

The Almanac

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Adam Pardee

Horseplay with a Bavarian twist

Woodside's upcoming Day of the Horse weekend invites you to toast the equestrian life with a stein full of beer. This year's event, scheduled for Oct. 8-11 in and around Woodside's town center, has an Oktoberfest theme. See story on page 12.

Two Las Lomas district trustees step down

School board opts to appoint new members

By Angela Swartz

Two Las Lomas Elementary School District (LLES) governing board members are stepping down from their posts, marking the second time in less than a year that the board has needed to fill seats of members who have resigned.

Board President Dana Nunn, who joined in 2018, announced her departure during a Sept. 8 board meeting. At the same meeting, she announced that trustee John Earnhardt, who joined in 2014, had resigned Sept. 3, effective immediately. Both of their terms were set to expire in 2022, according to the district's website.

The board voted at the Sept. 8 meeting to appoint replacements. Appointees would serve until December 2022, Chief San Mateo County Counsel John

Nibbelin advised the board.

The board chose the provisional appointment process as opposed to calling a special election because it's "significantly less costly," according to the district website. He estimated it would cost the district \$365,000 to \$438,000 for a special election.

The appointment process also fills the vacancies faster — a special election could not occur before April 2022, according to the district.

"The district thanks both trustees for their service to the district," a message on the Las Lomas website states. "Their work has been student centered, equity driven and in recent years focused on providing a safe and robust learning experience while in a pandemic."

This fall, Nunn is moving

See **LAS LOMITAS TRUSTEES**, page 16

Menlo Park council hits pause on restarting gymnastics program

By Kate Bradshaw

Since March, more than 100 families have asked about the city of Menlo Park's plans for its gymnastics program. Those families, it appears, will have to wait a while longer for answers.

A proposal to reactivate Menlo Park's well-known city-run gymnastics program was paused last week after City Council members raised concerns that now was an inopportune time to relaunch the program because of the threat of the COVID-19 delta variant.

Because the program serves youth, including those too young to get vaccinated against COVID-19, reactivating the program would encourage unvaccinated children to exercise indoors together.

In a typical year, the program serves about 1,500 children, and about 50 children per day. On average, 55% of the children who participate are Menlo Park residents, according to city staff.

Council members acknowledged that the news might be hard to hear for families who are eager to get their kids back to "normal" activities.

"To community members who are cooped up ... we get it," Councilwoman Jen Wolosin said. "... It's our job to try not to act emotionally and act rationally. This may not land wonderfully in the community, and we understand that."

As part of a plan to phase a gymnastics program back in for Menlo Park, city staff had recommended that the council look to restart the program in November, authorize 5.75

full-time employee positions to run the program and plan for roughly \$767,000 in expenses and \$450,000 in revenues during the 2021-22 fiscal year.

The proposed plan was to start with offering the gymnastics program to young children and individuals with special needs on weekdays, as well as to children of all ages and abilities, and then two months later in January 2022, expand to operating on weekday evenings with competitive and adult programs. Finally, in March 2022, it would offer weekend programs and facility rentals.

Mayor Drew Combs said in an interview that he planned to check back with the city manager on the matter around early to mid-December, and that the topic would next return to the City Council with a new mayor.

By then, he said, there will be



Michelle Le

The Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center in Menlo Park has been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will remain closed at least a few months longer.

about a semester's worth of data about COVID-19 transmission rates in schools, and there's a possibility that a vaccine will be approved and some children in the 5- to 11-year-old range may have been vaccinated. On Tuesday, Pfizer and BioNTech said it

submitted trial data for initial review by the FDA that shows promising results for its COVID-19 vaccine among children in that age group. ■

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

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Magali Gauthier

Ann Poulson, who worked at Trinity School starting in 1963 and then on and off for about 40 years, speaks to students during an assembly to celebrate the school's 60th anniversary in Menlo Park on Sept. 21.

Trinity School celebrates six decades with a familiar face

By Angela Swartz

For the first time in about 20 years, Ann Poulson stepped foot on Trinity School's Sand Hill Road campus to celebrate an anniversary for the private school: 60 years in existence.

On Monday afternoon Poulson, who was the K-5 Upper Campus' first office manager, spoke to students about how the Menlo Park campus has changed since it was incorpo-

rated in 1961.

Poulson, who turns 89 next week, officially became an employee with Trinity in 1963 and worked for the school on and off for about 40 years, retired in the early 2000s. Though she moved from Menlo Park to Redwood City, she kept in touch with school officials. She also still attends St. Bede's Episcopal Church, the congregation connected to the elementary school.

"It's sort of like I've been here (since I left)," she said, hold-

ing a bouquet of flowers from school staff. "I know the place."

The school, originally called Trinity Parish School, was established as an elementary school for the children of Trinity Church's parishioners, according to the "Images of America" series book focused on Menlo Park.

During Poulson's visit, she and current staff, including Principal Matt Allio, popped

See **TRINITY**, page 17

Testing catches four asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 in one class

Belle Haven School class quarantined as a precaution

By Angela Swartz

An entire Belle Haven School third grade class was quarantined for two weeks after four of its students tested positive for COVID-19. The district credits testing for catching the cases, all of which were asymptomatic, at the Menlo Park school during the week of Aug. 28, said Ravenswood City School District Superintendent Gina Sudaria in a Sept. 24 email. The class of 16 students returned to the K-8 campus on Sept. 13 and no adults in the class tested positive, she noted. The school offers weekly testing on Thursdays at Belle Haven.

"County gave direction to quarantine the class: There are no clear cutoffs for when to close a classroom to quarantine at home but the contact tracer was able to get in touch with the nurse who said to close the room. So we believe it was out of an abundance of caution," she said. "This class that needed to quarantine back in August was provided 1:1 laptops, hotspots, reading and instructional materials. So no instruction was missed when distance learning commenced the very next day."

Aside from those four students, three others on campus tested positive for COVID-19 that week, according to the

district. There were four other cases throughout the district that week, according to the district's COVID-19 dashboard. Out of 17 cases districtwide that week, two were adults.

Third graders are typically under 12 years old and ineligible for the COVID-19 vaccines, so the cases were not "break-through" cases of COVID-19, which are infections that occur in some vaccinated people.

Last school year, district students who tested positive for COVID-19 needed to quarantine at home for two weeks, as would their classmates. This year's county Office of Education guidelines upend that protocol with a less restrictive policy.

If a student tests positive for the virus, the school nurse will work with the student's family to identify close contacts — interactions within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes with someone who is positive for COVID-19. The isolation period for a positive case is 10 days from symptom onset or test date, if asymptomatic.

The San Mateo County health department asks for entire classes to be quarantined on "occasion if they find it warranted (e.g., not clear about close contacts)," said Patricia Love,

See **COVID**, page 17

Recent burglaries may be tied to winter 2018 spree, Atherton police say

By Angela Swartz

Atherton police have reported four residential burglaries in town over the last four days. In news bulletins, police emphasized that there were delays in responding to the break-ins because alarm companies didn't immediately notify the department, and that the crimes may be connected to a burglary spree in town three years ago.

Three of the four burglaries share the same method of operation as the November 2018 to February 2019 burglary spree in town: Burglars break in by smashing second floor master

bedroom windows and doors. A large share of these burglaries were committed by Chilean gang members operating out of Southern California, police said.

"Our initial investigation has revealed these burglaries may once again be tied to the same group of organized Chilean gang members," police wrote Monday. This year, there have been 40 residential burglaries, two commercial burglaries, and two vehicle burglaries, said Cmdr. Daniel Larsen said in a Tuesday email.

These are the same thieves who are suspected of taking \$800,000 worth of jewelry from an Atherton home in December 2020.

Most recent incidents

The first burglary took place on Friday, Sept. 24, around 8:25 p.m. when a residential alarm was activated on the unit block of Kilroy Way, according to police. Burglars smashed a master bedroom window at the back of the house. Six minutes later, a third-party alarm company notified police of the break-in. Burglars took about \$17,500 worth of purses, jewelry, watches and more from the home, Larsen said.

At about 6 a.m. the following day, a resident on the 200 block of Oak Grove Avenue, near Menlo-Atherton High School,

reported a notification from his surveillance camera showing strangers leaving the residence. They had smashed a window at the back of the home to break in. After further investigation, police found that the burglary happened on Thursday, Sept. 23, shortly before 10 p.m. The victim is unsure of what was taken.

On Saturday, according to a police news bulletin, an alarm sounded at 7:53 p.m. on the unit block of Nora Way. Burglars broke in by smashing a master bedroom glass door to the back of the residence. It took 17 minutes for the third-party alarm company to contact police after

the alarm went off. It's unclear what was stolen, police said.

Around 9 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 27, a resident who lives on the unit block of Rosewood Drive, near Wisteria Way, reported that their home had been burglarized sometime between Thursday and Monday morning.

Burglars forced open a ground floor window, police said. Police are investigating the crime.

Police are asking residents to remember to lock their doors and set their security alarms. The police department offers

See **BURGLARIES**, page 17

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CRIME BRIEFS

Man pleads no contest to home burglary

A man has pleaded no contest to burglarizing the home of a Menlo Park family in April, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

On April 15, a Menlo Park couple and their 2-year-old child were sleeping in an unlocked condo in the 1200 block of El Camino Real. When they woke up, they discovered that someone had entered their home and stolen laptops, cellphones, Air-Pods and food from the refrigerator, according to prosecutors.

Upon investigation, they learned that a neighbor's camera had captured footage of a suspect dressed distinctively and walking with a limp trying the door handles on two other nearby homes. The next day, the family tried ping-pong the laptop and cellphone and saw that the devices were in Berkeley, according to prosecutors.

From there, officers with the Berkeley Police Department responded and found a suspect wearing the same clothes as the man in the camera footage. When officers searched his backpacks, they found the stolen laptops, cellphones and AirPods, according to prosecutors.

