

The Almanac

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

MAY 14, 2021 | VOL. 56 NO. 36



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In gowns and sneakers, tuxes and masks, M-A seniors gather for prom

For the class of 2021, an exuberant rite of passage looks a bit different during a pandemic

By Angela Swartz

When the dancing started, the seniors at Menlo-Atherton High School's "Enchanted Forest" prom on Friday, May 7, crowded together on the dance "floor." Overall, seniors say they felt safe at an event that gave them a rare chance to gather and celebrate after more than a year of social isolation.

About 250 seniors attended the event on the Atherton school's soccer field, which featured a dance floor, cornhole and spikehole games, a photo booth, pizza and snacks, said M-A Principal Simone Rick-Kennel. There were socially distanced tables for students.

Senior Connor Low, 18, said it was his first high school dance and he "never felt unsafe at any time."

"If there was a part that was unsafe, the mosh pit was, because people were on top of each other," he said. "Even then, I never saw a mask off, but I'm only one guy."

See **PROM**, page 13



Magali Gauthier

Emery Goldberg, Alexandra Gonzalez, Sophie Glinder and Kayli Smith pose in the photo booth at Menlo-Atherton High School's senior prom on the campus' soccer field on May 7.

Jury finds Menlo Park man guilty of felony child molestation

By Kate Bradshaw

Randolph Michael Haldeman, 60, has been found guilty of 15 of the 19 felony counts he faced in San Mateo County Superior Court related to allegations of molesting children over the past 30 years in Menlo Park and Ladera, according to prosecutors.

"This is a long-term predator who was able to get away with it for many years," said San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe. "The jury saw right through his lies."

On May 10, the 14th day of Haldeman's jury trial, a jury found Haldeman guilty of 15 felony counts that included oral copulation by use of drugs, sodomy, child molestation, forcible lewd acts with a child and felony contact with a child for a lewd act.

The jury was deadlocked over two additional counts relating to forcible lewd acts and returned



Randolph Haldeman

not guilty verdicts over two others on counts related to contacting a minor for a lewd act.

For over 20 years, Haldeman was a photographer with a local recreational swimming pool and said he was connected with the Big Brother program, according to prosecutors. He allegedly befriended children and their families through these programs.

Over the past 30 years, he molested nine children at his home in Menlo Park, at the Ladera community swimming pool and at the St. Denis Church in Menlo Park, according to prosecutors.

The jury deliberated for two days and completed their deliberations around 6 p.m. May 10, according to Wagstaffe.

The jury, "found the evidence very strong as to the counts they found him guilty on," he said. "They felt they were credible and there was really no serious dissent as to whether they occurred."

The case was continued to Aug. 11 for Haldeman's sentencing, at which several victims and their families plan to share victim impact statements, Wagstaffe said. Haldeman faces over 100 years to life in prison for the convictions

and remains in custody on \$5 million bail, according to prosecutors.

Under state parole law, as a senior, he will have to serve a minimum of 25 years before he becomes eligible for parole hearings, Wagstaffe added.

"We're asking that for this type of predator — and there is no question that he is a predator — serve a long, long sentence to protect the children in our community," he said. ■

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

INSIDE

ARTSCENE 24 | FOOD 26

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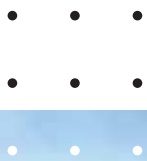
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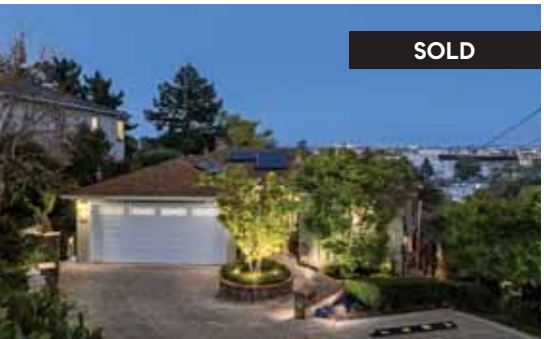
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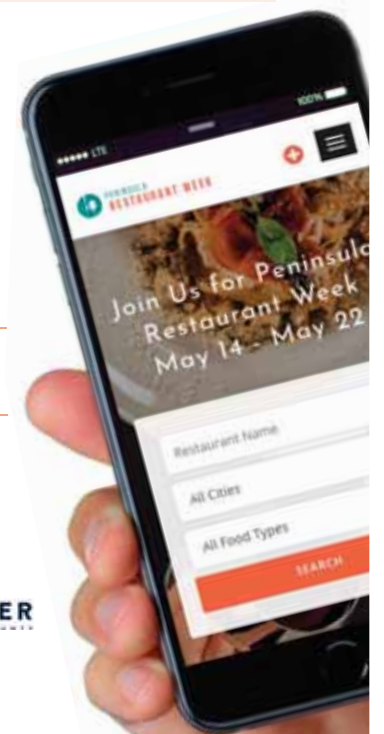
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Magali Gauthier

Bars like the Pioneer Saloon in Woodside are allowed to open with 25% of indoor capacity now that San Mateo County has moved into the yellow tier.

San Mateo County moves to state's least-restrictive 'yellow tier'

By Sue Dremann

California state officials approved moving San Mateo County into the state's least-restrictive COVID-19 tier on Tuesday, allowing for more freedom of movement and larger gatherings just before summer begins.

The new designation allows fully vaccinated people to go without face coverings outdoors at gatherings, except at large or

crowded events. It also allows expanded indoor capacity at restaurants, gyms, movie theaters, businesses and many other operations. Bars that don't serve food can reopen indoors with a maximum capacity of 25% or 100 people, whichever is fewer, according to the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

The guidelines took effect Wednesday, May 12, at 12:01 a.m. San Mateo and San Francisco are the only two counties

in the Bay Area currently in the yellow tier. It's the first time San Mateo County has been in this tier since the state announced the color-coded Blueprint last summer, the county noted in a statement. The looser restrictions come six weeks before Gov. Gavin Newsom has said the entire state may fully reopen on June 15.

Board of Supervisors

See **YELLOW TIER**, page 23

Pandemic brought battles and victories for local Latinos

Cinco de Mayo event highlights nonprofits' work with community during a tough year

By Kate Bradshaw

Leaders from three nonprofits and educational institutions gathered virtually last week to celebrate Cinco de Mayo by highlighting the batallas and victorias, or battles and victories, the Latino community in San Mateo County has had during the pandemic.

Lorena Domínguez, news anchor at Telemundo 48, moderated the online conversation. Panelists Linda Prieto, executive director of Upward Scholars; Rita Mancera, executive director of Puente de la Costa Sur; and Manuel Alejandro Pérez, vice president of student services at Cañada College, discussed the challenges their clients and communities have faced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

At Upward Scholars, Prieto said that many of the immigrant students in the program have experienced significant pandemic-related obstacles in their studies this year. Upward Scholars is a nonprofit that supports adult immigrants from low-income backgrounds attending local community colleges. Pérez noted that Cañada College

is federally recognized as a minority-serving institution, given that about 45% of students identify as Latinx (a gender-neutral term) and just under 20% identify as Asian or Pacific Islander.

"We take seriously our commitment to racial justice," he added.

At Puente de la Costa Sur, which serves farmworkers, seniors, students and others in unincorporated areas of San Mateo County near the coast, Mancera said that the organization listened to its clients to learn about what community members were facing.

They started providing food to community members, spending 10 times the amount on food they had the previous year. They also launched a program to offer financial support to undocumented households that didn't receive federal stimulus checks earlier in the pandemic. They partnered to distribute internet hot spots to students working remotely and advocating for the needs of their community.

One significant win for the organization, Mancera said, was the push in San Mateo County to vaccinate farmworkers.

See **CINCO DE MAYO**, page 23

Local towns face increased state housing requirements

Emphasis on 'rural charm' is ploy to avoid building, one housing advocate says

By Angela Swartz

Local governments are kicking off their housing element planning processes, with most facing significant increases in the number of units they're required to designate for development. It's prompting pushback from some residents and town officials, who object to changes to the "rural character" of their towns and fear that building more homes could increase wildfire risk in a region that is already at a heightened risk for fires.

Atherton's 2023-31 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) numbers require a 274% increase in the number of units it must plan for from the

2014-22 cycle to meet housing demand. Woodside's RHNA numbers are jumping 429% from last cycle. Portola Valley's numbers are "significantly higher than last cycle," an increase of 295%, according to an April 28 report prepared by town staff. Towns do not need to build the housing themselves, but do need to put in place the necessary zoning rules so that private developers can.

San Mateo County is confronting a housing shortage. Since 2010, just 10,000 homes have been built, while 100,000 jobs have been created. Many residents are spending more than 30% of their income on housing, said Brandi Campbell Wood, a senior planner with

Baird + Driskell Community Planning, during an April 14 talk on housing needs on the Peninsula. There are six low-wage jobs (making less than \$20 per hour) for every affordable home (\$1,500 a month for rent) in the county.

Both the Atherton and Woodside councils recently adopted a resolution stating they "feel strongly" that state housing legislation deprives towns of their abilities to meet the needs of their communities.

These increased RHNA targets come as towns are hyper-aware of new state legislation that could further affect development within their borders.

Two bills of concern to Atherton officials are Senate Bill 9

and Assembly Bill 1401. SB 9 would allow homeowners to put a duplex on single-family lots with ministerial approval, which means that a city must approve this type of proposal if it meets a set of fixed standards. AB 1401 would prohibit a local government from imposing a minimum car parking requirement on residential, commercial or other types of development if the development is located on a parcel that is within a half-mile of public transit.

"One of the frustrations, even if you do all this planning, is bills like this will affect the community whether you have a (housing) plan the state has certified or not," Dan Carigg, a consultant with the firm Renne

Public Policy Group (RPPG), told the Atherton City Council and Planning Commission during a study session on April 28. "Why should some of these bills ... go in and micromanage your community?"

State policies have shifted in recent years because of the "narrative that single-family zoning is directly tied to redlining" — the discriminatory practice of banks refusing home loans to people because they lived in an area deemed to be a poor financial risk, instead making loans to segregated, "racially harmonious" communities, RPPG told the town.

See **HOUSING**, page 22

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**Request for Proposals -
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The City of Menlo Park (the City) is soliciting proposals from demographic analysis and Census mapping consultants to provide mapping and demographer expertise and support of the 2020 Census City Council redistricting for the City's elected districts. The City is interested in a consultant with expertise and experience in the technical aspects of redistricting and the Federal and California Voting Rights Act requirements. The City seeks a consultant it can work effectively with to achieve project success.

Specifications and additional information may be obtained at no cost online at menlopark.org/bids. The contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the city's website.

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NEWS

CRIME BRIEFS

Man arrested in fatal hit-and-run

Police arrested the driver of a van believed to be involved in a fatal collision with a pedestrian on El Camino Real in Redwood City early Monday morning.

Carl Hofstetter, 69, was taken into custody after a traffic stop in the 300 block of El Camino Real in San Carlos shortly before 3 p.m. Monday. Officers recognized the suspect's vehicle — which had damage to its front end — from witness accounts and video surveillance footage obtained from a nearby business.

Hostetter admitted his involvement in the collision to officers and was arrested for suspicion of felony hit-and-run and vehicular homicide.

The collision was reported about 2:30 a.m. Monday in the 1600 block of El Camino Real, where officers found a man lying in the middle of southbound lanes.

The victim, whose name has not been released, was unconscious and had major injuries. He was pronounced dead at the scene by medical personnel, Redwood City police said.

A witness told police that the van hit the pedestrian and then continued southbound on El Camino Real. The van reportedly made a U-turn at Roosevelt Avenue and headed northbound on El Camino Real, stopping at the scene of the collision.

The driver left the van to examine the damage to the vehicle, and then got back in and left, heading northbound on El Camino Real, police said.

