

The Almanac

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

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Atherton couple grateful for community support after burglars cause \$1 million in damage

By Angela Swartz

One evening in November, an Atherton resident saw a “river” of water running down a neighbor’s driveway.

The neighbor called the homeowner and police. In the flooded home, first responders found a bathtub faucet handle lying next to a safe.

Burglars had apparently entered the house and broken off the handle to use as a tool to try to open the safe. When the home began to flood from water leaking from the broken handle, a fire alarm sounded and the thieves fled.

The result? Mold, a home gutted after 16 hours of flooding and about \$1 million in structural damage. Burglars also took about \$20,000 of items, mostly jewels.

The homeowners, Clary and Dean, are among the 45 households burglarized in town in 2021. It appears the case is

linked to the string of burglaries tied to Chilean gang members, the couple and police said.

The Almanac agreed not to publish their last names due to their safety concerns.

The couple was on vacation during the break in and talked with a police officer over FaceTime to see the extent of the damage. Most of the items in the house were ruined, including Dean’s two handmade guitars.

“How do I get back what I lost so I’m not forever injured?” Clary said. “We have the perseverance to recover.”

As a result, she said they are more aware of their surroundings and are more prone to notice unusual cars and people in their neighborhood.

“We check our doors repeatedly now, and check strange sounds in the night,” she said. “Sleeping ... is with one eye open.”

See **BURGLARS**, page 16



Magali Gauthier

Atherton burglary victims Dean and Clary said that the kindness of neighbors, family and friends has changed their attitude about the experience.

COVID-19 cases ease at local high schools, rise slightly at elementary schools

By Angela Swartz

Menlo Park middle schooler Issac Chen woke up to a sore throat on the morning of Jan. 7. The 12-year-old took a rapid COVID-19 test and to his surprise, after a year and half of negative results, he received his first positive.

Issac, a seventh grader at Hillview Middle School, is one of the 128 students and staff members in the Menlo Park City School District who caught the virus during the first two weeks back from winter break.

Local school districts began to see an influx of cases as students returned to campuses the first

week of January, as the highly contagious omicron variant surges. Although numbers are declining at local high schools, elementary school districts actually saw an increase in cases during the second week back at school.

Issac returned to school on Tuesday. He’s not sure how he contracted the virus, but he credits his vaccination for his mild symptoms — a cough mostly, which only lasted about three or four days. He filled his time isolated in his bedroom playing video games and doing homework. He wore a mask around the house aside from when he ate meals (separately from his sister, mom and dad).

Issac’s mom, Francesca Segrè, who is a Menlo Park district board member, said quarantining as a family was inconvenient and a little lonely, but it wasn’t traumatic.

“It was not frightening on any level; he always had energy and was always in good spirits,” she said. “I hope that anyone who gets omicron gets mild symptoms. I thought this might happen and it happened. It wasn’t as bad as I thought it would be.”

Case count updates, calls to action

The Sequoia Union High School District, which has about

11,000 students and staff, saw a decline in COVID-19 cases its second week back at school. There were 409 the week of Jan. 10, compared to 710 cases during the week of Jan. 3. Some 1,119 of the 1,352 cases during this school year have happened since the winter semester began.

The 2,226-student Menlo-Atherton High School in Atherton saw 103 cases (99 were students) the week of Jan. 10, compared to 203 cases the first week back from break. At the 1,752-student Woodside High School, 74 cases last week (67 were students), compared to 172 the first week back. At TIDE Academy, which has 196

students, there were just four cases, all among students, the week of Jan. 10. There were 19 (16 were students) the first week back from break at TIDE.

Superintendent Darnise Williams asked parents and community members to step up to fill in for absent staff members.