Harry Quincy Nguyen, a 54-year-old man from San Francisco who is experiencing homelessness, pleaded no contest to felony residential burglary on the condition that he face 90 days in county jail and no time in state prison. Based on the time he had already served, he was placed on two years of supervised

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 17

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Bike helmet giveaway

Thanks to a grant from the California Department of Public Health, 100 free bike helmets will be distributed to children between the ages 8 and 14 years old on Wednesday, Oct. 6, International Walk to School Day. The giveaway, hosted by Menlo Park's Safe Routes to School Program, will be held at the entrance to Belle Haven Elementary School at 415 Ivy Drive in Menlo Park. Children must be present so they can be fitted properly in a new helmet. Helmets will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.

Survey for Belle Haven residents

Belle Haven residents have been asked to fill out a survey to weigh in on construction options for how the city of Menlo Park should install medians on Chilco Street. There are plans to install five median islands on the street parallel to the railroad tracks, which will narrow the lanes and slow down traffic. Residents were slated to receive a survey by text and email, with responses taken through Sept. 30, after The Almanac went to press. Construction is expected to be completed in November.

— Kate Bradshaw

Mail-in voting here to stay

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill Sept. 27 to make permanent the state's pandemic-era process of mailing an election ballot to every active registered voter in the state.

Assembly Bill 37 authored by Assemblyman Marc Berman (D-Menlo Park), will continue the state's mail voting practice that began during the November 2020 election and continued to last month's failed election to recall Newsom from office. Berman represents the 24th Assembly District, which includes Palo Alto, Mountain View and Menlo Park.

California joins Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Vermont and Hawaii as states that send a ballot to all registered voters by default.

"Last year we took unprecedented steps to ensure all voters had the opportunity to cast a ballot during the pandemic and today we are making those measures permanent after record-breaking participation in the 2020 presidential election," Newsom said in a statement.

Voters will still have the option to forfeit their mail-in ballot if they want to vote in person.

"When voters get a ballot in the mail, they vote," Berman said in a statement. "As other states actively look for ways to make it harder for people to vote, California is expanding access to an already safe and secure ballot."

State residents can register to vote at registertovote.ca.gov.

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To help young athletes, focus on process, not performance, sports psychologist says

By Kate Bradshaw

The mother of an 8-year-old convinced her daughter isn't "playing to her potential" in soccer. A kid who worries that quitting volleyball will mean he or she won't have anything to talk to Dad about. Parents who say they've invested too much money to let their daughter quit tennis.

These are all real-life examples of unhealthy outcomes that can occur when youth sports prioritizes performance over personal growth, according to clinical and sports psychologist Steve Smith, who gave a recent Zoom presentation aimed at local parents on "the twisties," hosted by the Parent Education Series.

Smith's Sept. 15 remarks came little more than a month after women's gymnastics superstar Simone Biles withdrew from several finals in the Tokyo Olympics to focus on her safety and mental health after experiencing what the gymnastics community calls "the twisties"—a mental block that occurs when an athlete loses spatial awareness during an intense routine. Biles is joined by household-name athletes Michael Phelps and Naomi Osaka in leading a growing public discourse about athletes and mental health.

Smith is a Santa Barbara-based therapist, consultant and counselor who specializes in working in person and remotely with athletes and those involved with sports, among other clients. He lived in Mountain View from 2014 to 2016 while he was on faculty at Palo Alto University.

"When our identity gets yoked to our performance, a bad performance means that we are failures and competition is a direct threat to who we are," he said.

As children develop, he said, they progress from defining their identities from very concrete definitions, to how they are like or unlike others, to eventually viewing themselves through an internal system based on experiences and goals in late adolescence.

For many young athletes, being an athlete is a core part of their identity, and when something threatens that, it can be a struggle if they don't have other well-developed elements of their identity to fall back on, Smith said.

On one hand, he said, there is a large body of research highlighting the overall positive health effects of sports involvement for youth.

"Sports are great for kids, point blank, almost all of the



Courtesy University of California at Santa Barbara

Tying identity to performance can create problems for youth involved in sports and their families, clinical and sports psychologist Steve Smith said in a presentation on youth sports, competition and mental health.

time," he told attendees. "The best research seems to suggest that sports are good for kids over the long haul."

Most of the research available points to a correlation between youth participation in sports and a number of healthy habits such as decreased anxiety and depression, healthier eating habits and a lower likelihood to use drugs or experience problematic drinking, he said.

However, he added, in the past two decades or so, youth sports have become increasingly professionalized, and there are parts of that culture that can create negative consequences for kids.

As an example, he described a sixth grader who practices the same sport year-round, is on travel teams, and has private coaches and personal trainers. That child is faced with enormous pressure much of the time to perform well in front of people who can advance his or her athletic career.

According to research, he said, kids should not specialize in one sport until they are around 13 or 14 years old.

Youth who dive too early into specialization in a sport that involves repetitive and deliberate skill-building exercises — activities that aren't, objectively, much fun, he points out — face a "substantially higher risk" for overtraining or injury, he said.

Some of the problems that may come along with an early sport specialization include the possibility of a shrunken social circle, underdeveloped social interaction skills or increased family conflicts or stresses due to overscheduling, he said.

There's even some recent

research indicating that kids who specialize early are less likely to be physically active as adults, he said.

"Early specialists tend not to be the best athletes ... over the long haul," he said.

For youth who do adopt a single sport early on, the type of activities they pursue within the sport can also make a difference, Smith said.

He recommended that these kids pursue activities that prioritize "deliberate play," or ones that simulate a competition or game, perhaps with modified rules, rather than "deliberate practice" activities — like throwing, catching, fielding or running for a developing baseball athlete. Deliberate play will hold kids' interest longer than deliberate practice and will still bolster their skills, he said.

He reminded attendees that the reason that people like sports and the reasons they like their children to participate in sports are different.

The top reason children like sports, he said, is because they're fun, while adults generally like sports because they "enjoy seeing highly skilled people at the peak of fitness doing things that are hard."

Meanwhile, adults like to see children participate in sports because they teach valuable life lessons about teamwork, health, being in nature, perseverance, commitment and dealing with adversity, he said.

"We like to watch sports largely because of performance; we like kids to be in sports because of the process, and those are different things," he said. "Kids suffer when they can't tell the difference, and especially when parents, coaches and social media can't tell the difference."

Teaching kids to focus less on performance and more on the process tends to not only improve performance, but also can boost emotional well-being and reduce anxiety, he added.

The Parent Education Series is sponsored by the Woodside High School PTSA, Sequoia Union High School District, Sequoia Healthcare District, Peninsula Health Care District and The Parent Venture, a Menlo Park-based nonprofit that provides education to parents, students, educators and community members.

Go to parentventure.org/ events to learn more about upcoming Parent Education Series events. ■

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

Coronavirus central: Santa Clara County makes Pfizer booster shots available to eligible groups

By Embarcadero Media staff

San Mateo County expects to offer boosters by late next week

Santa Clara County officials announced Monday, Sept. 27, that Pfizer booster shots are now available in the county for those who received initial Pfizer shots at least six months ago and are eligible under CDC and FDA guidelines. The county is strongly encouraging boosters for those ages 65 and older, people ages 50 and older with underlying medical conditions and residents of long-term care facilities.

Louise Rogers, San Mateo County Health chief, said in a statement Wednesday that the county "will be remobilizing a high-volume vaccination operation at the San Mateo County Event Center and offering boosters at the County-run community-based vaccination clinics by late next week" for eligible individuals who completed their Pfizer two-shot series at least six months ago.

On Sept. 22, the FDA issued its approval of an extra dose of the two-dose Pfizer vaccine for those ages 65 and older

and people ages 12 to 64 who are at higher risk of serious illness because of medical conditions or the nature of their job as outlined by the CDC. Once fully approved by the CDC in addition to the FDA, those eligible for boosters will be advised to get them at least six months after receiving their second dose of the vaccine.

The authorization applies only to the Pfizer vaccine at this time. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are currently seeking emergency use authorization for booster shots, and boosters may be recommended for additional groups in the future.

As of Sept. 27, the CDC states that the Pfizer vaccine booster is available for the following individuals who completed their two-shot series at least six months ago: those ages 65 and older, and people ages 18 and older who live or work in high-risk settings or have underlying medical conditions.

The CDC recommends an additional dose for people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised at least 28 days after their second

See **CORONA CENTRAL**, page 13

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

What is Included in Square Footage?



Dear Monica: We are shopping for a home and notice that some agents include garages in the square footage number and some don't. Which is correct?

Greg M.

Dear Greg:
Garages should not be included in the square footage of a property unless they are finished, heated and cooled as part of the house. If they still could function as garages, the space really shouldn't be included in the square footage. It's common to convert a garage to other uses but it should be clearly described as such.

Contact me at monica@monicacorman.com: Office: 650-465-5971, COMPASS. WSJ Nationally Ranked. Real Trends Bay Area Top 100 Agents

Who's dying in California from COVID-19?

By Hannah Getahun/CalMatters

It's been longer than a year and a half since COVID-19 first arrived in California, and the demographics of who is dying from the virus are changing.

So far, 67,628 people have died in California during the pandemic, more than in any other state. In recent months, those who are dying are younger on average. And, unsurprisingly, people of color are still among the most

devastated by COVID-19, with the highest death rates among Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders and Black people.

Here's a by-the-numbers look at COVID-19 deaths in California.

How much younger are they?

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the average age for Californians who died from COVID-19 is 73. But in April through September the average age dropped to 67, and

in August and September, it dropped to 66, according to a California Department of Public Health analysis of state data.

"We are observing that it's not the older populations that were first dominating a number of fatalities in the pandemic," said Fresno County Interim Health Officer Dr. Rais Vohra. "It's now skewing younger and younger in terms of who gets hospitalized and — unfortunately — who goes on to have a very tragic outcome of a fatality."

A major reason? Older people are vaccinated at higher rates than younger residents. About 67% of Californians 18 to 49 are fully vaccinated, compared to 73% for people 65 and older.

