we're putting out," Gospe said. "The songs are healing. I think we've found a niche for ourselves."

More information is available at thesonggardeners.com. ■

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Karla Kane at kkane@pawebly.com.

Food & Drink

Thanks for the memories

A fond farewell from the Peninsula Foodist

By Elena Kadvany

I have some bittersweet news: This marks my farewell as the Peninsula Foodist.

After putting out 47 Peninsula Foodist newsletters and spending eight years covering restaurants and education for the Palo Alto Weekly and our sister publications The Almanac and the Mountain View Voice, I'm taking a job as a food reporter at the San Francisco Chronicle.

I've felt the full emotional gamut that comes with starting a new life chapter after a very formative one, and it feels particularly difficult to leave behind this newsletter and the community behind it. When I first started the Peninsula Foodist column many years ago, I had no idea what it would turn into. I just wanted to write about restaurant news and do justice to the food of the region I grew up in. Fast forward to today, and there's the column, a newsletter and thousands of passionate people who are as obsessed with the ins and outs of local food as much as I am.

One of my editors suggested I put together a list of my favorite stories from over the years for my last newsletter. It's almost impossible to do that since, at the risk of sounding really sappy, they're all my favorite in different ways. My reporting took me into local kitchens and bakeries and gave me access to some of the Bay Area's most interesting and important culinary characters. It gave me an excuse to start basically my dream series — asking local chefs out to lunch at a restaurant of their choice for an interview (the photo above, taken pre-pandemic, is from the first conversation in that series with the former Maum co-chefs).

But I'm going to list a few stories below that have stuck with me and illustrate the driving force behind the Peninsula Foodist: to be the most comprehensive, compelling source for food news in this region, and,

most critically, to tell the stories behind the food on our plates.

It's hard to express how rewarding it is to build something from the ground up, especially in the media world. I'm so grateful to parent company Embarcadero Media for supporting this passion project and investing in restaurants as a serious beat in and of itself, which wasn't the case for a long time (maybe ever) at our newspapers. In that vein, the Peninsula Foodist will continue on with a new writer.

Thank you so, so much, for all of your support over the years — every email, tip and interview. I still have lots of connections on the Peninsula and plan to be around (read: eating) often, so please don't be a stranger. You can always reach me on social media at @ekadvany on Twitter and lenak21 on Instagram.

Here are seven of my most memorable stories:

How San Jose became America's Vietnamese food mecca

For Vietnamese refugees, restaurants provided economic opportunity and community. Today, they offer a delicious case study in regional flavors. At San Jose's venerable Vung Tau, soup is history.

The restaurant serves eight noodle soups, each of which starts with the same broth but tells its own story about Vietnamese history through toppings, condiments and serving style.

Read more at tinyurl.com/sjviet.

Silicon Valley's underground food movement is driven by Instagram and COVID economics

There's an underground food movement booming on the San



Veronica Weber

Peninsula Foodist Elena Kadvany speaks with Meichih and Michael Kim, former co-owners of Maum restaurant in Palo Alto which received a Michelin star, over lunch at Orchard City Kitchen in Campbell on Aug. 5, 2019.

Francisco Peninsula.

It's not happening at restaurants, but in the homes and backyards of out-of-work cooks, high school coaches, mothers and fathers — people who have turned to selling food to make ends meet during the coronavirus shutdown. On any given day, if you're clued into the right Instagram and Facebook pages, you can find homemade quesabirria tacos, fresh tamales, lumpia, pupusas, smoked brisket, smoothies, boba tea and otoi (a Polynesian drink made from fresh fruit).

Read more at tinyurl.com/penUnderground.

How 12 million pounds of food gets distributed during a pandemic

A line of cars stretched through the parking lot of the Mountain View Senior Center on Tuesday morning, drivers waiting patiently for boxes of fresh produce, milk, eggs, canned goods and chicken to be placed in their trunks by masked volunteers. One young mother left quickly to prepare food for her baby, while two older women filled shopping carts with free food so they wouldn't have to spend money at the grocery store this month. Jose Quijano, who has been out of work since March 16, was picking up free groceries for the fifth time.

Read more at tinyurl.com/SHpandemic.

Ghost peppers and legal waivers: Our search for the spiciest dishes on the Peninsula

At first, I thought the waivers were funny, almost a gimmick.

I mostly skimmed them, signing my bodily rights away without much thought at two restaurants that required them before serving me the hottest dishes their kitchens can muster. I just wanted to get to the spicy part.

Then I found myself at the bar of The Swingin' Door in San Mateo ordering the "Habanero Burger XXX," which the British pub claims is "the hottest burger in the nation."

Read more at tinyurl.com/spicywaiver.

Desperately seeking soft serve: Chasing down Mister Softee on the Peninsula

It wasn't easy finding Mister Softee.

For someone used to food trucks with fixed locations, chasing one down was new to me. Sure, you can use the iconic East Coast soft serve company's smartphone app to track the trucks in real time, but they're constantly in motion. Every time I put in a location on Waze, by the time I arrived, the truck I was following had moved somewhere else, just out of reach.

Read more at tinyurl.com/searchforsoftee.

Food trumps hate: Inside the Peninsula supper club celebrating immigrant cuisine

Lalita Kaewsawang was 10 years old, and obsessed with chicken fat rice. Growing up in Nonthaburi, Thailand, she'd return to the same street vendor over and over to watch him make the khao mun gai, a deceptively simple yet technically challenging dish. She offered to wash dishes for an hour just to be able to watch him pour chicken stock into a vat of rice at the exact right moment.

Read more at tinyurl.com/TapestrySupper.

Behind the scenes at Manresa's staff meal

Just after 4 p.m. at Manresa Restaurant in Los Gatos, you'll find some of the kitchen staff in an unlikely setting: sitting in a nondescript parking lot behind the three-Michelin-star restaurant, eating out of ceramic dishes filled with chicken Parmesan, pasta, Caesar salad and garlic bread. Welcome to family meal.

Read more at tinyurl.com/ManresaStaffMeal. ▣

Follow the Peninsula Foodist at almanacnews.com/blogs or sign up for the newsletter at almanacnews.com/express.

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Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224



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For more information contact: Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 我們精通國語和粵語
Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

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MARY 650 888 0860
 DRE 00373961
 MARY@GULLIXSON.COM

BRENT 650 888 4898
 DRE 01329216
 BRENT@GULLIXSON.COM

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