Anyone that may have additional information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact Detective David Denning at (650) 780-7141 or traffic Officer Pete Cang at (650) 780-5021. Messages can be left anonymously on the Redwood City Police

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 17

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Menlo Park OKs \$1.2 million grant to Habitat for Humanity

The Menlo Park City Council voted unanimously May 11 to approve a \$1.2 million grant to Habitat for Humanity to support a project to help 20 owners of Belle Haven homes with safety-related home rehabilitation projects, such as roof or window replacements, plumbing and electrical fixes, or insulation projects over the next three years. The funds come from the city's Below Market Rate housing fund.

The program will provide homeowners with 0% interest loans typically between \$40,000 and \$70,000, which they pay back over a period of 30 years to cover the costs of the rehabilitation projects.

According to Maureen Sedonaen, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco, the program aims to work with low-income homeowners of color, mainly seniors, who face difficult choices in the current housing market. For low or fixed-income households like theirs, she said, many have to choose between living in unhealthy, leaky or poorly insulated properties they can't afford to repair, or selling their properties and leaving the region. The program will start by reaching out to homeowners to apply for the loans.

Ride your bike in May to earn local prizes

The Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition is hosting its annual Bike to Work Day — but with a pandemic twist — on May 21. Instead, the event is a "Bike to Wherever Day," acknowledging that many folks may still be working from home and don't currently have commutes they can opt to take by bike.

People who register and pledge to ride their bikes in May can pick up a free bag at a number of locations throughout San Mateo and Santa Clara counties on May 21; some distribution sites may be set up on May 22 instead. Go to bikesiliconvalley.org/btwd to sign up and learn more.

San Mateo County residents can also track their bike trips during May via Strava or Commute Tracker to be eligible for additional prizes. Learn more at is.gd/smcmaybike.

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 16

Facing a rent hike, Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce quits train depot for new offices

By Kate Bradshaw

After more than 50 years inside the quaint historic train depot at the downtown Caltrain station, the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce moved quietly out of its longtime headquarters last year to a new location on Oak Grove Avenue, according to Fran Dehn, the chamber's president and CEO.

The chamber received a rent increase effective March 2020 and was unable to negotiate to maintain or reduce the rent based on office closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dehn said.

The chamber faced a "substantive" rent increase that would have been unrealistic to pay as a nonprofit organization, she added. The chamber relocated its offices to 671 Oak Grove Ave. in downtown Menlo Park and reduced its office space by about 75%, Dehn added.

"Relocation was the only option," she said in an email. "A year later, the train station remains unoccupied and is falling into disrepair — rather sad for one of our historic 'gems.'"

According to Tasha Bartholomew, Caltrain spokesperson, Caltrain had been considering



Magali Gauthier

The Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce has moved out of the historic building at the Menlo Park Caltrain station that's served as its headquarters for half a century.

reducing the rent after the Chamber of Commerce requested it when the chamber terminated its lease.

Caltrain and the Chamber of Commerce have historically had "differences" because Caltrain has wanted to collect rent at the fair market rate and the chamber "wanted to pay below market value," Bartholomew said in an email.

"While Caltrain was considering a rent reduction at the Chamber's request last year, we were informed by them that they

had found an alternate location, approved by their board, and that they would be terminating their lease," she added. "The Chamber voluntarily moved out of the Menlo Park Depot site as of August 31."

The depot is currently vacant and available for lease, according to Bartholomew. Interested parties should contact Michael Rodenburger at rodenburgerm@samtrans.com or (408) 823-3060. ■

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

Coronavirus central: FDA authorizes Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for people ages 12-15

State's mask mandate appears likely to end soon

By Embarcadero Media staff

San Mateo County as of Monday had 41,864 cumulative cases of COVID-19, with 568 deaths. There were 18 people hospitalized. Santa Clara County as of Tuesday had 118,974 cumulative COVID-19 cases and 2,088 deaths. There were 69 people hospitalized, six of whom were new.

Vaccine OK'd for adolescents ages 12 to 15

The Food and Drug Administration on Monday amended an emergency use authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for people who are 12 to 15 years old, the federal agency said, making a cohort of children under 16 eligible for a coronavirus vaccine for the first time since vaccinations began nationwide in December.

State Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly and state epidemiologist Dr. Erica Pan said during a news briefing that the vaccine could become available to California's youngest teenagers as soon as Thursday.

The Pfizer vaccine continues to be the only coronavirus vaccine available to minors.

Stanford Children's Health announced in a statement Wednesday that it would be offering the Pfizer vaccine to any preteen and teen ages 12 to 17 effective Thursday.

"We know that young people have shouldered a significant burden throughout COVID in many ways," Ghaly said. "The fact that we can now provide a certain degree of confidence and protection to those young people to start to resume activities, visit more with families and friends, I think it's a tremendous opportunity for that group to sort of experience that sense of normalcy that they have been missing."

The state opened vaccinations to 16- and 17-year-olds on April 15. Since then, more than 30%

of people in that age group have received at least one vaccine dose, according to Ghaly.

Some 2.1 million state residents will become eligible once appointments open to those ages 12 to 15.

Ghaly and Pan, both of whom are pediatricians and parents, noted that as millions of the highest-risk demographics like those with chronic medical conditions and people over 65 have been vaccinated across the state, more and more cases have been confirmed among young people.

"The more vaccines we can get into the arms of eligible Californians, the more we can stop the spread," Pan said.

With the exception of minors who have been emancipated from their families, everyone under 18 in California requires the permission

See **CORONAVIRUS**, page 17

Your COVID-19 vaccine questions — answered

We've compiled a list of who can currently get vaccinated in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, plus answers to common questions and links to resources. Access the page at tinyurl.com/COVIDvaccinequestions. Have a question? Send it to editor@paweb.com and we'll do our best to answer it.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



There May Be Changes to Capital Gains Tax Rules

Dear Monica: I want to sell my property but am worried that there will be a higher capital gains tax rate when I do sell. Should I sell now at the current lower rate?

Emily G.

Dear Emily: It is hard to predict when changes to tax laws will occur and even harder to plan accordingly. There is much talk about

changes coming and it is reasonable to assume that some changes to pay for COVID stimulus payments may be coming. Rumors include higher cap gains tax rate if earnings are above \$1 million, and the elimination of the stepped-up basis when one spouse dies. Consult your tax advisor about how such changes would affect you and decide accordingly.

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High school sports roundup

Menlo School girls back on the court after quarantine

The Menlo School girls basketball team practiced Monday, May 10, after being in quarantine for 10 days due to a positive COVID-19 test. The team last played on April 28.

Three West Bay Athletic League games — against Sacred Heart Prep, The King's Academy and Notre Dame-Belmont — were not played and are unlikely to be made up. A nonleague road game against Half Moon Bay was also canceled.

"We were excited to get back on the court," Menlo coach John Paye said. "It felt like the start of the season, which is kind of good and kind of frustrating."

Menlo (1-1) will have had two days of practice before taking on Pinewood, which has outscored five opponents by an average margin of 50 points per game, on Wednesday, May 10, after The Almanac's press deadline.

—Glenn Reeves

M-A water polo teams just happy to have a season

From winning a dramatic, emotional Central Coast Section title to perhaps not even playing



Courtesy Bob Dahlberg @bobd_photo

Gabe Montoya will be playing at Whittier College in the fall.

to suddenly having a season, the Menlo-Atherton boys water polo team has been through it all.

"It was literally not going to be a season," M-A coach Tim Kates said after the Bears beat visiting Carlmont, 17-3, in a Peninsula Athletic League contest Monday, May 10. "We were hoping for the best but expecting the worst."

The Bears settled for a season but with no chance to defend its CCS Division I title. For seniors Sonny Watkins, Gabe

Montoya and Gavin Plume, that's too bad. For everyone else, there's next season.

"It was amazing," Kates said. "We went from having no idea to getting thrown into it and making a mad scurry to put a schedule together."

For the M-A girls, there is only senior Eleanor Fisher. After losing 12 seniors from last year's team that lost in the first round of the CCS Division I playoffs to eventual runner-up Santa Clara, coach Lauryn Lesyna has developed

a whole new group of players.

"We had a tough start to the season but because of that, we were more prepared for the league games," Lesyna said. "With Castilleja gone, there has been some good, tight games."

There was never going to be a CCS water polo playoff, so there was no harm done when the district schools decided to opt out recently.

"Really, I think we're just happy to be playing," Kates said. "We've been able to play good teams. We've had a couple of heartbreaking defeats in sudden death but it's been huge for the boys to do what they do."

M-A split a pair of games with St. Ignatius, each winning by a single goal. The Bears (13-2, 6-1) lone league loss was to Woodside in sudden death.

"Maybe we've missed the competition of the tournaments but we're all pretty fortunate to get a season," Kates said.

M-A scored the game's first nine goals and 14 of the first 15. Owen Taylor led the offense with six goals. Jackson Garff and Julian Montoya each added three goals, and Watkins scored twice.

Even though she's only losing one senior, Lesyna sees it

as a huge loss.

"She's our quarterback," Lesyna said of Fisher. "She always leads the team in assists. I feel so comfortable when she has the ball. She can protect it, make great decisions and make the right pass."

Fisher actually scored once, early in the game, before settling in as the distributor.

Ella Nelson led the Bears (11-5, 7-0) with nine goals, followed by Viviana Luna, who added three goals.

M-A took a 6-1 edge midway through the second period before Carlmont's Ilayda Zlobinsky went off and helped the Scots eventually pull within 10-8 late in the third period.

Zlobinsky, who plays with the Stanford water polo club, scored seven times, most of them from long range and with the force of cannon shot.

The Bears scored the next four goals to regain control.

M-A can still achieve its top two goals for the season. The Bears want to finish the PAL season undefeated and "we want to see improvement," Lesyna said. "This is a nice way to see that improvement, playing everyone twice."

See **SPORTS**, page 20

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Despite apartment dwellers' concerns, Menlo Park council OKs new water rates

By Kate Bradshaw

New tiered water rates are coming starting July 1 for Menlo Park Municipal Water customers.

In a split vote, the Menlo Park City Council voted 3-2 on May 11, with council members Ray Mueller and Cecilia Taylor opposed, to approve new water rates for the next five years for customers of the city's Municipal Water service. The water provider serves about 4,400 water connections and about 19,000 people throughout the city, mainly in the Sharon Heights neighborhood and areas closer to the Bay in Menlo Park.

The new rates create three tiers that set water prices lower for connections that use less water and higher for those that use more.

Rate increases are intended to address the facts that wholesale water rates through the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission are expected to increase 32.9% over the next five years, and that Menlo Park Municipal Water is expected to spend about \$60 million on capital improvement projects over the next five years.

The newly adopted water rates have two components: a flat rate based on each customer's water meter size, and a consumption charge, based on the number of water units, measured in hundred cubic feet, that each household uses. Both are slated to rise over the next five years, from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2026.

For single-family homes,

average households using 12 units of 100 cubic feet of water are expected to see a decrease of around \$9.50 in the 2021-22 fiscal year as the city transitions to a three-tier system that charges \$5.09 per unit from zero to six units; \$6.82 per unit from seven to 12 units, and \$8.69 per unit over 12 units. Meanwhile, the flat meter rate charge is expected to rise to \$33.53 in 2026 from \$27.58 for customers with meters that are 5/8 or 3/4 inches wide, according to a staff report.

Council members were split primarily over issues raised by a number of residents of multifamily homes, who said that the city's tiered water rate system disadvantaged their households because the rates are based on usage from each water connection rather than each household. Since many multifamily apartment or condominium complexes share a single connection for all of the homes on a property, those connections will enter the higher-price tiers more quickly than single-family home water connections. As a result, residents of multifamily homes will face higher water prices than single-family home residents, even though the average water usage in a multifamily household is lower.