Hospitalizations and infections are on the rise for Californians under 18. But old age — and the underlying conditions that come with it — will still be an important factor in death rates, said Dr. George Rutherford, a professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of California, San Francisco.

What's the racial breakdown? Has it changed?

Latinos are dying at a lower rate than white and Black people in California, according to the state's data. However, Latinos have had the sharpest increase in the death rate in the last month, rising from 2.4 deaths per 100,000 people in August to 4 per 100,000 in September. That rate, however, is far eclipsed by the peak last January, when 11 Latinos died per 100,000.

For Black people, 7.4 per 100,000 people died from COVID-19 this month, up from six deaths per 100,000 in August yet down from 9.3 last January. Death rates in Asian American populations and white people also increased this month. Asian Americans currently have California's second lowest death rate.

The culprit is most likely vaccine disparities: Latinos make up 39.4% of California's vaccine eligible population but they've only received 29.5% of the doses. This means that, proportionally, not as many doses are finding their way into Latino communities as they should, health experts say. Black people also make up a higher share of the vaccine-eligible population than the doses they have received.

A reason for these disparities could be the barriers that communities of color still face to accessing vaccines, including medical misinformation and hesitancy stemming from medical mistrust, according to Sarah Reyes, managing director of communications at the non-profit California Endowment, which focuses on improving health care access in underserved communities.

"People have to understand that the myths and the misgivings of the medical community are real," Reyes said. "They're real for the communities who have suffered at the hands, historically, of a racist, systemic problem."

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders have died at the high-

est rate of any racial group. But some good news: The rate decreased from 18.4 deaths per 100,000 people in January to 17 in August and 11.8 in September.

Is there a growing gender gap?

Men are dying at a slightly higher rate than they were in the beginning of the pandemic, according to the state data.

In September of last year, 45.2% of deaths were female and 54.6% were male. But in August 2021, it was 41% female and 58.9% male, which shows that the gap is widening in favor of women.

In Long Beach, 70% of deaths since July 2021 have been males, compared to 58% from March 2020 through July 2021.

Before vaccine availability, males made up a slightly larger percentage of deaths than females. Now as the gap widens, vaccinations may play a role.

"I can't help to think that some of that is due to failure to vaccinate — differential failure to vaccinate, meaning that women are more likely to vaccinate than men," Rutherford said.

Women are more likely to be vaccinated than men in the state, and there is still a slight gap between the proportion of men who make up the state's vaccine population and those who still need to get vaccinated.

How do deaths in California compare to other states?

California, as of this past week, has the lowest seven-day death rate nationally — at five people dying for every million residents — and the lowest rate since January, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

However, what is happening in California is happening across the country: People 64 and under make up a larger share of deaths in 2021 than they did in 2020. National data also shows that the older you are, the more likely you are to be vaccinated.

How do counties compare?

The average age of Californians dying from COVID is skewing younger across the state.

In Fresno County, people 50 to 69 years old now make up a larger share of COVID-19 deaths than they previously did, while those 70 and older are a smaller share.

In Long Beach, which has its own health department, the average age of COVID death since August 2021 is 59 years old, 13 years younger than March 2020 through July 2021. In Long Beach, 99% of people 65

See **COVID DEATHS**, page 17

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INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (IRC) VACANCIES

Setting the electoral boundaries

The City of Menlo Park is seeking Menlo Park residents to apply for the IRC.

The Commission shall be comprised of seven (7) commissioners and two (2) alternate commissioners. Alternates may fully participate in Commission deliberations but may not vote and may not be counted toward the establishment of a quorum. Alternates are subject to the same qualifications, restrictions and standards of conduct as all other Commissioners.

The IRC's responsible for setting Menlo Park's electoral boundaries for City Council districts following the 2020 census.

Redistricting determines which neighborhoods and communities are grouped together into a district for purposes of electing a city councilmember

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS:

- Visit menlopark.org/redistricting
- Email jaherren@menlopark.org
- Call 650-330-6620

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Theranos lab director says he refused to spin wonky test results

Susan Nash/Bay City News Service

The former laboratory director of the blood testing company Theranos, testifying in the trial for the company's founder who is charged with fraud, said Tuesday that he felt pressured by management to defend lab tests that did not add up.

In a heated email exchange between former lab director Adam Rosendorff and Christian Holmes, brother of Theranos founder and CEO Elizabeth Holmes, Christian Holmes asked Rosendorff to come up

with a "constructive" way of dealing with a doctor who was puzzled by the Theranos report on a patient's cholesterol numbers.

Believing that the results were due to Theranos' faulty testing rather than to any patient-related issues, Rosendorff told Christian Holmes that "if you are asking me to defend these values, then the answer is no."

Rosendorff added that "the most constructive thing at this point is to offer reliable and robust" lab tests, "not to spin," and that "100% honesty and transparency to the patient is essential."

Christian Holmes sent the email string on to his sister, saying that he was "at a loss" as to how to deal with the recalcitrant lab director.

Elizabeth Holmes is charged with defrauding investors, doctors and patients about the viability of Theranos' blood-testing technology. If convicted, she faces up to 20 years in prison and \$3 million in fines.

Questioned by the defense, Rosendorff admitted that, in earlier civil proceedings, he did not identify pressure from the top to spin results as a factor in his decision to leave Theranos, even though he testified in this

case that the pressure played a role.

He also agreed with defense counsel that under federal regulations, it was his responsibility as lab director to ensure that test procedures worked before they were used commercially, and that test results sent to patients were accurate.

But Rosendorff said that he "faced constraints and push-back from management" in endeavoring to fulfill his obligations.

In his final weeks as lab director, in the fall of 2014, Rosendorff said that the company was "getting a high frequency

of doctor complaints" and "the number and severity of issues had reached a crescendo."

Because he felt "obligated from a moral and ethical perspective to alert the public" about Theranos, Rosendorff testified that after leaving the company he spoke with Wall Street Journal reporter John Carreyrou.

Carreyrou wrote a series of articles and eventually a book on the failed blood-testing technology.

Cross-examination of Rosendorff was set to continue on Wednesday, after The Almanac's press deadline. Visit almanacnews.com for updates. ■

Stanford announces plan to buy Notre Dame de Namur's 50-acre Belmont campus

By Zoe Morgan

Stanford University has reached an agreement to "work toward" purchasing Notre Dame de Namur University's campus in Belmont, both universities announced on Tuesday.

The two schools have signed an agreement that gives Stanford the exclusive right to purchase the property until June 15, 2025, Notre Dame de Namur spokesperson Melissa McAlexander told this news organization in an email. Neither university has specified how much

Stanford is planning to pay for the campus, with both saying that "specific financial details remain confidential."

It isn't currently clear exactly how Stanford plans to use the space, with the university saying it intends to undertake a multiyear site-planning process.

Notre Dame de Namur will continue its normal operations until the sale is complete, McAlexander said, and will then have the option to lease back space on the campus for its operations.

In the face of a financial crisis, Notre Dame de Namur announced in January that it

would "transform into a primarily graduate and online university," with the potential to also offer undergraduate degree completion programs. The decision to sell its Belmont campus to Stanford is part of that change.

"(Notre Dame) has secured its future by finding the potential next owner for this property," Sister Jean Stoner, chair of the Notre Dame De Namur Board

See **STANFORD**, page 18

New book aims to encourage children to develop resilience, inner strength

By Heather Zimmerman

Many children's books not only spark young imaginations, but also offer lessons for growing minds, whether it's social skills like learning how to share or big-picture things like caring for the environment. Peninsula author and community activist Evelyne Keomian wants to make sure there's a book for kids that encourages the development of an important skill that's not commonly taught: resilience. Keomian is hoping that children can take inspiration from her own childhood with a story that encourages kids to find their inner strength.



Courtesy Evelyne Keomian

Palo Alto resident Evelyne Keomian has launched a Kickstarter to fund a children's book inspired by her childhood living in the Ivory Coast.

Keomian noted, it's still important for every child to learn to be resilient — they can draw on inner strength and determination to overcome challenges big and small.

"I need to tell the story that every child struggles. As a child, you need to learn early on that life is going to give you lemons and you just have to learn to turn them into lemonade," she said, noting that while the

phrase may be a cliché, it also reflects the way life is.

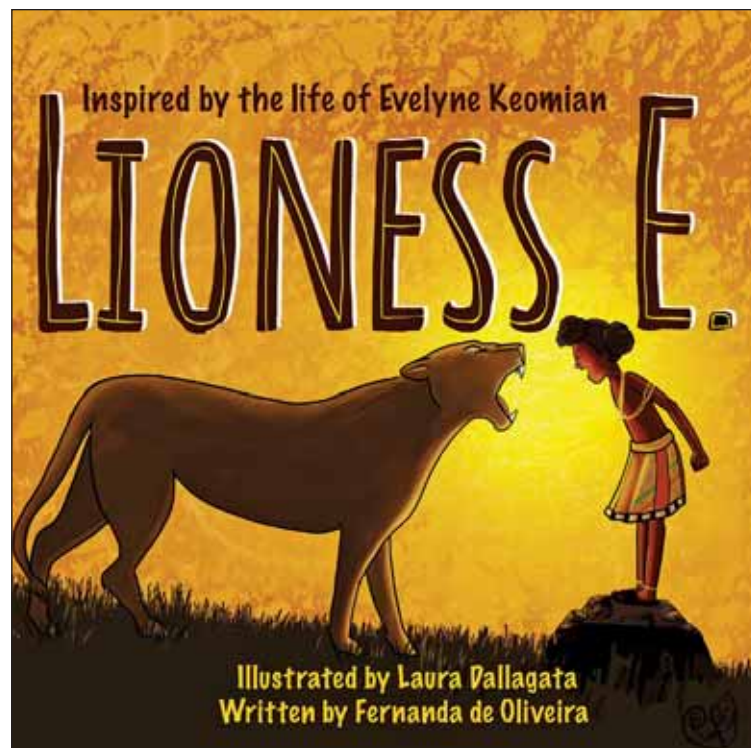
In addition to encouraging resilience, as a Black author, Keomian said she wants to give representation to children of color, so that more children can see themselves in books.

Keomian assembled a diverse team to help her realize her vision for "Lioness E," with Brazilian children's author Fernanda de Oliveira writing the book and illustrations created by Italian artist Laura Dall'Agata.

In late August, Keomian launched a campaign on the crowdfunding platform Kickstarter to help with production costs of "Lioness E."

The campaign reached its initial \$5,000 goal in pledges within a couple of days of launching and has now more than doubled its original goal, with 157 backers as of press time. The additional funds will help the book project reach its stretch goals, such as producing a musical version of the book with traditional African rhythm drumming.

Once published, the book will raise funds for the Karat School Project, a school for impoverished children in the Ivory Coast that Keomian founded.



Courtesy Evelyne Keomian

The cover of the children's book "Lioness E." Palo Alto resident Evelyne Keomian is working on a book to encourage children to develop resilience. Proceeds from book sales will support the Karat School Project, a school for children in need that Keomian founded in her native country of the Ivory Coast.

In addition to her support for education in her native country, Keomian has also spearheaded projects in the Bay Area to promote education and help young people.

In the early months of the pandemic, Keomian gathered donations and distributed "edukits" — care packages of school

supplies and books — to children of low-income families on the Peninsula and the South Bay, and she led a project during the holidays last year to provide gifts and food to families living in RVs. ■

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@almanacnews.com.

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Eric Inhelder

Eric Inhelder died suddenly in his Portola Valley home Sept. 11, 2021. He was a lifelong resident of Portola Valley, attended Portola Valley Schools, and graduated from Woodside High School. He was the son of the late Allen Inhelder and was also preceded in death by his sister Robin Inhelder. He is survived by his loving mother Elaine Inhelder and his many loving and caring friends.

At this time no services are planned. Donations may be made in Eric's name to the Peninsula Humane Society, the SPCA, or to the American Cancer Society. Arrangements handled through the care of Crippen & Flynn Woodside Chapel in Redwood City.

PAID OBITUARY

Marlyn Ahlenius Johnson

March 21, 1931 – August 22, 2021

Menlo Park lost a long-time resident when Marlyn passed away in Phoenix, Arizona, at the age of 90. A bicyclist for most of her adult life, she was often spotted around town running errands, commuting to SRI International and the Book Rack, attending her own kids and friends' kids sporting events, and volunteering in the community. A cherished place in her later years was Little House, where she shared lunch, conversations and bus trips with dear friends.



Marlyn spent her early childhood in northern Minnesota with her parents, Uno and Helen, brother Roger and a big extended family. During WWII at the age of twelve, Marlyn and her family moved to the Bay Area and settled in Menlo Park. The birth of her sister Julie completed their family. Menlo Park became Marlyn's home base for the next 75 years.

She attended Sequoia High School (class of '48) and San Jose State (class of '52). In college, she was an active member of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority, and later, the Palo Alto Alumnae group. Marlyn taught primary grades at Van Auken and Barron Park schools for seven years, married and raised three kids in Linfield Oaks, volunteered for local schools, alumni groups and the City of Menlo Park, enjoyed Stanford sports, cared for her aging parents, and thoroughly enjoyed retirement. Her final two years were spent in north Phoenix near her daughter Barb and her family.

Marlyn enjoyed traveling to see family and friends and had especially fond memories of her trips to Norway and Maui. She did live outside Menlo Park in 1956, when she worked as the Romper Room teacher 'Miss Lynn' in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Being a positive force in this world seemed to come naturally to Marlyn. She was loving, accepting and encouraging to so many. And she especially loved to bake to express those feelings!

Marlyn is survived by sister Julie (Pacifica), children Natalie (Mtn. View), Barb (Phoenix) and Doug (Bay Area), grandchildren Brian, Hailey, Stephanie, Hannah, Kyle and great grandchildren Aiden, Amari. She was predeceased by brother Roger (San Rafael) in 2004.

A Celebration of Life for Marlyn will be held on Saturday, October 9, at 2 pm at Menlo Church, 950 Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park.

Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Peninsula Volunteers or a charity of your choice.

Links:

Alzheimer's Association — <https://bit.ly/3F241gf>

Peninsula Volunteers — <https://www.penvol.org/donate>

PAID OBITUARY



Adam Pardee

Last year's progressive trail ride wound through downtown Woodside. Register for this year's ride by Oct. 6.

Raise a stein to the equine, as Day of the Horse celebrates Oktoberfest

Day of the Horse weekend is taking a detour to Bavaria for 2021, with Oktoberfest as the theme for three days of festivities devoted to horses and those who love them. Day of the Horse is presented by WHOA! (Woodside-area Horse Owners Association) Oct. 8-11 in and around Woodside's town center.

The weekend kicks off with a virtual art exhibit on Friday, Oct. 8. The juried show features equestrian-themed artworks in a variety of media by artists from around the country. The show can be seen online through Nov. 8. Organizers are also hosting an in-person youth art show on Oct. 10, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with works by artists aged 18 and under at the Woodside Village Church, 3154 Woodside Road.

On Saturday, Oct. 9, equestrians can saddle up and pull

on some lederhosen for a progressive trail ride — riders are invited to dress up in costumes that reflect this year's Oktoberfest theme (organizers note on the Day of the Horse website that while costumes that reflect the theme are encouraged, costumes in general are welcomed). Riders can start at any point along the route, which takes place on Woodside town trails. The route includes stops at public and private horse-friendly locations. Those participating in the trail ride must register by Oct. 6.

Visitors can learn more about horses — and see the animals up close — at a horse fair on Sunday, Oct. 10, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Woodside Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road. The event includes demonstrations of blacksmithing and dressage, vaulters, and lots of horses to

meet and admire. The fair is offered largely as a drive-thru event, but young visitors will have a chance to take pony rides, pet a horse and take photos with ponies. Organizers are also offering a virtual version of the horse fair, with links to many of the exhibitors' sites.

The celebration of horses not only raises awareness about their key role in Woodside's history, but with funds raised from the Day of the Horse, WHOA! has given about \$213,000 to many local equestrian projects since the event's inception in 2005, according to the WHOA! website.

For more information, visit whoa94062.org.

— Heather Zimmerman

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Mary Cox**, 87, a former teacher at Sequoia Union High School District and former head of the guidance department at Menlo-Atherton High School, on March 10, 2020; **Carl Heinz Feldman**, 92, a Realtor and Menlo Park resident, on Dec. 9, 2020; and **Marlyn Ahlenius Johnson**, 90, a longtime Menlo Park resident, on Aug. 22.

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

Memorial Service Announcement

Peter Llewellyn

1930 – 2020

A memorial service for and a celebration of the life of Peter Llewellyn will be held on Sunday, October 10 at Christ Church Episcopal in Portola Valley. The service will be at 3:00 P.M.

Friends and family friends of Peter are welcome to attend. Masks will be required during the service. There will be a reception following.

Peter passed away on October 14, 2020 at the age of 90.

For more information contact Richard Llewellyn at 650-279-8107.

The address for Christ Church Episcopal in Portola Valley is 815 Portola Road, Portola Valley. www.ccpvw.org.



CORONA CENTRAL

continued from page 7

dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. There isn't sufficient data on whether an immunocompromised person who initially received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine would see an increased antibody response after an additional dose of the same vaccine.

Boosters are available at five large-scale vaccination sites for eligible individuals who live, work or attend school in the county. While appointments are required at the San Jose, San Martin, and Mountain View locations, there is drop-in availability at the DePaul Health Center in Morgan Hill. (A complete list of county vaccination locations is available below. See hours of operation and sign up for an appointment at sccfre-evax.org.) Many doctors' offices and pharmacies are also now offering COVID-19 boosters, according to the county.


"The CDC definition of an underlying medical condition is very broad; a significant portion of the population now qualifies for a booster," county officials said in the press release.

Officials added that per CDC guidelines, people ages 18 to 49 with an underlying medical condition — as well as those at risk of COVID-19 exposure because of occupational or institutional setting — are also eligible and may want to consider a booster.

Santa Clara County locations offering boosters include:

- Mountain View Community Center, 201 S Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View
- Emmanuel Baptist Church, 467 N. White Road, San Jose
- DePaul Health Center, 18550 DePaul Drive, Morgan Hill
- San Martin vaccination site, 90 W. Highland Ave., San Martin
- Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, Expo Hall, 344 Tully Road, San Jose

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.

Carl H. Feldman

August 7, 1928 – December 8, 2020

Carl Heinz Feldman, 92, of Menlo Park, CA, passed away of old age at his home on December 8, 2020, attended by his family.

Carl was born on August 7, 1928 to Carl and Herta (Scheelke) Feldman, German immigrants who met in San Francisco. Carl and his younger brothers Rudy and Fred grew up in Menlo Park and Palo Alto. After graduating from Palo Alto High School, Carl received a degree in chemistry from UC Berkeley in 1950. During his time at Cal, Carl worked a summer clearing invasive plants from the forests, and was soon spending much of his free time hiking, climbing, and mountaineering in his beloved Sierra Nevada mountains, especially Yosemite. Carl also had an early interest in the performing arts and loved music, especially classical and opera. During college, he worked as an usher at the San Francisco Opera House, where in later years he had season tickets and owned a nearby apartment which he offered to guests from near and far.

Carl went on to receive a Master's in Education from Stanford University. Then as a young man in search of fortune and adventure, he took a job in Saudi Arabia as a chemist with the Arabian-American Oil Company. There, in Ras Tanura, he met his future wife Jeannine Moler, a schoolteacher from Maryland. After their marriage in 1955, the couple moved to Nuremburg, Germany, where Carl served in the U.S. Army, and where their sons Richard and Fred were born. In 1958, the young family returned to California, where they were soon joined by two daughters, Anise (Anne) and Mary Mary. Carl taught Chemistry at Hillsdale High School in San Mateo.