In a public comment, resident Anders Frisk called the approach discriminatory toward multifamily water customers that, under the new system, will be charged higher water consumption rates than single-family home customers even though they use less water.

"Did everyone just forget about the families in multifamily housing?" he asked.

One mitigating factor in the water cost equation, noted Chris Lamm, assistant public works director, is that single-family households also pay a flat rate for their home's water connection, while multifamily households can share that fixed cost, and that despite the higher water consumption rates to come for multifamily households, the average bill will still be lower than for single-family households.

Within the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, of which Menlo Park is a part, only three out of 40 set tiered rates for multifamily water customers is based purely on water use per meter. More either set flat rates for multifamily households or set up tiers that consider the number of housing units each meter serves. Others set a flat rate for all customers or just have tiered rates for single-family homes, according to a staff report.

Redo the study?

The council discussed the possibility of redoing the water rate study, led by the consultant firm Black and Veatch, at an estimated cost of around \$20,000 and four or five additional months of time, to restructure the overall water rates by crafting an average rate for each unit in multifamily developments. However, since all of the units at a given multifamily property share a single water

meter, such a system would still fall short of a truly egalitarian rate system based on each household's water use, consultant Ann Bui explained, since, without meters on every household, there's really no way to know how much water each household uses and charge each accordingly. The closest one can get is an average across the number of households in a multifamily property, which doesn't account for factors like some units being vacant or some units using extra water, she said.

If the study were redone, it would likely result in higher rates for at least the first tier of water usage, Lamm said.

Mueller said he favored redoing the water study to better reflect the water usage of multifamily households.

"I really believe the right thing to do is redo (the water rate study) and figure out how you charge at the correct consumption basis for a multifamily resident," he said. "At the end of the day, we charge for water by the consumption rate. It's difficult for me to say I'm going to charge someone in a single-family home less on a consumption rate, even though they're getting a capital charge for the water meter, and charge people in multifamily homes more for their consumption, even though they escaped that capital surcharge."

Taylor said that she opposed the rate increase at least partly because at "a time like now, some people don't have the means to increase any expenses." She said she also favored eliminating the

credit card processing fees that water customers pay in addition to their bills.

Mayor Drew Combs, on the other hand, supported the updated water rates, noting that the fact that multifamily homes are on a single meter has more to do with considerations developers made at the time those properties were developed to reduce the infrastructure costs by putting all of those homes on a single meter. That was a financial bet that those developers made and it has consequences that may affect tenants, but it doesn't constitute discrimination against residents of multifamily homes, he argued.

Councilwoman Jen Wolosin explained her support for both sides of the proposal before eventually agreeing to pass the new rates after confirming with staff that even if the study were to be redone, the general rates would not be likely to change much.

"I don't think we're going to end up with a better answer," Vice Mayor Betsy Nash said in explaining her support for moving forward with the new rates.

While such approvals typically require a four-fifths majority to move forward, the council was able to pass the new rates with a simple three-fifths majority by eliminating provisions in the ordinance that relate to health and safety codes. Passing the new rates with simple majority provides the city less protection should a lawsuit or class action arise against the water rates, noted Assistant City Attorney Megan Burke. ■

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

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Notice of Public Hearings

Due to COVID-19 protocols, the Portola Valley School District will hold two separate public hearings on the proposed Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), with the Budget Overview for Parents cover page, and the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-22 on Thursday, May 27, 2021, virtually at 6:00 pm. Details of the meeting can be found at www.pvsd.net. A copy of the LCAP, with the Budget Overview for Parents cover page, and the proposed budget will be available for public examination at the Portola Valley School District, 4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028 from May 24, 2021 through May 27, 2021 between the hours of 8:00 am to 3:00 pm and on the district website, www.pvsd.net. Please contact Connie Ngo, 650 851-1777, cngo@pvsd.net to request a printed or electronic copy. Public members or stakeholders may complete a comment card and speak to the LCAP and proposed budget or any item therein.

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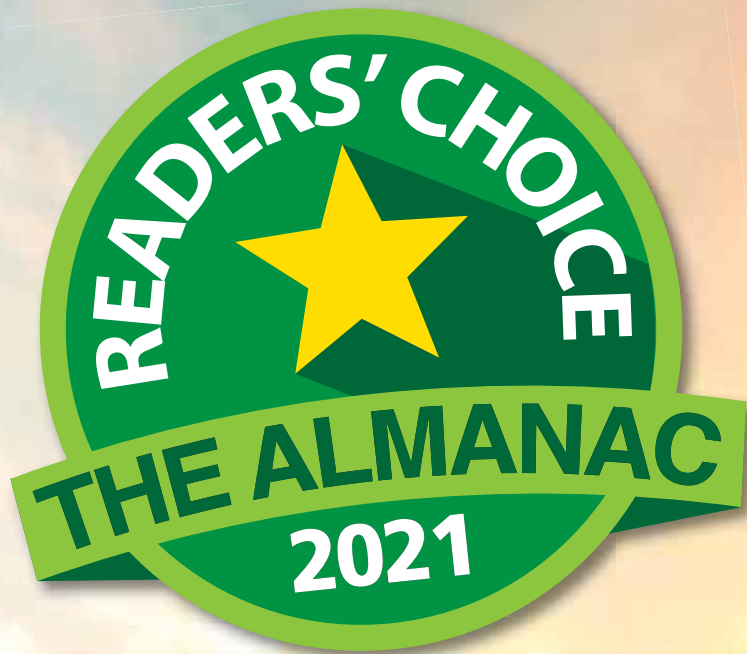
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Magali Gauthier

Clockwise from left: A group of seniors tries to start a dance circle; M-A seniors check in and complete a health screening before entering the senior prom held on the soccer field; seniors, many wearing sneakers with their formal wear, gather in a big group; light reflects off a disco ball and ripples through lingering haze from a fog machine.

PROM

continued from page 1

Low said he's glad seniors got to experience prom and that it felt a "little bit like a dream" after a year of COVID-19 lockdowns.

This was a seniors-only prom without guests, Rick-Kennel said, and many of the seniors have already been vaccinated.

She said the school followed all protocols and county guidance, including having students agree to the school's standard COVID-19 safe contract in order to attend. Students filled out a health screening on an app before entering prom.

After the event, Rick-Kennel said in an email that administrators expected teenagers would dance closer than the distancing requirements, similar to what happens during lunch breaks during the school day when school staff have to remind students to keep distanced.

"We asked the DJ to consistently remind them of both distancing and keeping masks up," she said. "Yes, there were times they danced closer than we liked but the reminders helped. All students complied with masks and reminders to lift them up if they took a breather. And that was very few in my observation.

Students were well-behaved, appreciative, grateful and happy they had a prom. I did not see any student not comply with masking or a request to lift their mask up."

Although the DJ told partygoers to put their masks back on, The Almanac's photographer observed that some students left them off, and some pulled them down or put them away when they danced under the disco ball in front of the DJ's stage.

Several teens told The Almanac that they felt safe at the event and didn't see many students going maskless.

Student body president and senior Annika Abdella, 18, said being able to get together with fellow seniors — some of whom didn't return to campus this spring — for the first time in a "very long time" was nice.

"It could have definitely been better (mask wearing)," she said. "Everyone just looked really nice. I love to dance so I enjoyed that."

Senior Ally Mediratta, 18, said she wasn't expecting prom to happen this year, so she thought it was exciting that seniors got an event like that before graduation.

"It was definitely unconventional, but you could tell that

leadership put a lot of effort into it, and I think it was pretty successful," she said in an email. "Everyone was diligent about wearing their masks the whole time, so I wasn't really worried about COVID and felt like it was pretty safe."

Senior Spencer Lin, 17, said that his best memories from the event were catching up with people he hadn't seen in over a year. He said for the most part, students wore their masks.

"Some people put them on their chins," he said, and it got "pretty crowded" near the stage, but most people were responsible.

Following the prom, parents sent several complimentary emails to administrators saying students had a great time, a sentiment heard from the students themselves as they left the dance and thanked staff, Rick-Kennel said.

San Mateo County was still in the orange tier of coronavirus restrictions last week, which

allows outdoor private events with modifications including: attendance limited to a maximum of 100 unless attendees show proof of a negative COVID-19 test or full vaccination, which boosts the maximum up to 300 people.

The county health department's spokesman Preston Merchant said the county's policy is not to comment on individual facilities, including schools.

"Hosts of public and private events are expected to follow state and relevant industry guidelines," he said in an email.

Other nearby proms canceled, modified

Although Palo Alto schools plan to host in-person graduations, prom is off the table, much to the disappointment of some students and parents.

Los Altos High's upcoming "Seniors Under the Stars" prom on Saturday, May 15, will be held on the school's football

field. Although there won't be dancing, there will be a senior talent show, according to the school. Students must stay in their assigned seats — they can choose who will sit at their table using an app — and can't mingle with other pods. Servers will bring food to tables.

Mountain View High School's prom, also on May 15, won't include a dance floor at its carnival-themed event, which will take place on the campus' main quad and science quad, according to the school's leadership group. There will be carnival games, mini golf, a DJ and food trucks. Unlike LAHS, Mountain View students will be able to move around. **A**

Chief Visual Journalist Magali Gauthier contributed to this report.

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





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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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Mental Health Month

San Mateo County's Office of Diversity and Equity is hosting Mental Health Month throughout May, including the following virtual events:

■ Friday, May 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. Film screening of "This is Crazy: Criminalizing Mental Health," a film by Brave New Films. It's a short documentary telling the stories of people with mental illness who have found themselves in the prison system rather than getting access to mental health care. After the screening, a panel will talk about decriminalizing mental health problems. Zoom Webinar ID: 939 9524 2833.

■ Monday, May 17, from noon to 1 p.m. "Mental Health and Pets." The Peninsula Humane Society, SPCA and Office of Diversity and Equity will provide a lunchtime talk with their pets on Zoom and talking about their experiences. Go to is.gd/pets35 for more information.

■ Tuesday, May 18, from noon to 1:30 p.m. An Asian American and Pacific Islander panel will speak against stigma in an event called "Hope for Change." The Zoom link is: zoom.us/j/4782785269.

■ Wednesday, May 19, from 3 to 5 p.m. A workshop for teens and young adults to learn about how to develop growth-focused mindsets. Register at: <https://is.gd/growthmindset1>.

■ Friday, May 21, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. A panel of older adults will talk about their experiences of growth and recovery in a session titled "Growth and Recovery in the Face of Challenges: Re-examining Myths about Mental Health." Register at is.gd/MHmyths3.

Access the full list of May events at smchealth.org/post/mental-health-month.

—Kate Bradshaw

Application open for Woodside Planning Commission

The Woodside Planning Commission is recruiting for a new member.

During the pandemic, the commission meets virtually on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6 p.m.

The application is due Friday, May 14, at 5 p.m. Interviews will take place on May 25 at 7 p.m.

Interested residents may check residency requirements, request information and submit applications by email to Town Clerk Jennifer Li at jli@woodside-town.org.



Courtesy Maryann Berkowitz

Allison Berkowitz, center, a Ladera resident and a senior at Santa Catalina High School, ran a marathon on May 9 through the town. She is pictured with her twin brother Jack Berkowitz and his girlfriend Sam King.

Portola Valley high school senior runs solo marathon

Allison Berkowitz, a resident of Ladera and a senior at Santa Catalina High School, a boarding school in Monterey, ran a marathon (26.2 miles) on Sunday, May 9, through the town with friends and family cheering her on, according to her mother Maryann Berkowitz.

Ally decided to train for the marathon in early January using the Peloton marathon program app, Maryann said. She used the mix of running workouts, strength training and stretching classes over the course of five months leading up to her run, Maryann said.