Carl went back to graduate school at Berkeley, then moved the family to Princeton, NJ in 1963 to continue his education. In search of a change, Carl and Jeannine returned with their family to Saudi Arabia in 1964 where they both worked again for Aramco. In 1966 they returned to the USA and settled again in San Mateo. Sadly, the marriage did not last. After separating from Jeannine in 1969, Carl moved to Menlo Park, near his childhood home, where he started a new career in real estate. Carl went on to become a Realtor, a broker, and eventually opened his own real estate company in Menlo Park.

Carl worked hard and maintained a strong sense of ethics, and was successful in investing and in owning and managing real estate. A firm believer in social justice, Carl found opportunities to practice what he preached. Carl acquired small houses, duplexes, and apartments which he rented out affordably to low-income families. That became Carl's vocation for the rest of his life. Carl's contributions to environmental groups were exceeded only by those to arts and to social justice. Carl was especially active in his work with and donations to forest protection organizations including the Sempervirens Fund, the Sierra Club, the Yosemite Conservancy, the Redwood Parks Conservancy, and countless others. Carl always looked for ways to help disadvantaged people he met. He would carry a pocket full of dollars on his trips to San Francisco so he could hand them out to the homeless, and he once gave his car to a young man who stopped to help him change a tire.

Carl's love for the mountains led him to a life of hiking, wilderness adventuring, and mountaineering, especially in his

beloved Sierras. Carl was a teacher, an accomplished naturalist, a brilliant raconteur, an avid music lover, and a philosopher. He loved books, poetry, art, San Francisco and California history, world politics, and humor. Carl drank his coffee black and did not care for cheese. His favorite writer was D.H. Lawrence and his favorite composer was Richard Wagner. He was an intrepid worldwide traveler and could make conversation with anyone due to his warm and engaging manner. Carl

enjoyed being able to converse with locals wherever he went due to his abilities as a natural linguist. He was fluent in English, German, and Arabic, and could "get by" in most European languages. Carl especially enjoyed playing with German dialects, such as Plattdeutsch and Frisian.

Family was very important to Carl. He traveled frequently to

Germany and maintained relationships with his Feldman, Feldmann, and Scheelke relatives on both sides of the Atlantic. He was a generous and doting father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Carl loved to write and receive letters from family and friends all over the world, and he kept and reread all his correspondence.

Carl was always active in the Stanford alumni community, and in his later years, Stanford Singles. He appreciated the wisdom and value of women his own age, and had many female friends. He was a companion and partner to the late Joan Alpert from about 1991 to 2001. Carol Mitchell was Carl's steadfast support and dear friend from the early 2000s until his death.

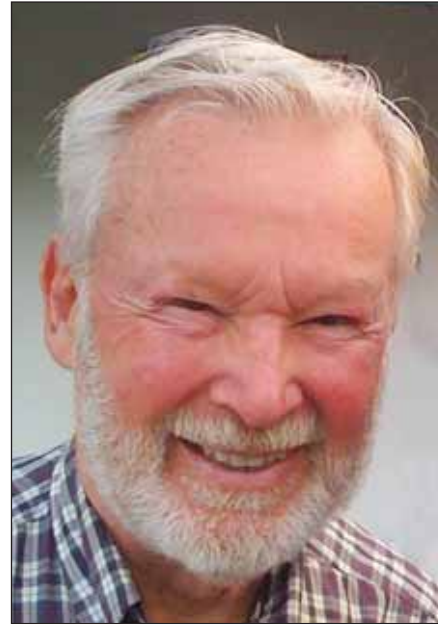
Carl had tremendous physical stamina and was constantly active. For his 70th birthday in 1998, he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, and for his 80th birthday in 2008, he hiked the Donahue Pass section of the John Muir Trail with his sons, still carrying all his own gear.

Carl began to experience memory loss in his early 80's but was fiercely independent and insisted on living at home for almost ten more years. He continued his lifelong habit of daily walks, frequently walking the two-mile round trip to his local (Palo Alto) Peet's coffee shop three or four times a day until he was almost 90. Carl would still stop to talk to people he met, and was known and remembered by the locals along his route. When more assistance became necessary, he moved to the Silverado Belmont Hills Memory Care Community, where he spent his last few years.

Carl was preceded in death by his ex-wife, Jeannine, and two grandsons. He is survived by his brothers, Rudy and Fred; his children, Richard, Fred, Anise (Anne) and Mary Mary Feldman; four more grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Carl will be missed by many people. A memorial service will be held Saturday, October 23, in Mountain View. Please RSVP to Fred Feldman at fredianne@comcast.net for location, time, and directions, or for information on attending online.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Carl's memory may be made to the Sempervirens Fund (<https://sempervirens.org>) or to the Day Worker Center of Mountain View (<https://www.dayworkercentermv.org>).





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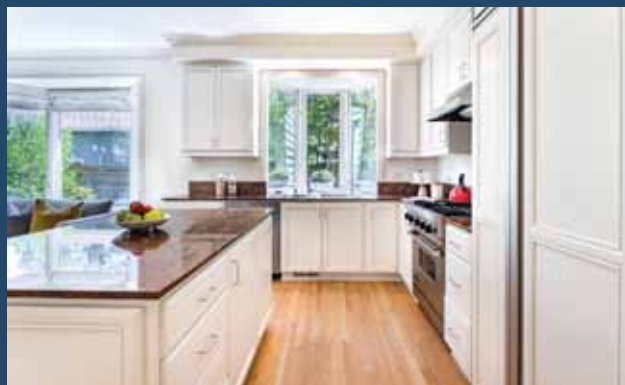
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LAS LOMITAS TRUSTEES

continued from page 1

outside of district boundaries — though staying locally — and will no longer be eligible to serve as a trustee, she said. Her last day on the board will be Oct. 29, so she can help with the appointment process.

“This is a very bittersweet moment for me. I truly loved serving on the board,” she said during the Sept. 8 meeting, adding that she was prepared to support Superintendent Beth Polito in any way possible over the coming year.

In an email last week, Nunn said the saddest part about moving is having to resign from the board.

“I love being on the board and will miss the work and plan to support the new and current board members in any way that I can,” she said. “I am so proud of our district and how we have been able to support our students with in-person learning through most of the pandemic. One of the biggest responsibilities of the board is to hire the superintendent, and I am proud of our hire of Dr. Beth Polito and attribute much of our success during COVID to her steady and wise leadership.”

She said that the silver lining

of the COVID-19 pandemic has been the increase in parent and family engagement with the district. “I think we will continue to have a robust board to partner with the tremendous leadership team here for years to come.”

In a Sept. 3 email to the San Mateo County Office of Education and the district, Earnhardt resigned and said that he believes that board members are more effective when the decisions they make impact their own children. He doesn’t have a child in the district anymore since his son graduated from La Entrada Middle School in June.

“The district is in great shape with exciting construction projects funded and planned (bond Measure R, which I had the privilege to chair), a completed strategic plan, and, of course, great leadership on the board, in the district office, on both sites, and, most importantly, in our classrooms,” he wrote. “I am very proud of our high achieving students, however, over my seven years on the board, I am most proud that we have particularly focused on helping those students who are struggling to achieve. I know we have made progress and helped many students find their gifts.”

He also said in a Sept. 22 email that his last year and half on the



Magali Gauthier

Las Lomitas Elementary School District trustees are planning to fill two recent vacancies with appointments this month.

school board during the pandemic felt like five years.

“Lots of stress, lots of extra meetings, lots of calls and all while doing a strategic plan as well as undergoing construction,” he said. “I’m proud that LLES D has been able to invest in more social/emotional support this school year for our students, our teachers and staff, and our entire community.”

Last November, the district made national news when its

former board president Jon Venverloh stepped down amid an uproar over his wife’s racist and misogynistic tweets about Vice President Kamala Harris.

Earnhardt was the subject of an attempted recall by parents who said his comments in a local newspaper reacting to Mehredith Venverloh’s insulting tweets lacked sensitivity and warranted his removal. The recall was proposed on Change.org and an official recall peti-

tion, which would have required signatures from a quarter of the district’s registered voters in order to move forward, did not take place.

The board also filled a seat left vacant by Jody Leng, who was elected to the board in the Nov. 3, 2020, election. After winning the election, she informed the district she would not take her seat. Trustees appointed former candidate Molly Finn and Cynthia Solis Yi.

After an appointment is made, an election would be called if 1.5% of district voters sign a petition calling for the positions to be put on a ballot. Voters would have 30 days after the appointment to gather signatures.

The application for board appointees was due last week and there are six candidates, Polito said.

District staff held candidate orientation Thursday.

Tentatively, candidate interviews will be held on either Wednesday, Oct. 6, and/or Tuesday, Oct. 12. It is anticipated that the board will take action to appoint candidates immediately following the interview process. **A**

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



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SCAN AND SIGN UP FOR PENINSULA PLAYBOOK



COVID

continued from page 5

county Office of Education executive director of strategy and communications.

The county health department

doesn't "comment on individual schools/districts," said Preston Merchant, the department's communications officer, in a Monday, Sept. 27, email in response to The Almanac's question of whether other districts

have had to keep a whole class home to quarantine so far, or if the quarantine at Belle Haven was a rare occurrence. ■

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

BURGLARIES

continued from page 5

free alarm monitoring, which includes immediate dispatch of officers upon activation.

The delay in alarm companies reporting alarms to the police depends on the notification sys-

tem the homeowners have with their alarm company, Larsen said.

"Some homeowners have a list of responsible people to call before police department is notified of the alarm," he said. "The burglaries that go unreported for days are usually because the resident does not

activate their alarm."

Anyone who lives in the area of these burglaries and saw or heard anything suspicious is asked to contact the Atherton Police Department at 650-688-6500. ■

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

TRINITY

continued from page 5

into the school's basement and sifted through boxes of records. "That's my handwriting!" she

exclaimed, finding a box of records from the 1960s.

She came armed with a family photo album, which included photos of her daughter's graduation from Trinity, a staff photo

and a photo of the first kindergarten and first grade classes at the school. ■

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

COVID DEATHS

continued from page 8

and older are vaccinated.

In Riverside County, people under 45 made up 4.1% of total deaths between Jan. and March. Between June and Aug., that number jumped to 16.1%. Among adults, people under 45 have the lowest vaccination rates.

Eleven people died in Riverside County on Sept. 20 and five of those people were under 40, said Jose Arballo, senior public

information specialist at Riverside University Health System-Public Health.

Were most of the people who died unvaccinated?

Vaccinated people make up a small fraction of the deaths — approximately 500. "Far and away without any doubt, without any question, 95% of (stopping deaths) is vaccines," Rutherford said.

Although there's still the potential for breakthrough cas-

es, vaccination makes it much less likely that serious illness will develop.

So if the best way to prevent deaths is the vaccine, how do health officials get younger people to get the jab? It's complicated, but mandates — like proof of vaccination to go to restaurants or work in certain places — can help, Rutherford said. Fear can be a motivator, too.

"People are scared of the delta variant — as they should be," Rutherford said. ■

CRIME BRIEFS

continued from page 6

probation, according to the District Attorney's Office.

His case was continued to Nov. 4, when he's scheduled to receive a report and order for restitution.

— *Kate Bradshaw*

Palo Alto woman suspected of starting Fawn Fire in Shasta County

Law enforcement officers from Cal Fire have arrested a Palo Alto woman they believe is responsible for igniting the Fawn Fire in Shasta County that started Sept. 22 and had burned 8,577 acres as of Tuesday morning.

Firefighters from Cal Fire and Shasta County responded to reports of a vegetation fire about 4:45 p.m. Sept. 22, near Fawndale Road north of Mountain Gate. The blaze started in a deep, remote canyon on property accessible through the JF Shea and Mountain Gate quarries.

Earlier in the day, employees in the area reported seeing a woman trespassing on the property and "acting irrationally," according to a Cal Fire statement.

At approximately 8 p.m., while working the fire, firefighters

were approached by 30-year-old Alexandra Souverneva, who walked out of brush in the fire line, saying she was dehydrated and needed medical treatment.

Souverneva was transported off the fire line and treated. After being interviewed by Cal Fire investigators, she was arrested and transported to the Shasta County jail, where she was booked on suspicion of "arson to wildland," which could carry an enhancement upon conviction, due to California's current state of emergency declared over

wildfire danger. She was being held on \$100,000 bail, according to county custody records.

Souverneva graduated from Palo Alto High School in 2009.

The fire was 65% contained and had destroyed 185 structures and damaged 26 more as of Tuesday morning, according to Cal Fire. Three firefighters were injured. Nearly 1,800 personnel were working the fire, including eight helicopters and 25 bulldozers.

— *Tony Hicks/Bay City News Service*

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

NEIGHBORHOOD PIZZA GUY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288752
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Neighborhood Pizza Guy, located at 1929 Menalto Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County; Mailing address: PO BOX 401, San Carlos, CA 94070.
Registered owner(s):
NEIGHBORHOOD PIZZA LLC
1929 Menalto Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
California
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 2, 2021.
(ALM Sep. 17, 24; Oct. 1, 8, 2021)

MORGAN HILL REAL ESTATE
MORGAN HILL COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
HICARE BROKER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288736
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Morgan Hill Real Estate, 2.) Morgan Hill Commercial Real Estate, 3.) HICARE Broker, located at 503 Trinidad Lane, Foster City, CA 94404, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ANNETTE MARIA DIRESTA
503 Trinidad Lane
Foster City, CA 94404
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 8/8/2008.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 1, 2021.
(ALM Sep. 17, 24; Oct. 1, 8, 2021)

BC HANDYWORKS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288855
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
BC Handyworks, located at 120 Scenic Drive, Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
BENJAMIN C CAMPOS
120 Scenic Drive
Redwood City, 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 September 14, 2021.
(ALM Sep. 24; Oct. 1, 8, 15, 2021)

JLCZ TRANSPORTATION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288893
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
JLCZ TRANSPORTATION, located at 2065 California St. Apt. 46, Mountain View, CA 94040, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
JORGE LUIS CUEVAS ZAVALA
2065 California St. Apt. 46
Mountain View, CA 94040
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 September 17, 2021.
(ALM Sep. 24; Oct. 1, 8, 15, 2021)

KIDDIE COTTAGE BILINGUAL DAY CARE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288814
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Kiddie Cottage Bilingual Day Care, located at 1750 Croner Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ALEJANDRA ESPINOSA
1750 Croner 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 September 9, 2021.
(ALM Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021)

MID-PENINSULA HIGH SCHOOL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288864
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Mid-Peninsula High School, located at 1340 Willow Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MID-PENINSULA EDUCATION CENTER, INC.
1340 Willow Rd.
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 5/15/2002.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 14, 2021.
(ALM Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021)

SELECT PHYSICAL THERAPY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288929
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Select Physical Therapy, located at 540 Ralston Ave., Suite B, Belmont, CA 94001, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 4714 Gettysburg Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.
Registered owner(s):
PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATES, INC.
4714 Gettysburg Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Michigan
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 21, 2021.
(ALM Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021)

SELECT PHYSICAL THERAPY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288928
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Select Physical Therapy, located at 900 Veterans Blvd., Suite 230, Redwood City, CA 94063-1750, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 4714 Gettysburg Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.
Registered owner(s):
PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATES, INC.
4714 Gettysburg Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Michigan
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 21, 2021.
(ALM Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021)

SELECT PHYSICAL THERAPY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 288927
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Select Physical Therapy, located at 1860 El Camino Real, Suite 201, Burlingame, CA 94010, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 4714 Gettysburg Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.
Registered owner(s):
PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATES, INC.
4714 Gettysburg Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Michigan
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 21, 2021.
(ALM Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 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.

STANFORD

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of Trustees, said in a press release. “This will provide resources for many new opportunities to continue the Sisters’ legacy of education rooted in the values of social justice and global peace.”

Notre Dame de Namur is a Catholic, nonprofit university that was established in 1851 by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Its Belmont campus is the only location where classes are currently held, spanning roughly 50 acres and including dorms, offices and classroom buildings, McAlexander said.

In a news release, Stanford said it would develop a campus plan with input from Notre Dame de Namur, the Stanford community, the city of Belmont and local residents. Stanford Provost Persis Drell will also work with a faculty advisory group to get direction on potential academic uses for the space.

Stanford expects the planning and campus design process to take several years, starting when the university submits an application to make site improvements that require city approval. The effort is being led by Stanford’s Land, Buildings and Real Estate Department.

“This is a unique opportunity for Stanford to support higher education in the region, connect with residents in a part of the Peninsula where we have historically not had as much of a presence and invest in expanding our academic mission in service to the community,” Drell said in the release. “While we do not anticipate

moving existing teaching and research activities off of the main campus, adding a campus in Belmont will provide us with additional space and facilities to enhance those activities through more regionally-focused work.”

Part of the appeal of the property is its existing use as a “residential academic campus” on the Peninsula that is near public transit and Stanford’s existing campuses, Stanford’s release said. The campus could be used to bring Stanford’s continuing studies courses to a broader swath of the Bay Area, according to the university.

“We are delighted to be planning for the future of the Belmont campus in a way that strengthens both universities and our respective connections to the community,” Stanford President Marc Tessier-Lavigne said. “We have a chance to envision new and innovative academic uses for the site that are grounded in its rich history and embrace the dynamism of the Bay Area.”

Stanford has grown its footprint in recent years, most significantly by opening a 35-acre Redwood City campus in 2019, which houses various departments, including human resources, School of Medicine administration and business affairs.

In recent years, Stanford has wrangled with Santa Clara County over its expansion plans. Citing ongoing disagreements with the county Board of Supervisors, in November 2019 the university abandoned an application for a new general use permit that would have allowed for 3.5 million square feet of new development.

Both Stanford’s Redwood City campus and Notre Dame de Namur’s Belmont location are in San Mateo County.

Notre Dame de Namur’s decision to sell its campus comes as the university reimagines its future in the face of financial challenges. The university announced in March 2020 that it was “experiencing an unsustainable enrollment decline and growing financial crisis,” adding that “closing could be in our future,” though school leaders sought a way to stay open.

This past January, the school announced its board of trustees unanimously recommended continuing to operate, while switching to a focus on graduate and online education. The university “has narrowed its curricular focus, modified existing programs, and is developing new programs,” according to Notre Dame de Namur’s release

announcing the campus sale agreement.

The San Mateo Daily Journal recently reported that the school is currently in its first semester of the pivot to graduate programs and has roughly 200 students enrolled. The university’s offerings include master’s degree programs in business, education and psychology, as well as teacher credential programs.

“This agreement between NDNU and Stanford gives NDNU the flexibility to grow again in new and exciting ways,” Notre Dame de Namur President Beth Martin said in the release. “We will be able to continue the programs for which we are so well known, and to add new programs directly targeted to changing student needs, including a mix of in-person, hybrid, and fully online programs.”

Email Staff Writer Zoe Morgan at zmorgan@paweekly.com.