"Given that organized marathons have all shut down during COVID, this accomplishment is bigger than usual — as it required her own personal motivation to keep it going on her own for five months," Maryann said in an email. "I asked her 'why did you do it? She said, 'Why not? We are here during lock down at home, and it allows me to focus on getting it done.'"

Ally will attend Hamilton College, in Clinton, New York, in the fall, according to her family.

New assistant principal at Las Lomitas Elementary

Heather Peterson will become Las Lomitas Elementary School's vice principal on July 1, according to a school newsletter. Peterson is presently a third grade teacher at the Atherton school.

"With 30 years of teaching experience and 25 years at Las Lomitas, her relationships and connection with the students, staff, and community will be assets to the school moving forward," said Principal Alain Camou in the newsletter. "Her impact on children has gone beyond the classroom in innumerable ways. Now she will have an opportunity to further influence the lives and education of students as our assistant principal. I look forward to working alongside Heather as we lead Las Lomitas into the future."

Big Help Day at Trinity School

Trinity School in Menlo Park reimagined its "beloved" annual community service initiative, Big Help Day, virtually during the pandemic, according to a May 5 school blog post.

Over spring break, Trinity students focused on acts of kindness for others, made DIY Kindness Kits at home, and wrote their actions on paper hearts.

"Our children proudly reported they did over 1,000 acts of kindness and assembled and donated over 540 Kindness Kits to LifeMoves, Samaritan House and Operation Care & Comfort," according to the post. "Trinity's collective altruism is now on full display with the kids' beautiful rainbow, which impresses upon our children that — together — our individual acts of kindness combine to make a BIG and HELPFUL impact in our community."

Call for Portola Valley Equity Committee applications

In recognition of the growing awareness of racial and economic inequities in the United States' culture, and of the critical need to address these inequities, the Portola Valley Town Council approved the formation of a new standing town committee during its April 28 meeting.

The committee will address systemic barriers to inclusion that may exist within the town's policies, regulations and practices.

The committee, which will meet monthly at a date and time to be determined, will consist of seven Portola Valley residents. Mayor Maryann Derwin and Councilman John Richards will act as advisory-only liaisons.

Applications will be accepted through Friday, May 21, online at portolavalley.net/town-government/town-committees/equity-committee.

Atherton PAL hands out scholarships

The Atherton Police Activities League (PAL) has awarded scholarships to seven 2021 high school graduates, according to a May 4 press release from the nonprofit.

Georgia Butler, Alexa Gomez and Lizeth Suarez from Sacred Heart Preparatory and Kimberly Hernandez, Oliver Khan, Rachel Park and Kari Trail were the recipients of the \$5,000 awards.

Butler played volleyball, lacrosse, was on the swim team, rowing team and played water polo. She plans to attend Tufts University and go on to medical school to become an obstetrician. She started and led a campaign for students to write letters to the Religious of the Sacred Heart, a group of nuns that live on Sacred Heart's campus.

Gomez co-founded and led the People United for Multicultural Awareness, where she prepared weekly meetings and planned cultural events. She also received the Menlo Park Rotary Club award. She plans to attend Loyola Marymount University or San Diego State University and is interested in becoming a criminal investigator.

Suarez played soccer and was a dance team member and co-founded People United for Multicultural Awareness with Gomez. She volunteered at Stanford Children's Hospital, taught math to junior high school students, and served food and provided translation

services. She plans to attend Azusa Pacific University to study nursing.

Hernandez was active in leadership via the student council, was a freshman transition leader and wants to become a lawyer or judge.

Khan participated in cross country and the track and field team, won the 2020 MIT Book award, and volunteered with the Friends and Buddy program. He plans to attend University of Southern California, where he would like to design the next-generation passenger jet liner.

Park played on the varsity volleyball team for all four years and founded Curious, a program to help bridge the opportunity gap to students in STEM. She plans to attend either Stanford or Harvard universities and work toward becoming a social health care entrepreneur or business executive.

Trail, a soccer player, interned as a youth leader at a local church and created Verses Magazine, a print project where she manages, designs and edits the 100-page magazine. She plans to attend either USC or California Institute of the Arts.

All donations to PAL are from Atherton residents. To date, PAL said it has given out \$220,000 in scholarships over the years to students enrolled in Atherton schools.

—Angela Swartz

Email Staff Writers Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com and Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Phillis Beattie Basile**, 96, a former Menlo Park and Portola Valley resident, on April 28; and **Pooran C. Barman**, 80, a Menlo Park resident, on May 4.

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

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Caltrain seeks public input on proposed fare changes

By Astrid Casimire/
Bay City News Service

Caltrain will hold a public hearing later this month to get feedback on a proposal to extend its monthly pass fare discount to 2023.

Currently, a 20% discount on the monthly pass is in place through September 2021. The proposal — which would extend the discount through June 30, 2023 — aims to provide financial relief for Caltrain riders and encourage people to take the train as they return to work.

Other proposed fare changes include reducing the adult one-way Clipper discount from 55 cents to 25 cents; three incremental fare increases that alternate

between increasing the base fare by 50 cents and the zone fare by 25 cents; and increasing the Go Pass by 5% every other year.

The public will be able to provide feedback on these additional proposals, though they are not part of the public hearing.

A public meeting discussing the proposed fare changes will take place May 20 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom at join.zoom.us or by phone at 669-900-6833. The webinar ID is 971 6867 0624 and passcode 240979 to join.

The hearing takes place May 24 at 2:30 p.m. during a Finance Committee meeting for the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, which owns and operates Caltrain.

That meeting can be accessed

via Zoom or by phone at 669-900-6833 with webinar ID 933 8892 7360 and passcode 790810 to join.

People can submit comments before the hearing by completing an online form at tinyurl.com/Caltrainsurvey, by emailing changes@caltrain.com, by phone at 800-660-4287 (TTY 650-508-6448) or by mail to Board Secretary, Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, P.O. Box 3006, San Carlos, CA 94070-1306.

People needing translation or interpretation services should call Caltrain at 800-660-4287 at least three days before the meeting for assistance.

For more information, visit caltrain.com. ▀

CORONAVIRUS

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of a parent or guardian to get vaccinated against the coronavirus.

That consent does not have to be given in person, Pan said, with some minors providing written consent from their parents or using tools like video calls to allow their parent or guardian to consent remotely.

Pan and Ghaly also said state officials are working with so-called “micro influencers” such as faith leaders, community organizations and school leaders to encourage teens to get vaccinated.

For now, the state is not requiring coronavirus vaccination for eligible children to return to in-person classes.

That could change before the fall semester, according to Ghaly, who said the state is waiting for the FDA to give its full approval of the vaccines — not just emergency use approval — before considering making them a requirement like vaccines for measles and whooping cough.

“Every person in California who can be protected from COVID, we hope that they will (get vaccinated), not just for themselves but for the community at large so we can get back to some of those normal

activities that I know we’ve all been missing, in particular younger Californians.”

Mask mandate likely to end soon

If you’re looking for a sign that California is approaching the end of the pandemic, here it is: The state may soon ease workplace rules that require employees to wear face masks and physically distance from each other.

Next week, California’s workplace safety agency is set to consider proposed changes to its emergency coronavirus standards adopted in November, the Sacramento Bee reports. The suggested revisions would on Aug. 1 lift a mandate requiring most workers to maintain 6 feet of distance at all times. They would also permit fully vaccinated workers without COVID symptoms to forgo masks outdoors as well as indoors, as long as everyone else in the room is also fully vaccinated and doesn’t have symptoms.

But it also appears the changes could come even sooner — and be more widespread. Gov. Gavin Newsom told Fox LA’s Elex Michaelson on Tuesday that he envisions eliminating California’s mask mandate by June 15, the state’s target date

for a full reopening.

“Only in those massively large (indoor) settings where people from around the world ... are convening and where people are mixing in real dense spaces” would masks be required. “Otherwise ... no mandates in businesses large and small,” he said.

Other signs that California could soon return to pre-pandemic life: The Golden State’s coronavirus positivity rate is at a record low of 1%, three more counties including San Mateo moved into less restrictive reopening tiers on Tuesday, and a swath of large counties will likely enter the loosest yellow tier next week.

Comprehensive COVID-19 coverage

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

CRIME BRIEFS

continued from page 6

Department’s tipline at (650) 780-7110.

Man fatally shot in East Palo Alto

A 25-year-old Redwood City man died in a shooting in East

Palo Alto on May 4, according to police.

Officers responded around 9:10 p.m. to the 1700 block of Woodland Avenue and found Christian Garcia-Torres suffering from a gunshot wound. He was taken to a hospital but succumbed to his injuries there, police said.

No arrest has been made in

the shooting and police have not released any suspect information. Anyone with information about the case is asked to call East Palo Alto Police Detective Joseph Klein at (650) 833-9904. People wishing to remain anonymous can call or text (650) 409-6792 or email epa@tipnow.org.

—Bay City News Service

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—Patti M., Portola Valley

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REAL ESTATE

The Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees

...is seeking applicants to serve on the District's Construction Bond Oversight Committee

This committee will meet twice a year to monitor expenditures for the building projects of the approved Measure 'A' school construction bond. Periodically, the committee will report bond expenditures to the community.

The District is currently seeking to fill two positions.

The District is seeking a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District, or a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District and who is active in a parent-teacher organization, such as the PTA or school site council.

The District is seeking a community member that is active in a business organization representing the business community located within the District.

Applications

Applications may be downloaded from the Sequoia District website at www.seq.org or may be requested from the District Office by contacting

Matthew Zito, Chief Facilities Officer
mzito@seq.org, 650-369-1411, ext. 22357

Send completed applications to: Matthew Zito, mzito@seq.org
Sequoia Union High School District,
480 James Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94062

Timeline

Application filing period – May 14, 2021 to June 11, 2021

James Lewark

June 2, 1943 – February 11, 2021

James Lewark, a resident of Palo Alto, died February 11, 2021. He was born in Vandalia, Illinois on June 2, 1943. His parents were James, a geologist, and Louise Lewark. He lived in Menlo Park in the Allied Arts neighborhood from 1989 - 2016.



Jim attended Duke University, Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and the University of New Orleans. Jim was a strong advocate for civil rights and was active in Durham, N.C., Baton Rouge, and New Orleans, La. In 1962 he was jailed and held in solitary confinement for two weeks in Baton Rouge for refusing to move from the side of a courtroom reserved for black spectators.

Jim met his lifetime partner, Kathryn Warren, in 1971 in New Orleans at an anti-war protest. They married in 1972 and moved to New York City where they devoted themselves to left-wing, working-class politics for over fifteen years. Social justice remained a passion for Jim until his death.

The couple moved to San Francisco in 1985, eventually settling in Menlo Park, 25 miles south of the city. It was there that Jim began to cultivate and hybridize fuchsias. Over the ensuing years, Jim became a highly regarded fuchsia grower, hybridist, and lecturer in the Bay Area and beyond.

Jim worked in the printing trades in New York City, New Jersey, and San Francisco. He retired in 1993 to devote more energy to his fuchsia activities. He also continued to pursue his love of chess. He was a formidable player and had won the New Orleans City Championship in 1971.

Jim was afflicted by early-onset Alzheimer's but died of COVID pneumonia early in the morning of February 11, 2021 at age 77. He was predeceased by his parents and a brother, Stephen, who was a professor of piano and music at Mount Union College in Ohio. He is survived by his wife Kathryn and his cat Magnus, both of Palo Alto, California.

PAID OBITUARY



Courtesy Save the Bay

Attorney Joe Cotchett, center, former U.S. Rep. Pete McCloskey, left, and other plaintiffs announce their 2020 lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Redwood City Salt Ponds, an affiliate of Cargill Inc.