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LOS ALTOS HILLS

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The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty	650-485-3476

MENLO PARK

656 Fremont Street	\$2,499,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	3BD/2.5BA
DeLeon Realty	650-785-5822
1295 Woodland Avenue	\$3,595,000
Sat 2:00-4:00	4BD/3BA
Compass	650-400-8424

MOUNTAIN VIEW

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Compass	650-996-0123
928 Wright Avenue (C)	\$1,295,000
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COMPASS	415-999-0727
2312 Jane Lane	\$1,898,000
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Compass	650-906-0162

PALO ALTO

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2290 Emerson Street	\$2,498,000
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ShopProp Inc.	425-785-6127
765 San Antonio Road (C)	\$1,099,999
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	3BD/2BA
JLee Realty	650-857-1000
1319 Tasso Street	\$5,995,000
Sun 2:00-4:00	4BD/3.5BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty	650-485-3476

156 Lowell Avenue	\$5,995,000
Sun 2:00-4:00	4BD/3.5BA
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160 Nevada Avenue	\$4,398,000
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Compass	650-248-3950
2146 Louis Road	\$3,888,000
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00	4BD/2BA
Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty	650-862-2122

552 Kellogg Avenue	\$6,495,000
Sun 1:30-4:30	4BD/3.5BA
Compass	650-465-5958

1585 Edgewood Drive	\$7,750,000
Sun 1:30-4:30	5BD/5.5BA
Compass	650-465-5958

1629 Edgewood Drive	\$5,498,000
Sun 1:30-4:30	5BD/3BA
Sereno	650-269-7266

2303 Cowper Street	\$6,995,000
Sun 2:00-4:00	5BD/6BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty	650-485-3476

4158 Orchard Court	\$4,934,650
Sun 2:00-4:00	5BD/7BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty	650-485-3476

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Sereno	650-303-5511

WOODSIDE

15 Corto Ln	\$4,295,000
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Compass	650-400-2528

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It's time for real protection of our green spaces in Menlo Park

By Bob Dickinson

During the last housing element cycle, a proposal to use part of Sharon Park for affordable housing was put forward. The proposal was only taken off the table after a petition opposing it gathered almost 1,700 signatures and the city attorney found that converting parkland to housing would likely require a vote of the public.

Fast forward to the current housing element cycle, and Karen Grove, chair of the Housing Commission ("Guest opinion: Green spaces, a healthy planet, and affordable housing," Sept. 17), recently stated that the city should consider parts of both Sharon Park and Burgess Park as housing sites. The reaction was immediate! A new petition opposing the use of any parkland in Menlo Park for housing, which has now gathered 1,800 signatures with more coming in every day, was presented to the City Council prior to its meeting on Sept. 21. And, to add fuel to the flames, a September 2021 city flyer about the housing element update states

GUEST OPINION

that "... and other publicly owned lands such as parks, could be considered a potential tool to meet our RHNA ..."

Council member Ray Mueller had asked that the City Council consider asking the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance protecting our parks by requiring a public vote for parkland to be converted to other uses at its Sept. 21 meeting. The ordinance would also have provided that all parks be classified as dedicated parks under the government code, to enjoy the fullest protection of law. His motion had strong public support, expressed in emails to the council, written comments regarding that agenda item prior to the meeting and verbal comments during the meeting.

After considerable discussion by the council, Mueller's motion was defeated by a margin of 3-2, with Mueller and Mayor Drew Combs voting in favor and council members Betsy Nash, Cecilia Taylor and Jen Wolosin against, on the grounds that the parks are

already adequately protected so staff time spent on preparing an ordinance would be better spent on other priorities. Interestingly, just before the council meeting, Grove sent an email to the council saying that after looking more deeply into it, she had learned that the state Department of Housing and Community Development would reject a housing element that reduced parkland to meet its goals. She also referenced a 2012 memo by the then-city attorney, without discussing any of the exceptions that would allow conversion contained within that memo, and then stated, "Our parks are protected." Unfortunately, that is not the case.

The parks issue has also helped to spotlight fundamental flaws in the housing element process. While it considers proximity to existing transit, schools and grocery stores when evaluating potential housing sites, it fails to address the additional park capacity that will be required. The public comments during the housing element workshop on Sept. 23 highlighted that failure with respect to schools and transit

in addition to parks. Adding several thousand more housing units to Menlo Park's housing stock, as much as a one-third increase, will create significantly greater demands on all of them that are not being taken into account. The current process also fails to take into account the likely oversupply of office space due to the recent shift to more remote and hybrid work. Planning for housing cannot be done in a vacuum — it needs to be integrated with planning for transit, schools, parks and recreation, and employment opportunities.

Even though it was echoed by several council members in the Sept. 21 meeting, the assertion that the parks are protected is simply not true! There are already some who are suggesting using park hardscapes for housing, which would reduce available parking and restrict public access to parks. And, as council member Mueller has pointed out, there are a number of legal loopholes, such as one that could allow the city to convert parkland to "other municipal uses," that need to be closed. The council could decide

to reverse course at any time and the one line statement in the Sept. 23 housing element workshop slides that there would be "no use of green space" could easily be erased with a few keystrokes. And, while an ordinance requiring a public vote to use parkland for other purposes would be a step in the right direction, it could also be reversed by the City Council at any time. What is really needed is a ballot measure to enact enduring protection for our parks into the law that closes all the loopholes and requires a public vote to convert parkland to any other use, and Menlo Park residents are now organizing to support one.

This is a watershed moment in the history of Menlo Park. Let's make sure we don't go down the wrong path by building housing, or anything else, in our parks, now or in the future!

Bob Dickinson and his wife Sylvia have lived in Menlo Park since 1983 and are founding members of Save Menlo Park Green Spaces. A former tech CEO, Bob has consulted on climate impacts and adaptation since 2011.

Examining myths about switching from gas to electric

By Josie Gaillard

As Menlo Park considers urgent action to address the climate emergency, many questions have been raised about the proposal put forward by the city's Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) on which I serve, to discontinue installing new gas appliances ("Guest opinion: How to get on board with Menlo Park's climate action plan," Sept. 24).

First, let me say that I generally do not favor big government for solving problems best solved by markets. I am a capitalist and a business person at heart.

However, after studying the climate problem intensely for the last two years, working with engineers to evaluate all possible solutions and electrifying my own home and car, I am convinced that electrifying everything with clean electricity is the cheapest, fastest way to address the climate crisis. And contrary to my natural inclination, I believe that government needs to be involved if we are to make the transition before the climate tips into an irreversible suicide spiral. Bill McKibben recently called the climate crisis "a timed test," where every second counts and every minute we wait lowers our chance of passing. And if you think, after decades of procrastination and bad choices, there's someone waiting in the wings to save us from the conse-

GUEST OPINION

quences of our poor preparation, I'm afraid you will be sorely disappointed. Our future is in our hands. We have the technology. We have the ideas. We just need to get moving.

Some critics and some well-meaning citizens question whether the "burnout ordinance" proposed by Menlo Park's EQC is practical, whether it has been well-researched and whether those of us working on it know what we are doing. Although eventually I hope the city will take a more active role in educating the public, I am happy to share answers to some commonly asked questions.

Does my home have the electrical capacity to fully electrify?

For most people the answer is yes. You can fully electrify your home on 100-amp service with no trenching, no digging up your driveway and no contact with PG&E. All you need is a good electrician familiar with the National Electrical Code (NEC), specifically section 220.83(B) that deals with adding new electrical loads to existing buildings. It is untrue that everyone needs a 200-amp panel in order to fully electrify their home. As part of my due diligence on the proposed "burnout ordinance," I have worked with fellow commissioner and former utility engineer

Tom Kabat to apply the NEC to real-world retrofits on existing electrical panels. Electrical load calculations performed according to the NEC show us that an existing home can be converted from gas appliances to all-electric and stay under 100 amps. There is a helpful free watt calculator tool at redwoodenergy.net/watt-diet-calculator that can assist with the load calculations, and there are good examples of all-electric home retrofits at tinyurl.com/electricretrofits.

Electrifying on 100-amp service does require that you choose your electrical devices wisely, and this is where some guidance is helpful. For example, if your goal is staying on a 100-amp service, you should avoid electric resistance water heaters because they suck up amps and opt instead for a lower amperage version, such as a 15-amp heat pump water heater. Similarly, you should avoid amp-hungry HVAC systems and instead choose a variable speed HVAC heat pump, like mine, that sips power at 17 rated amps (less than a standard electric dryer!). These choices are not hard to make and are just as effective, often costing the same as their higher amperage alternatives.

Does a water heater need a dedicated circuit?

Heat pump water heaters currently on the market require a dedicated circuit, as do most

major electrical appliances. If your electrical panel is short on physical space (vs. electrical capacity) and you don't have room to add circuit breakers, you can address this by adding a subpanel for landing your new electrical appliances, each with its own dedicated circuit. That's what I did in my own house and avoided replacing the electrical panel.

What happens if my water heater dies suddenly and I don't have the circuits in place?

Building owners who want to avoid this situation should start planning now for electrification by proactively installing electrical circuits to the locations of future electric appliances, especially the water heater. That way, when a gas device "burns out" it can be easily replaced with an electric model on short notice. In Sacramento, the municipal utility there provides an emergency heat pump water heater replacement program for those who didn't plan ahead. Residents call a 1-800 number and a heat pump water heater will be installed at low cost at their home within 48 hours.

Are contractors trained in electrification?

I was able to find capable, highly rated contractors for all of my electrification projects. More are getting educated every day. Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) just launched a training program

on electrification for contractors that offers a \$500 stipend to take the online course.

Are there rebates for panel upgrades?

In the rare circumstance that someone actually needs a larger electrical service in order to electrify, Peninsula Clean Energy offers up to \$1,500 for panel upgrades (see peninsulacleanenergy.com/heat-pump-water-heater). There are also generous rebates for electric heat pump water heaters and HVAC units to cover the extra costs of electric equipment.

Many more questions about electrification are answered by local nonprofit Menlo Spark at tinyurl.com/menlosparkfaq.

Can't we wait?

For those who say that we must wait and work out every detail before passing policy to discontinue the installation of new gas equipment, I understand where you are coming from. Maybe you didn't realize we were taking a timed test and you want to stop the clock so that you can sharpen your pencil or look at your notes one last time. I get it. The problem is that there's no stopping the clock now. Every minute counts. We must act now, however imperfectly, or we will fail.

Josie Gaillard is a Menlo Park resident and sits on the city's Environmental Quality Commission.