Feds, Cargill Inc. drop appeal of a ruling that protects Redwood City salt ponds

By Sue Dremann

A ruling that protects the historic Redwood City salt ponds from being developed will stand unchallenged, now that defendants have withdrawn their appeal of an October court ruling that found the brackish ponds are part of U.S. waters and thus shielded by the federal Clean Water Act.

Global food corporation Cargill Inc. and its developer partner DMB Associates have sought to build on about 1,400 acres of salt ponds for more than a decade, filing an application with Redwood City in 2009. However, they faced intense opposition from the local community and environmental groups. In 2012, the companies withdrew a proposal to build more than 12,000 homes and thousands of square feet of commercial buildings on the ponds. At the same time, they asked for a determination on the land from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In November 2016, the EPA made a draft determination that the majority of the Salt Ponds property and the areas surrounding it constitute "waters of the United States," according to reporting by The Almanac.

But under the Trump administration, the EPA reversed that determination in a March 2019 ruling that found the San Francisco Bay salt ponds in Redwood City weren't waters of the United States but were "fast land." The ponds, which have been owned and operated by Cargill and its affiliates since 1978, weren't protected by the Clean Water Act and development could take place, the EPA stated.

In response, environmental groups San Francisco Baykeeper,

Save the Bay, Green Foothills and Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge filed a lawsuit against the EPA and Redwood City Plant Site, LLC, an affiliate of Cargill Inc. The plaintiffs were represented by Eric Buescher, Nazy Fahimi and Joe Cotchett of Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, former U.S. Rep. Paul "Pete" McCloskey, and Allison LaPlante and James Saul of the Earthrise Law Center at Lewis and Clark Law School.

The salt ponds constitute one of the last remaining undeveloped areas along the San Francisco Bay's shoreline and were formed by diking wetlands to evaporate the water and then harvesting the salt.

Federal District Court Judge William Alsup ruled last Oct. 5 that the EPA had "misapplied the law" in its decision. Alsup also ordered the EPA to make a new determination based on the law.

Cargill intervened in the legal action on the side of the EPA. Together they appealed the ruling to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. But in February, the EPA filed a motion to voluntarily dismiss its appeal, and Cargill voluntarily asked the court to dismiss its appeal on April 2. The court approved EPA's withdrawal in early March, and the plaintiffs accepted Cargill's motion to withdraw on April 13.

In a written statement, Cargill said that given the EPA's decision to withdraw from the appeal, the company also withdrew its appeal.

"Our focus remains protecting environmental resources and working with our neighbors in the Bay Area to consider future uses of the Saltworks site. In the interim, salt harvesting operations at the site will continue."

Cargill's voluntary dismissal of the appeal will allow the EPA to issue a decision in line with the federal court's findings, the plaintiffs said in their statement on the defendants' withdrawal.

"Cargill's decision to drop the appeal ... is an unexpected victory for the Bay and for common sense. San Francisco Baykeeper will continue to watchdog Cargill, as well as Biden's EPA, to make sure the ponds are afforded Clean Water Act protections," Sejal Choksi-Chugh, San Francisco Baykeeper executive director, said in a written announcement. "And we'll keep advocating for the ponds to be restored to functioning tidal wetlands, creating habitat for hundreds of species of plants and animals, and providing a natural buffer that will help protect Bay Area shorelines and communities from climate-driven flooding."

Megan Fluke, executive director of Green Foothills, said the plaintiffs are pleased at Cargill's action.

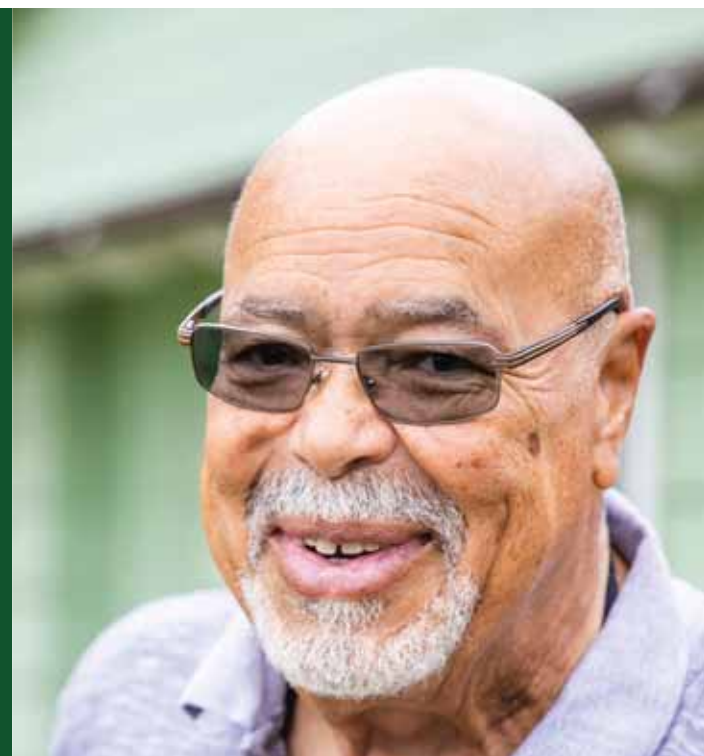
"We urge them to sell the Redwood City salt ponds for conservation. In the face of the climate crisis, every remaining acre of restorable wetlands needs to be protected," she said.

David Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay, said it is urgent to protect the salt ponds and recommended they be added to the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge so they could be preserved.

Danielle M. Nichols, deputy spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Justice representing the EPA, said the agency has no comment. ■

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

For almost 75 years, Peninsula Volunteers, Inc., a duly recognized 501 (c) (3) non-profit, has enabled seniors to age in place, driven by a profound legacy of caring and our core values of respect, commitment, trust, dedication and compassion. Our four core programs serve over 6,000 households and address the most pressing issues of aging adults by offering critical services to sustain their daily physical, nutritional, emotional and mental health while achieving dignity and independence in their lives. PVI's programs include Nutrition Services/Meals on Wheels; Adult Day Services at Rosener House; Health, Wellness and Enrichment offerings at Little House; and on-demand Transportation Services at Little House.



"I'm beyond grateful for what PVI's Meals on Wheels program has done for me. I don't know what I would do without it. You have given me a lot of hope in life. It is such a blessing"



"Getting around is hard for me and PVI rides help me get to the grocery store and the doctor when I need to."

We have just marked the one-year milestone since the coronavirus profoundly reshaped all of our lives. As normal life begins to resume in our communities, we hope that you all continue to remain safe and healthy.

Aging seniors still most affected

The disproportionate impact of the COVID lockdowns on seniors near you has led to more widespread loneliness, isolation and health vulnerabilities. Hunger is more pervasive than ever and has more than tripled in Bay Area counties, levels that unfortunately will be sustained for years.

Your generous impact

You made it possible for Peninsula Volunteers, Inc., to expand support for the wellbeing of seniors in this extraordinary year and to **fulfill our mission to enable seniors to age in place.**

Because of you, we **prepared and delivered over 182,000** nutritious meals from our Menlo Park kitchen; **placed over 30,000 wellness care calls**; held **over 4,000 virtual Zoom sessions** with isolated seniors and Alzheimer's clients, to engage in exercise and stimulating activities; and provided almost **2,000 transportation rides** for medical and grocery needs and **over 15,000 volunteer hours.**

Moving forward with hope and renewal

We are now preparing to safely return to a blend of both onsite and virtual innovative offerings. We can't wait to see you! As we re-open our doors, the future for seniors will be powered by our community. We cannot meet the growing needs without you!

How can you help us provide our vital lifeline?

Please help us sustain and support the strength of the senior community. Visit www.penvol.org/donate to learn more about the seniors whose lives you have changed for the better and to make your gift of any size securely online.**

*** A \$500 donation will cover one month of daily Meals on Wheels for two at-risk seniors; or one month of daily staff-guided virtual therapeutic sessions for an Alzheimer's patient from our Adult Day Services; or ten 60-minute personal training sessions for one senior; or 30 transportation rides for two months for 30 seniors.*

Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. 800 Middle Ave Menlo Park, Ca 94025 | Tax ID # Tax ID:94-1294939 | Penvol.org

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Notice of California Water Service's Request to Increase Rates in 2022 for the Willows District Cost of Capital Application (A.21-05-002)

Para más información sobre este aviso, póngase en contacto con su centro local de atención al cliente a (530) 934-4735, o visite nuestro sitio de web: <https://es.calwater.com>

Why am I receiving this notice?

On May 3, 2021, California Water Service (Cal Water) filed its Cost of Capital (CoC) Application No. A.21-05-002 with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Cal Water's application requests an increase in CoC, which is the rate of return the company is authorized to recover on its investments in critical infrastructure required to deliver safe and reliable water service, by 0.02% to 7.50% from the current rate of 7.48%. Overall, the proposed changes would increase Cal Water's currently authorized earnings by \$31,200 (0.8%).

If the CPUC approves this application, Cal Water will begin recovering these costs no sooner than January 1, 2022. This will impact your bill.

Why is Cal Water requesting this increase to its CoC?

- Cal Water is required to file a CoC application every three years.
- This ensures funds are available to make critical infrastructure improvements, so water mains, wells, pumps, tanks, treatment systems, and other parts of the water system continue to provide safe, reliable water service.
- This application includes the funds needed to obtain equity and secure long-term debt (loans and financial obligations longer than one year).

How could this affect my water bill?

If approved by the CPUC, the typical residential customer bill in the Willows District (based on average monthly residential usage of 7,480 gallons, or 10 Ccf, with a 5/8" x 3/4" meter) would increase as follows. Please note this includes only service and quantity charges; your water bill may vary from this estimate due to credits and surcharges in effect. Customers using less water will see a smaller dollar/cent increase, while customers using more water will see a slightly higher dollar/cent increase. Figures may vary slightly due to rounding.

Current Bill	Proposed Increase	New Proposed Bill	Proposed Increase
\$64.49	\$0.60	\$65.09	0.9%

The revenue request for the Willows District is as follows:

Type of Service Provided	Current Revenue (in thousands)	Proposed Increase (in thousands)	New Proposed Revenue (in thousands)	Proposed Increase (as percent)
Residential Metered Service	\$2,156	\$20	\$2,176	0.9%
Nonresidential Metered Service*	\$1,160	\$11	\$1,171	0.9%

*Nonresidential metered service applies to all customer classes that are not residential (such as business, multi-family, and public authority customers) and do not have a separate tariff.

How does this process work?

This application will be assigned to a CPUC Administrative Law Judge who will consider proposals and evidence presented during the formal hearing process. The Administrative Law Judge will issue a proposed decision that may adopt Cal Water's application, modify it, or deny it. Any CPUC Commissioner may sponsor an alternate decision with a different outcome. The proposed decision, and any alternate decisions, will be discussed and voted upon by the CPUC Commissioners at a public CPUC Voting Meeting.

Parties to the proceeding are currently reviewing Cal Water's application, including the Public Advocates Office, which is an independent consumer advocate within the CPUC that represents customers to obtain the lowest possible rate for service consistent with reliable and safe service levels. For more information, regarding the Public Advocates Office please call (415) 703-1584, email PublicAdvocatesOffice@cpuc.ca.gov, or visit PublicAdvocates.cpuc.ca.gov.

Where can I get more information?

Contact Cal Water:

Phone: (530) 934-4735
 Email: infoWIL@calwater.com
 Mail: 1720 North First Street, San Jose, CA, 95112

A copy of the application and any related documents may also be reviewed at calwater.com/rates/other-filings/2021-coc-application.

Contact CPUC:

Please visit cpuc.ca.gov/A2105002comments to submit a comment about this proceeding on the CPUC Docket Card. Here you can also view documents and other public comments related to this proceeding. Your participation by providing your thoughts on Cal Water's request can help the CPUC make an informed decision.

If you have questions about CPUC processes, you may contact the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office at:

Phone: **1-866-849-8390** (toll-free) or **1-415-703-2074**
 Email: Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov,
 CPUC Public Advisor's Office
 505 Van Ness Avenue
 San Francisco, CA 94102

Please reference **Cal Water's CoC Application No. A.21-05-002** in any communications you have with the CPUC regarding this matter.

CNSB#346996

SPORTS

continued from page 8

Woodside ends long losing streak to M-A

The Woodside High boys basketball team ended a decade of frustration, beating Menlo-Atherton for the first time since Feb. 11, 2011, on May 5 in a Sequoia District contest.

Luke Buddie made one of two free throws with three seconds remaining as the Wildcats edged M-A, 38-37.

Calvin Kapral scored 21 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to pace the Wildcats.

SHP's Lambert breaks school record

Sacred Heart Prep's Luci Lambert was the local star at the Arcadia Invitational on Saturday, though there were plenty of accolades to be shared.

Lambert moved up nine spots over the final 600 meters to capture her heat in the Open mile with a school record 4:59.90. She added a fifth-place finish in the elite heat of the 800, racing 2:13.36, another school record.

Castilleja junior Samira Kennedy placed 11th in the Invitational 800, racing 2:16.00.

Menlo senior Calvin Katz was fifth in the Invitational Open and was timed in 4:18.66. Menlo sophomore Justin Pretre placed fifth in the Rising Stars mile, recording a time of 4:24.82.

Katz and Pretre joined the 4x800 relay team, along with junior Nik Khuntia and sophomore Aiden Deffner and placed 11th in 8:18.66.

St. Francis senior Isabelle Cairns, a Woodside resident, was ninth in the 800 invitational, racing 2:15.39.



Courtesy Arcadia Invitational

Luci Lambert, a Sacred Heart Prep senior, won her heat of the Open mile at the Arcadia Invitational on Saturday.



Courtesy Pam McKenney/Menlo Athletics

Will Perez and Justin Tian won their doubles match against Bellarmine.

Historic tennis program at Menlo

The Menlo School tennis program has been so successful for so long for a reason. While attracting good players, there's something special about the Menlo experience that has nothing to do with talent.

"It's a lot of hard work but it totally pays off," senior doubles player Justin Creamer said after the Knights beat Monta Vista, 6-1, May 7 in a mini tournament that also includes Menlo-Atherton and Bellarmine.

Menlo (6-0) beat Bellarmine, 6-1, Saturday with a slightly different lineup.

Creamer and his senior teammate Steph Nivaggioli have been playing doubles together for three years, and like the previous 23 years, have never experienced a loss in league play, an on-going California record.

Since Bill Shine arrived in 1997, Menlo has won 15 Central Coast Section boys tennis titles and 13 Northern California championships.

In 2018, when the current seniors were freshmen, Menlo won the National Invitational Tournament, held in Southern California and draws teams from all over. That team title turned into Menlo's single best season, when it finished 29-0.

"When we start as freshmen, we've always had good role models," senior Justin Tian said. "We're able to carry that on, always learning from our predecessors."

"We have our ups and downs and we have to learn how to play as a team," Nivaggioli said. "It's not that we need to win; we never want to let the team down, so every match counts."

When the Central Coast Section approved championship play on April 26, the Knights suddenly had added motivation. The seniors are getting a chance to regain the CCS title they lost to Bellarmine (4-3 in the championship match) in 2019.

Menlo is one of two schools, with Gunn, that has won seven consecutive CCS titles. Menlo also has a six-year streak, matched only by Palo Alto and Monta Vista.

"A lot of it is the day-to-day practice," Tian said. "We take it seriously and give it our all. We never let up and Bill inspires us."

All three seniors pointed to Shine as the common denominator.

"Bill taught us how to respect our opponent and how to be a winner," Creamer said. "This is a great group of guys and while we win so much, we don't want to take it for granted."

Creamer and Nivaggioli were the second-to-last group to finish May 7, with the match already decided in Menlo's favor. They never let down and fought to win in a super tiebreaker.

"We know each other and it makes for good doubles," Nivaggioli said. "It's one of the greatest feelings in the world to win with him."

No. 1 singles player Rishi Jain lost his match, 6-3, 6-4, to Adithya Iyer and was the last court to finish but that never stopped the rest of the team from cheering him on to the final point.

Jain smiled as he walked off, greeted by enthusiastic teammates. It was an interesting match to watch. While there were some debated calls, there was no arguing. During changeovers, they sat and talked with each other like they were the best of friends.

Jain came back to win his singles match against Bellarmine.

The CCS tournament gets underway on May 17. The girls tournament starts May 18.

—Rick Eymer

Read more online

Get the latest on local prep sports delivered to your inbox Monday through Friday by signing up for The Almanac's Express newsletter at almanac-news.com/express.

Twice as many kids are seeking help from local youth counseling service

By Kate Daly

Between August 2020 and February 2021, more than 100 students sought out counseling at La Entrada Middle School in Menlo Park, “twice as many kids as we had seen in the past two years,” said Executive Director Philippe Rey of Adolescent Counseling Services.

Sheltering in place and isolation have led to an increase in anxiety, depression and substance abuse in some local youth, he said.

And counseling services are running longer. ACS used to see clients for an average of 10 to 12 sessions. Since the pandemic

began, 20 sessions per child is more the norm.

For more than a year most of the sessions have been done online, but last June, Rey says counselors realized that teletherapy didn’t provide enough support for critical cases in the substance abuse program, so some clients have been receiving socially distanced help in person.

Until all ACS staffers are fully vaccinated, he predicts a hybrid



Philippe Rey

model will continue, with some in-person sessions and some teletherapy. One plus to teletherapy is it enables expansion that wasn’t possible before, with some clients now being served in the Central Valley.

Founded 46 years ago, ACS is based in Redwood City, with offices and meeting spaces spread out between San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. ACS serves thousands of people a year in four programs geared to youth ages 10 to 25 and their families.

Before the pandemic hit, the top concerns were preventing teenage suicide, educating youth about the health hazards of vaping and

nicotine addiction, and offering support to the LGBTQQ+ community.

Rey joined the organization in 1998 and said he has watched the concerns grow over the years.

“Teens are dealing with increased stress. One out of five suffer from a major emotional illness,” he said.

“We make sure kids feel they belong and are heard. ACS saves lives; mental health providers foster healing.”

ACS offers free individual and group counseling to students and their families at the wellness centers at La Entrada Middle School, Woodside High School in Woodside and Oxford Day Academy in East Palo Alto.

ACS’s community counseling program provides afternoon and evening sessions of individual

and family therapy at various locations on a sliding pay scale. Its adolescent substance abuse treatment program also operates on a sliding pay scale and includes professional assessments, outpatient treatment and therapy.

In 2013 ACS added the outlet program to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth. Weekly meetings are scheduled for younger and older groups.

ACS has expanded its reach by offering educational sessions for parents and caregivers “of gender-expressive youth and youth who are exploring their gender identity,” according to the website, acs-teens.org.

More information about ACS is also available by calling 650-424-0852. ▀

Pediatricians can bypass MyTurn as they vaccinate children

By Barbara Feder Ostrov/
CalMatters

State officials will allow pediatricians to bypass their cumbersome vaccine management system in a move intended to speed COVID-19 vaccinations for children, CalMatters has learned.

The decision comes as the U.S.

Food and Drug Administration authorized vaccines for children ages 12 to 15, a decision endorsed by an advisory panel of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this week, which adds 2.1 million kids to the number of Californians eligible.

The move is a tacit recognition of the problems that the massive, \$50 million MyTurn system poses

for doctors and smaller medical groups wanting to immunize their patients.

Sami Gallegos, press secretary for California’s COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force, told CalMatters that pediatricians and other doctors who treat children will not be forced to use MyTurn to obtain their patients’ vaccines. But she added that the state

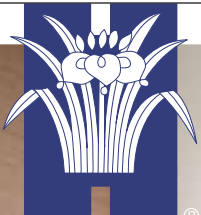
health department has not yet determined how the doctors will receive the doses.

Until now, Blue Shield, which oversees vaccine distribution for California, has required most health providers to sign up, undergo training and request doses through MyTurn, which was billed a one-stop shop for Californians seeking

vaccination appointments.

Developed at an unusual speed for a government website, MyTurn has been hampered by glitches and a design that frustrated Californians. Appointments booked on the site — an average of about 100,000 each day — recently accounted for only about 27% of

See **PEDIATRICIANS**, page 23



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HOUSING

continued from page 5

RHNA increases on the Peninsula

Peninsula cities and towns are part of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), which has been assigned 441,000 housing units by the California Department of Housing and Community Development this cycle. They must adopt their updated housing elements by January 2023.

Atherton is required to plan for the development of 348 new housing units compared to just 93 during the 2014-22 cycle. Some 74 would need to be very low-income housing, 43 low income, 51 moderate income and 130 for above moderate income, according to a report prepared by town staff.

Portola Valley's estimated RHNA totals 253 units: 73 units for very low-income residents; 42 for low income; 39 for moderate income; and 99 for above moderate-income residents. This is compared to just 64 units last cycle.

In years past, cities could trade or transfer units to nearby cities, but that is no longer allowed, Portola Valley Mayor Maryann Derwin said during an April 28 Town Council meeting.

"Everyone is facing such enormous numbers," she said. "That's why this time we're not all working together."

Woodside's RHNA target is jumping from 62 to 328 units. Of those, 90 are designated for very low-income residents; 52 are for low-income residents; 52 are for moderate income; and 134 are for above moderate income.

Jackie Young, Woodside's planning director, said that it "appears to be a very large increase, but it is less than 1% of the total county allocation" of around 48,000 units.

Jordan Grimes of San Mateo, who started Peninsula for Everyone, a housing advocacy group, acknowledges that the latest RHNA numbers are large, but said in past cycles many cities on the Peninsula were spared from fulfilling their true housing needs.

"In the planning process it was de rigueur to allow those cities not to grow because they didn't want to," he said. "All of these cities have schools, which have teachers and janitors and staff, none of whom can afford to live in them."

Fears and pushback

Because of recent state legislation, cities now concurrently update their safety elements — which are part of their general

Regional Housing Needs Allocation 2023-31

Income Level	Atherton	Portola Valley	Woodside
Very Low	94	73	90
Low	54	42	52
Moderate	56	39	52
Above Moderate	144	99	134
Total	348	253	328
Percent change from 2015-22 RHNA Allocation	274%	295%	429%

State-assigned housing targets increased for towns and cities across San Mateo County. The number of new units in Woodside, Portola Valley and Atherton for 2023-31 has grown as much as 429% from the last eight-year cycle.

plans — at the same time as the eight-year housing element cycle.

Rusty Day of Portola Valley said he wants to "preserve the values of Portola Valley," which he said include providing affordable housing for people who work in town and maintaining its "open, rural character."

"We have to come to grips with the reality we have to do that in the context of safety," he said. "What has the town done to inquire about the very high fire zone in Portola Valley? Where are you going to do that (designate housing) safely in your town?"

Portola Valley officials warned of the consequences of not updating their housing element with the number of units the state allocated to the town. The town would face lawsuits from the state, suspension of routine permitting authority, and loss of state funding and grants, said Planning and Building Director Laura Russell.

Fines for trying to sideline housing element allocations can range from \$10,000 to \$600,000 per month, consultants told Atherton officials.

Portola Valley resident David Cardinal said residents can "whine" all they want about the numbers, but that as one of the "richest and most innovative towns" in the world it should be able to figure out a way to plan for these units in a safe way. Former Mayor Jon Silver said the town would be "the laughingstock of the state" if it tries to fight the RHNA numbers.

Town Attorney Cara Silver said there has been some discussion statewide about whether RHNA numbers should be revised given potential changes in housing needs because — with less traffic and fewer people commuting

due to the pandemic — there is less of a need to create housing for more people to live locally. She still cautioned that past attempts to "fight the state" through lawsuits have been fruitless.