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Artscene

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CLIMATE OUT OF CONTROL

IN TWO VERY DIFFERENT PLAYS, THE PEAR EXPLORES THE HUMAN REACTION TO CATASTROPHE

A small group of people camping out on a truffle farm, from left, Eph (Jose Antonio), Sybil (Gabriella Goldstein), Diana (Isabel Siragusa) and Corin (William J. Brown III), are ready to defend their territory in "Somewhere" at The Pear Theatre.



Mario Ramirez/courtesy Pear Theatre

By Heather Zimmerman

The Bay Area is no stranger to cataclysmic events, from earthquakes to wildfires — and now a pandemic. And certainly the last year and a half has often felt pretty apocalyptic.

So audiences might know a little of what characters in Marisela Treviño Orta's "Somewhere" are feeling as they grapple with the apocalypse. The play explores life in an unfolding climate-related catastrophe brought about by the sudden disappearance of most of the planet's insects.

The Pear Theatre is staging "Somewhere" in repertory with William Shakespeare's "The Tempest," which tells of shipwreck survivors on an island in the aftermath of a massive storm conjured by a sorcerer with a score to settle.

The shows, presented in person Oct. 1-24, are a co-production with The Perspective Theatre Company (formerly the Arabian Shakespeare Festival). "Somewhere" is making its West Coast premiere in this production. "The Tempest" will also be available as a livestreamed performance.

The two plays are the first in a series of "Pear pairings" that will be staged throughout the company's 20th anniversary season, with two shows presented in repertory, featuring one new show (or new to the company) and revisiting a show from one of the company's past seasons.

The Pear staged "The Tempest" in 2013 in a well-received production that featured some nontraditional casting, such as changing the gender of the sorcerer Prospero.

"The purpose of all these Pear pairings is to say, 'Let's take some of the work that The Pear has done really effectively in the past and let's give them a revitalization, let's imagine them differently and also put them in the context of something that will

help give them new perspective,'" said Sinjin Jones, artistic director at The Pear.

The climate events in both plays are human-made, though Prospero has a lot more individual control over the weather than we mere mortals do nowadays.

But the shows also delve into ideas of resilience and coping in the face of catastrophe in ways that might be surprisingly hopeful for a pair of plays about disaster.

Orta said she found inspiration for "Somewhere" from an article that posited what would happen if most of Earth's insects disappeared — and far from a blissful existence free of flies and mosquitoes that one might imagine, such an event would bring true disaster.

Especially timely as it may seem now, Orta wrote "Somewhere" in 2019, and some of its influences go much farther back than our current crises — to the 1980s and early '90s, when nuclear war seemed the likeliest apocalypse.

"I grew up at the very tail end of the Cold War in the '80s. And so I saw movies like 'Red Dawn' where suddenly you had to take for the hills because a war was happening," she said, recalling how such movies led her as a child to imagine what it would be like to have to pack up and leave in a hurry while facing certain disaster.

Orta also cites the darkly comic films of director Jean-Pierre Jeunet, particularly his post-apocalyptic 1991 comedy "Delicatessen," as influential.

"What I love about that film is that it's apocalyptic but it's not 'Mad Max.' On a scale of one to 10, it's more like, three. ... Things are just starting to fall apart and people are trying to hold on to a sense of normality, or trying to hang on to the way things were, when clearly, it's very hard to do that when the world is rapidly deteriorating," she said.

Additionally Orta, a Texas native who now lives in Austin, cited more than a decade of living in the Bay Area as a strong influence, noting that she still keeps an earthquake kit for emergencies.

Orta set the apocalypse in "Somewhere" at about a three, in the story of sister and brother duo Cassandra and Alexander, who, as they are tracking the migration of the world's last monarch butterflies, cross paths with a small group of people trying to survive on a truffle farm — truffles and mushrooms being some of the few crops that don't require pollinators. But even so, they have swapped one problem for another, Orta points out, as mushrooms are a negative-calorie food, with enough nutrients suitable for supplementing a diet, but not sustainable as a staple food.

In her research on truffles, she was also struck by the unusual way that truffles grow, relying on a symbiotic relationship with nearby trees. But the trees can be vulnerable to a deadly fungus.

"That becomes like a metaphor for striking a balance with our own environment as humans, as part of it. How do we not be parasitic, how do we strike a mutualistic relationship with all our resources?"

"Somewhere" made its debut in February 2020 at Philadelphia's Temple University and The Pear had originally scheduled the show for last season, in December 2020, but the pandemic upended last year's schedule.

Orta wrote "Somewhere" during a residency at Temple, where the brief was to write a play on any topic she chose for an ensemble, in which roles would be roughly of equal size, with no main and supporting characters.

The fact that "Somewhere" is an ensemble piece made particular sense for a play about a topic like the apocalypse that would have a universal impact, but that people

would experience differently.

"We see the stress or anxiety, or in some cases, the bargaining that happens, or even the weird choices that people make — how different people will react. It's not just one person's story because, in fact, this is all of our story — the idea that it's going to impact all of us, none of us can escape," Orta said.

With "The Tempest," The Pear isn't staging a revival, but a revitalization, artistic director Jones said, with a new adaptation.

"We're taking a look at it in the context of interesting things that (Director Melinda Marks) is doing with the gender of the characters, with the perception of the characters," he said.

Jones notes that this adaptation offers a critical look at Prospero's abuse and enslavement of the character Caliban.

Presenting the two plays in repertory, Jones said, "was really a collaboration and conversation between how can we reimagine 'The Tempest' in the context of 'Somewhere.'"

Jones also points to one perhaps unexpected connection between a 500-year-old play about a sorcerer and a new play firmly based in very real science and facts.

"In the same way that Shakespeare, especially in the second part of his career, used folktales and myths and coincidence to tell stories of loss and reconciliation, I think Marisela Orta is using a lot of mystical elements, and certainly mythical characters in evoking new ideas."

"Somewhere" and "The Tempest" are running in repertory Oct. 1-24 at The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. For more information, visit thepear.org. ▀

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@almanacnews.com.



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Food & Drink

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ART

Jesse Cool reflects on closing the Cool Cafe at Stanford University's Cantor Arts Center after 20 years

By Sara Hayden

After closing in March 2020 during the initial COVID-19 lockdown, the Cool Cafe at Stanford University's Cantor Arts Center has closed for good. Helmed by educator and food activist Jesse Cool, the cafe introduced organic dining options to campus in 2000.

The Cool Cafe concept was, well, Cool, with a capital C. Cool's philosophies permeated the menu with a focus on fresh, ingredient-driven flavors, as well as how the team worked, advocating for justice and kindness for those who produce, cook and serve food. Together, the Cool Cafe team elevated the approach to organic food, and raised the bar for how people are treated in the food industry.

"It was food meets art," Cool said. "We made everything from scratch. It was delicious, beautiful food."

Now, Cool is turning her attention to other irons in the fire, including her restaurant Flea Street Cafe in Menlo Park.

"It was bittersweet, but I made the choice to not renew the lease," Cool said about closing the Cool Cafe. "COVID's been hard, and I'm getting older ... We had the lease in front of us, and I decided that it was the best time to end 20 good years. We're leaving in a very positive way."

At the turn of the millennium when Cantor Arts Center's Tom Seligman first approached Cool about the prospect of a cafe in



Embarcadero Media file photo

Jesse Cool decided to close her Cool Cafe at Stanford University's Cantor Arts Center after 20 years in business.

the museum, she was skeptical. She had just launched her jZcool Eatery & Catering Company, and didn't think she had the money or bandwidth to take on more.

"I was working constantly," Cool said. "I said, 'No way. I can barely do what I do now.'"

But a friend took a walk with her to the museum, just to check it out. From that visit, he convinced her to give the cafe a go.

"He said, 'You have to do this. You have to bring an organic cafe to campus and elevate what this place is all about,'" Cool recalled. So she took out a loan and opened its doors.

"I have no idea how I did it," Cool said. "Actually, I do — I had a lot of help. I've always had incredible people who supported us."

With that support, the Cool Cafe went on to serve fresh salads, sandwiches and soups.

"It wasn't easy back then. People came through and wanted Diet Cokes. People wanted Sweet'N Low," Cool said. "We didn't have Diet Coke. We didn't have Sweet'N Low."

The Cool Cafe offered something else. A sandwich wasn't

simply a sandwich. A salad was more than the sum of its parts.

"It was old-fashioned, simple cooking, but artfully done. It was always garnished. It had color and vibrancy because we cooked with the seasons. Because of that, the food tasted better," Cool said.

Soon, students, museum members and other guests were seeking out the Cool Cafe as a restaurant and caterer.

"I had to learn how to cater for five to 1,000 people," Cool said.

What she learned, she put into practice for a party for Chelsea Clinton, as well as themed museum events. At an event for art of the "Wild West," the Cool Cafe prepared a Western-inspired menu for 600 people.

"We greeted them with a shot of bourbon," Cool said.

One of the cafe memories that stands out most to Cool was when she ran into a "disheveled man at the cash register."

"He had dust all over him," Cool recalled. "I said, 'Hi, how are you, are they taking care of you?'"

The man explained he was

installing a piece of art. It turned out that Cool was face to face with an artist who works with natural materials like leaves and stones.

"It was Andy Goldsworthy, one of my favorite artists on the planet," Cool said. "For me, it was like meeting a rock star."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Cool leveraged the Cool

Cafe kitchen and worked with her team to help provide 29,000 meals to frontline workers through the Meals of Gratitude program.

Now, Cool says she plans to focus on other things, and let the next generation take over.

"I decided, why don't we just say our farewells on a really lovely note. Thank you for the memories, and let someone else try." ■

Craving cool eats? Check out Cool's Flea Street Cafe in Menlo Park (3607 Alameda de las Pulgas; 650-854-1226, cooleatz.com.)

Email Associate Digital Editor Sara Hayden at peninsulafoodist@almanacnews.com.

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Courtesy Jesse Cool

The Cool Cafe catered museum events at Stanford University's Cantor Arts Center.

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