Despite the opposition from some residents to build more housing on the Peninsula, others are more enthusiastic about the potential growth.

Grimes of Peninsula For Everyone questions what residents mean when they say they want preserve their towns' characters.

'Since 2010, just 10,000 homes have been built (in San Mateo County), while 100,000 jobs have been created.'

"What is character? Is the character of your community more about buildings and physical surroundings, or is it about the people who inhabit your buildings?" he said. "The true definition is having a wide range of people from a wide range of racial and socioeconomic backgrounds."

Grimes said he's heard comments about maintaining the "rural charm" of Peninsula communities, but he doesn't believe these communities are actually rural.

"Portola Valley is (about) 30 miles from San Francisco. Atherton is in the heart of Silicon Valley and borders Menlo Park," he said. "When you're in a major metropolitan area what comes with it is population growth. They mostly started off as country estates to wealthy San Franciscans and there is still an air of that attitude." He believes residents want to keep their town's exclusivity and "de facto" gated communities.

Menlo Park resident Cynthia Harris said she's worried about the Bay Area's ever-expanding housing crisis that is leading to homelessness in the area. She attended recent county workshops on local RHNA targets.

"All our cities have room for improvement," she said. "Preserving the 'village character' feels a little coded to me. We do have a big history of segregation in our area; (in this country); it's something we all need to reckon with."

When pressed, she noted that it doesn't seem right for towns such as Atherton to feel exempt from needing to plan for new housing stock.

"Not only are many Atherton residents working next door (to cities with businesses), but many people living there (in Atherton) have been the job creators of successful companies that employ a lot of people in this area."

Emphasis on ADUs, rezoning and relaxing rules

In 2019, the California Legislature passed several new bills aimed at increasing the production of housing by relaxing the regulations for accessory dwelling units (ADUs), sometimes referred to as in-law units or granny flats. These bills require local agencies to permit up to one ADU and one junior ADU (a unit that is no more than 500 square feet) per lot.

All three towns are leaning into encouraging residents to build ADUs to help fill the required number of RHNA units.

In 2020, Woodside relaxed development standards in the Glens neighborhood to make it easier to build there. The council may also relax development standards in the Southern Western Hills area

of Woodside — "a very wooded area" close to Skyline Boulevard, which could be challenging to develop, said Young of Woodside. It includes 250 parcels on 7.5-acre minimum lots, with 50-foot setbacks all around, she said.

In Atherton, town staff is considering multiple routes for amplifying its housing stock. For example, the town could allow two ADUs on lots with 1 acre or greater area (presently homes can only have one junior ADU and a full-sized ADU), according to a staff report.

Town Planner Lisa Costa Sanders suggested the town consider allowing multifamily housing to be built on school campuses in town, at Bear Gulch Reservoir, Menlo Circus Club and Holbrook-Palmer Park. Atherton could also rezone an area near the town center to allow for denser housing — such as duplexes and triplexes — along El Camino Real, she said.

Vice Mayor Mike Lempres said he supports building denser housing on the edges of town that are already surrounded by high-density housing.

"That might be a nice way to add units without materially affecting the character of the town," he said.

Reducing the minimum lot size in town — presently 1 acre — may allow for a few more single-family homes, Costa Sanders noted.

Atherton Councilman Rick DeGolia said he objects to allowing schools to house anyone other than employees or students on their campuses, saying the concept would receive a "horrendous reaction" from the community and the schools themselves.

Costa Sanders explained that school officials, as the owners of their land, can decide what they want to build if the zoning is relaxed. They can rent homes to whoever they want to, she added.

Lempres said he fears it could pose a risk to young children who attend Sacred Heart Schools to have people from outside the school community living on the property.

Although Menlo College broke ground on a 288-bed residence hall on its campus on Thursday, May 13, this housing won't count toward Atherton's RHNA target since the units don't have kitchens, town staff said. Council members instructed staff to look into legal means to make such units count toward the town's housing goals. ▀

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

CINCO DE MAYO*continued from page 5*

These farmworkers, who at times may have felt like they've never been at the front of the line when it comes to the government — particularly around issues of immigration — were able to be at the front of the line to get their vaccines, she said.

The nonprofit is now focusing on a program to support youth, she added. "The parents I know are almost like geniuses at doing a lot with very little. While that is very honorable, it is not equitable," she said.

At Upward Scholars, the adult students the organization works with were seriously impacted by the pandemic, Prieto said. At least 28 scholars in the program tested positive for COVID-19, and a significant majority

reported a loss of employment, housing or food insecurity, increased domestic violence, challenges with overall physical, mental and emotional health or escalated discrimination, Prieto said.

The organization stepped up to help by providing students with laptops and internet access through the Redwood City and San Mateo County libraries and community college networks. Upward Scholars also provided students with food and grocery vouchers, support groups with a bilingual chaplain and transportation vouchers. It also launched a student safety net fund to raise about \$150,000 to provide students with financial assistance to encourage them to persist in college, according to Prieto.

Pérez said that the number

of students enrolling at institutions like Cañada College isn't necessarily down, but there has been a "considerable decline in how many units students are enrolling in during any given semester" during the pandemic.

In addition, enrollment in the college's English as a Second Language program declined significantly before and during the pandemic, falling to 499 students in the 2020-21 school year from 750 in the 2019-20 year.

Two Upward Scholars students shared their experiences during the pandemic.

Marta Dugarte, an English major, said that the pandemic has been difficult for her because she lost two relatives, and her best friend died recently.

"It's so difficult and sad to face the death, without having the opportunity to feel or give



Courtesy Upward Scholars (via YouTube)

Clockwise from left: Linda Prieto, Lorena Domínguez, Rita Mancera and Manuel Alejandro Pérez discuss the successes and struggles they've seen in Latino communities in San Mateo County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

support and hugs," she said. The organization gave her moral support and helped her pay for rent, food and car insurance, she said.

Josue Arevalo, a student at Cañada College, said that he lost his job during the pandemic, but that Upward Scholars provided him with gift cards, food boxes, tutoring support and access to a WhatsApp group in which members share

their experiences in an ongoing conversation.

"Information is power and we know that resources are available to help us overcome some of the batallas we're facing during this pandemic," Domínguez said.

Watch the full discussion at is.gd/cincotalk. ■

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

YELLOW TIER*continued from page 5*

President David Canepa lauded the achievement.

"We have come so far in the last year thanks to the vigilance of our community in continuing to wear masks and rolling up their sleeves for a vaccine when they have the opportunity. But we still have work to do to fully open up our economy while keeping ourselves and loved ones protected from this virus. Continue practicing safe steps, make sure to get your vaccine and help your friends and loved ones get theirs, too. We are nearing the end of this

pandemic and there will be cause to celebrate once June 15 comes and the entire state reopens for business," he said in a separate statement.

The guidelines allow county parks to double the number of people who can gather at reserved picnic sites to 100. Group campsites will stay closed, but camping reservations are available at Memorial Park for people from the same household, the county said.

Among the other yellow-tier guidelines, outdoor gatherings are expanded to 100 people or fewer; indoor gatherings are strongly discouraged but are allowed with modifications and

a maximum 50% of capacity limits; private events can have an outdoor maximum of 200 people. If all guests are tested or show proof of vaccination, the total rises to 400 people. Indoors, up to 200 people are allowed if all guests are tested or fully vaccinated. Sports and live performances may have as much as 67% of capacity. Only California residents are allowed at these events and at amusement parks.

For a complete list of what's open under the yellow tier, visit cdph.ca.gov/programs. ■

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

PEDIATRICIANS*continued from page 21*

the vaccinations given each day across the state, according to data from the California Department of Public Health.

Blue Shield has prioritized mass-vaccination sites and large health providers like Kaiser Permanente before allowing smaller clinics to receive doses — at least when vaccine doses were in short supply. That's because Blue Shield must hit ambitious vaccination targets in its contract with the state.

As a result, some physicians have faced delays when they try to sign up with MyTurn to receive doses for their patients.

"It's been frustrating to say the least," said Steve Escamilla, executive director of Tamalpais Pediatrics, which serves about 8,600 children in Marin County. "This has been even more difficult than applying for a PPP loan."

Escamilla told CalMatters that when he tried to enroll the clinic in MyTurn, Blue Shield responded it could take several weeks for his application to be processed.

When told that pediatricians would soon be allowed to skip MyTurn altogether, he was pleasantly surprised.

"To be able to bypass the bureaucracy would be a godsend," Escamilla said. "That's definitely a game changer for our ability to give the vaccine."

California has nearly 3,500 pediatricians, more than any other state.

Families who want to immunize their children ages 12 to 15 once they become eligible can check with their pediatrician or family doctor. They also can sign up for appointments on their county's COVID-19 website or the MyTurn site, myturn.ca.gov or call the state's COVID-19 hotline at 833-422-4255.

Getting COVID-19 vaccine doses into the hands of pediatricians and other primary care doctors is particularly important now that kids ages 12 to 15 will join the millions of Californians eligible to be immunized, said Anthony York, spokesman for the California Medical Association. Teens ages 16-17 currently can receive only the Pfizer vaccine.

About one-third of California doctors who administer childhood vaccines are enrolled in a separate online system that registers them to obtain non-COVID-19 vaccines, Gallegos said. But many doctors are not enrolled in that system, which creates a bureaucratic delay for them because they would have to join it before they could obtain COVID-19 vaccines.

That is a reason that the state is allowing physicians to bypass MyTurn if they already have submitted data to the California Immunization Registry and plan to only vaccinate children 12 to 17, Gallegos said.

She added that many pediatricians work for major health systems, such as Kaiser Permanente and Sutter Health, that already are signed up on MyTurn, so children will have access to vaccines through them. ■

This piece was first published by CalMatters, a nonpartisan, nonprofit journalism venture that works with media partners throughout the state, including The Almanac.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

AERIEL SKINNER OLYMPIC FUND.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 287289
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Ariel Skinner Olympic Fund., 2995 Woodside Rd. #400, Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
STEVEN FLYNN
2995 Woodside #400
Woodside, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 9, 2021.
(ALM Apr. 23, 30; May 7, 14, 2021)

AUTO - VINO A PRESERVE FOR FINE CARS AND WINE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 287368
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: AutoVino - A Preserve For Fine Cars and Wine, located at 205 Constitution Dr., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ATHERTON ASSOCIATES, INC.
205 Constitution
Menlo Park, CA 94025
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1-16-08.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 15, 2021.
(ALM Apr. 30; May 7, 14, 21, 2021)

BAY AREA MOBILE NOTARY & SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 287381
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Bay Area Mobile Notary & Services, located at 1103 Carlton Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
DEADRA LAMPKIN
1103 Carlton Ave.

Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 16, 2021.
(ALM Apr. 30; May 7, 14, 21, 2021)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. M-270737
The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.
The following registered owner(s) abandoning the use of the fictitious business name(s):
VIVIENNE KELVIN
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):
VIVIENNE KELVIN
251 Winding Way
San Carlos, CA 94070
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):
VIVIENNE KELVIN DESIGNS
251 Winding Way
San Carlos, CA 94070
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:
09/14/16
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY:
Individual.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on April 27, 2021.
(ALM May 14, 21, 28; Jun. 4, 2021)

INNOVATIVE PIPING SYSTEMS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 287206
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Innovative Piping Systems, located at 608 Douglas Drive, Mill Valley, CA 94941, Marin County.
Registered owner(s):
VINCENT EDWARD PUCCETTI
608 Douglas Drive
Mill Valley, CA 94941
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1996.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 1, 2021.
(ALM May 14, 21, 28; June 4, 2021)

Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email asantillan@pawEEKLY.com for assistance with your legal advertising needs. The deadline is Monday at noon.

Palo Alto Players invites you to 'Tea for Three,' in person and virtually

Play offers insights on first ladies Pat Nixon, Lady Bird Johnson and Betty Ford

By Karla Kane

With "Tea for Three: Lady Bird, Pat & Betty," Palo Alto Players is making the bold move back to in-person theater, while making the show available virtually as well. Eric H. Weinberger and Elaine Bromka's one-act play, directed by Palo Alto Players Artistic Director Patrick Klein, gives three first ladies — Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon and Betty Ford, played by Gwendolyne Wagner, Gabriella Goldstein and Patricia Tyler, respectively — each a moment in the spotlight.

Audience members have the choice of catching the production in an outdoor, masked and distanced performance on the patio of the Lucie Stern Community Center or via streaming video. The Almanac caught up with the show's three leading ladies to learn a bit more about their pandemic theater experience, thoughts on channeling big names from U.S. history, and getting in front of an al fresco audience. The Q&A has been edited for length and clarity.

How has the last year gone for you, in terms of theater or just in general?

Gwendolyne Wagner: In general, it's been up and down. Early in lockdown last year I was part of an online Zoom theater play-reading festival with Foothill College, which was a good way to start off this crazy pandemic adventure. In the fall I was feeling pretty low, when Patrick Klein sent an email to PAP (Palo Alto Players) alumni inviting video submissions for participation in their "Home Bound Cabaret" series. The timing could not have been more perfect. I love Halloween and Christmas so I jumped at the chance. What I've missed about theater is being part of a community project, working together and being creative together. ... I am very grateful for the PAP family; being part of the cabarets really helped get through a rough patch.

Gabriella Goldstein: The last year has been brutal in terms of theater. The loss of live

in-person theater has been really hard. That being said, I have had the good fortune to be involved in several Zoom theater productions. The production that stands out the most during this time is San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's "King Lear." They developed a new technique for live theater over Zoom called the Unified Digital Space. Each actor acted in front of a green screen at their home and they created a composite of the images together live so that actors looked like they were in the same space with each other.

Patricia Tyler: The two productions I was working on in the beginning of March 2020 came to a full stop and didn't start up again. I did a few Zoom readings, things like that.

What made you want to get involved in this production in particular?

GW: One: It's Palo Alto Players — PAP's quality and standard of work; the feeling of family and community; and, I trusted PAP to set up and follow the strictest safety guidelines. Two: As actors, we are each individually on stage, outside, so I felt that this is a safe foray back to live theater. Three: I adore Lady Bird Johnson and am ecstatic to be playing her again! (Wagner played Johnson in PAP's production of "All The Way" in 2018).

GG: It is extremely exciting to be part of Palo Alto Players' first in-person live theater production since the pandemic. I think it is going to be very moving to gather as a community again for live storytelling.

PT: It's a great show!

When preparing to portray a historical figure, how much research do you do, and do you try to imitate their mannerisms and voice as opposed to trying to put your own spin on a character?

GW: For any show I do a lot of research, including the time period the character was born into and grew up in — how those cultural influences might impact the choices the character makes. With the internet there are many resources for watching and listening to Lady Bird.



Courtesy Joyce Goldschmid

Gwendolyne Wagner, left, plays Lady Bird Johnson, Patricia Tyler plays Betty Ford, and Gabriella Goldstein plays Pat Nixon in Palo Alto Players' "Tea for Three: Lady Bird, Pat & Betty."

My hope is that I can capture her essence, rather than give an impersonation or imitation of her.

GG: I definitely read up on the historical figure and watch any video recordings, if they exist. I steep myself in their essence and then let my own imagination take over. Ultimately, this will be a portrayal of my Pat Nixon.

PT: I listened to some old interviews she (Ford) gave just to get an idea of her voice, although an interview is very formal and very different than a conversational way of speaking, which this show is — she's having a conversation with the audience. So I had to modify that to sound more relaxed. The biggest takeaway for me was that she was from Michigan and I grew up in Wisconsin, so some of the idioms are very familiar to me. The use of "you know" or "yeah" before a sentence. Or using "she goes" instead of "she said."

Has your opinion or understanding of your character changed over the course of working on this show?

GW: My admiration for Lady Bird has deepened, and I look forward to bringing out more of her playful side.

GG: I think it is interesting that she (Nixon) was such a private person. This play shows how deeply unhappy and affected she was by life as a first lady and Watergate, in particular. It is noteworthy that by prioritizing her privacy so much she reveals the most vulnerable parts of her inner life. Through her guarded disposition you see her desperation and sadness shine through.

PT: I think she (Ford) really leaned more to being a Democrat than a Republican. She had some very liberal views and spoke out about them.

How about the other two first ladies in the show? Anything interesting you've learned about them?

GW: I knew absolutely nothing about Pat Nixon, so it was all new to me! I had no idea Betty Ford was a dancer and took lessons from and danced with Martha Graham!

GG: It is interesting to think about how much Lady Bird, and Pat Nixon, were living in the shadow of Jackie Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy's style and class clearly still looms large over them.

Anything you're particularly excited about? Nervous about?

Do you have to adjust anything about your performance to accommodate the outdoor setting?

GW: Playing Lady Bird Johnson again and having the opportunity to tell more of her story. I am also excited about doing the show outside and being able to see and talk to the audience.

GG: Yes, we are going to have to deal with the elements, the bright sun, in particular, during the matinee performances.

PT: Excited about being on the same bill with the other two incredibly talented actors. Nervous about the sun in the courtyard for the 2 p.m. matinees. Nature's spotlight!

"Tea for Three: Lady Bird, Pat & Betty" will be performed in person, outdoors at the Lucie Stern Community Center patio, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Showtimes are May 12-23, Wednesdays-Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$40. The show will be streamed on demand May 19-23. Virtual access is \$20. More information is available at paplayers.org. ■

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

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Food & Drink

New Peninsula Restaurant Week launches May 14

In an effort to provide diners more opportunities to support local restaurants as the Peninsula slowly reopens, Embarcadero Media's Peninsula Foodist is teaming up with Facebook to launch Peninsula Restaurant Week. From May 14-22, restaurants, bakeries and eateries of all stripes along the Peninsula will offer prix fixe deals and other menu specials available for dine in, delivery or curbside pickup.

As part of the new weeklong dining event, the Peninsula Foodist has asked participating chefs and restaurant owners to share their stories about what the past year has been like for them and where they see the industry headed. This week's Q&A features Michael Ekwall, owner of La Bodeguita del Medio at 463 California Ave. in Palo Alto. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

For more information about Peninsula Restaurant Week, go to peninsularestaurantweek.com.

The Restaurant Week Interviews:

7 questions for Michael Ekwall

La Bodeguita del Medio owner on how takeout and technology helped his restaurant survive

By Sarah Klearman

Tell me a little bit about you and La Bodeguita.

We opened in 1997, and we're coming into our 25th year this year. We're a Cuban-inspired restaurant: We always make an effort to tell people we are not a traditional Cuban restaurant, because that might leave some folks disappointed. Basically, what we have done is really focused on the great aspects of Cuban cuisine and Cuban cocktails and adapted them to a California-Bay Area concept. We do a lot of traditional dishes, but with more localized ingredients available in our area.

Tell me about the pandemic and the lockdowns: What was the biggest challenge you faced?

Not knowing what to expect from day to day. Normally, the way we function, the most unpredictable thing that happens to us is someone calls in sick. This unpredictability, inconsistency and inconsistent and unreliable messaging from the people in charge (of health orders) during the pandemic is difficult.

When we were closed and

doing takeout only, we went from a staff of 50 to basically three people. There was that shock of: "How do we lay off people that have been working with us for 20-plus years?" I think that was the most traumatic thing that happened. Once we kind of got our footing, we were operating as a takeout restaurant, which we had never done. Pre-pandemic someone might call in and order a ropa vieja or a Cuban sandwich to go, but that was it. All of the sudden, that's all we had, so we had to adapt the menu and change the way we did business with three employees. We had plenty of friends and volunteers helping us out.

As for keeping us going, I think it was resiliency. It was just that we had so many years under our belt, and we thought: "Someday, finally, we'll retire. This is not how we're doing that."

How has 2021 been so far compared to 2020?

This year started out just as bad as 2020 ended: We were basically closed down, doing takeout only. Now, the weather is beautiful, vaccines are kicking in — and our staff was fully vaccinated a couple of weeks ago.

That was one thing that was a game changer for us — people getting vaccinated. It makes people feel more comfortable about being out and about. We haven't reopened inside, and



Michelle Le

La Bodeguita del Medio restaurant features havana bananas, which are caramelized bananas, spiced walnuts, cinnamon and vanilla ice cream.

we're not prepared at this time. At this point, it is not worth it for us to turn our lives upside down because we have our takeout zone and we're doing outdoor dining, and that's functioning pretty well. On cold nights, it's not so great, but most of the customers are understanding. We're making the most of living in California.

What is the biggest challenge restaurants face in the post-pandemic era ahead?

Inflation. We buy and sell commodities on a daily basis. This is an extreme example, but a year ago, we paid \$45 for a case of kitchen gloves. A couple of weeks ago, we paid \$180. Just think about all of the small elements that go into running any kind of business.

Another example — local fish. A year ago, we paid \$10 per pound, but it might be \$20 right now. One of our biggest challenges is how we choose to reflect that in our pricing. The cost of labor has increased significantly, the cost of goods significantly, but we still can't raise prices on our customers by 50% or 75%.



Courtesy Michael Ekwall

La Bodeguita del Medio includes, from left, longtime kitchen manager Luis Hernandez Rivera, owner Lara Ekwall, guest chef Dennis Hernandez and owner Michael Ekwall.

Has the pandemic sparked any kind of innovation at La Bodeguita that will carry in the future?

We're rookies, but I think that social media is a huge component. We're recognizing we need to adapt to that type of technology: online ordering, for example, which we hesitate to do. We were late to the game, but we adapted an online ordering portal that allowed us to bypass using those third-party companies, except when it comes to delivery. The online ordering is something that we'll stay with. I don't imagine in a year we'll be doing as much takeout as we're doing now, but as we've kind of come to adapt over the course of this year, that's been significant.

We've also had a lot of shifts in terms of employee roles in the restaurant. It was great to see that everybody took an all-hands-on-deck mentality. Whereas before someone might have been a bartender or a server, now they're helping do dishes or bus tables — whatever needs to be done. That's one thing we've tried to kind of roll into our new COVID-19 format.

What should guests and the broader community keep in mind as they're visiting local restaurants more and more?

I think that a lot of people don't understand the importance of

restaurants or food service — how large of a component it is in the overall economy, how many people are or were employed in this particular sector. Over the course of the year, our industry lost of hundreds of billions of dollars. In our industry, businesses closed. People lost their jobs. Most customers are incredibly gracious, but things have changed, and our business has been turned upside down. Cost is skyrocketing, and all of us are doing the best we can with what we have. Be patient, be kind, and just recognize all of that — that's the most important thing.

What should guests expect from La Bodeguita during Peninsula Restaurant Week?

For Restaurant Week, we're doing something that came out of our original concept of adapting to our California lifestyle and Cuban cuisine — we're going to do picadillo, which is typically made with ground beef, with (vegan) meat from Impossible Foods.

We'll also do mojitos, because you can't come to La Bodeguita and not have a mojito. And then for dessert we're doing a cafe Cubano flan, which is a traditional flan but infused with a sweet Cuban coffee. ■

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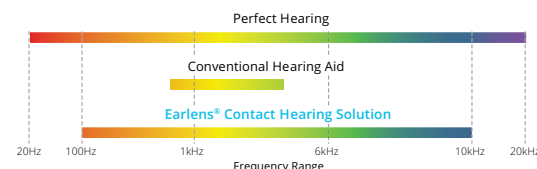
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