“Never have educators been faced with a crisis of this magnitude during our lifetime,” Williams said in a statement to The Almanac last week. “As our district continues being stretched, we are now at a point where we truly need all hands on deck, and are asking parents, where they

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Help local families in need 12

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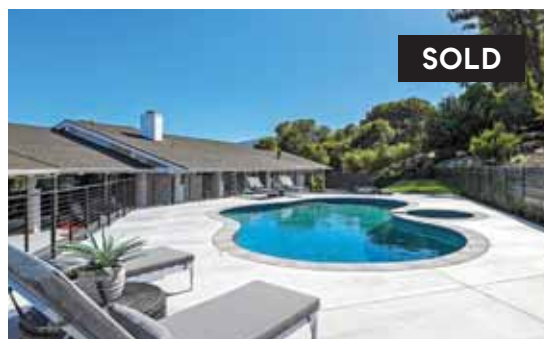
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Local News

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Adam Pardee

Retired Rabbi Sheldon Lewis sits at the computer where he wrote a memoir about his year serving as a chaplain in the Vietnam War.

A memoir of war

In 'Letters Home,' Palo Alto rabbi recounts his year as an Army chaplain in Vietnam

By Chris Kenrick

As a traveling chaplain in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, Rabbi Sheldon Lewis said he drew upon religious traditions to summon "an island of the familiar amidst the chaos of war" for Jewish service members.

But even when soldiers managed to gather for religious observance, opposition to the war was a constant source of

anguish for a majority of the troops as well as for Lewis.

Lewis, who served as rabbi of Palo Alto's Congregation Kol Emeth for 33 years before retiring in 2006, looks back on those wartime struggles in his recently published "Letters Home: A Jewish Chaplain's Vietnam Memoir."

"The nation was committed to a war that was so morally questionable," he writes. "The draft called virtually every young man to serve. Most

did not choose to resist. Yet they carried their doubts with them to Vietnam, where they festered.

"The toll taken by participation in the war (was) hard to underestimate."

It's taken more than five decades for Lewis to feel comfortable speaking about his time in Vietnam. Returning Vietnam service members were frequently vilified at the time,

See **MEMOIR**, page 19

Amid low COVID vaccine rates, more California children hospitalized in omicron surge

By Elizabeth Aguilera/
CalMatters

COVID-19 hospitalizations among California's children — especially those too young to go to school — are the highest they have been since the pandemic began.

Chalk it up to the highly contagious omicron variant, kids exposed during in-person instruction at school and other public places, and infants and preschoolers being ineligible for vaccination.

The state has tallied nearly 850,000 cases of COVID among kids 0 to 17 since the beginning of the pandemic. Of those, 44 have died — equivalent to an entire school bus filled with kids.

"The wave of delta and wave of omicron challenged some assumptions we had that kids would not get it and got spared," said Dr. Theodore Ruel, chief of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Global Health at UCSF. "Now we know that kids absolutely do get infections, and even though they are small numbers they do get admitted and some die."

This peak in hospitalizations of kids across the state has surpassed records set during last winter's surge, said California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly earlier

this month. The state reached a high of 90 pediatric admissions in one day on Jan. 4, according to the California Department of Public Health. The previous high of 41 pediatric admissions in one day occurred in January 2021, a record surpassed earlier during the omicron surge on Dec. 29 with 50 admissions.

"The case numbers in children are skyrocketing along with those in adults," Ruel said. "Children were spared infections early on and I think it was because of the shut down and school closures, and children had less of an opportunity to run into infected kids."

California's public health department is running a state-wide marketing campaign and doing community outreach to raise awareness around vaccination. The campaign targets parents and is going out on social media platforms like Twitter and Snapchat. In an email the department said the community outreach is focused on the state's more impacted communities.

Pediatric experts across the state say that so far families don't need to go back to sheltering in place with children to avoid omicron or complications, including a rare multi-inflammatory syndrome known as MIS-C. They cite the need for

See **CHILDREN**, page 14

On new Portola Valley mayor's plate in 2022: housing, fire safety and improving communication with residents

By Angela Swartz

It looks to be a busy year for new Portola Valley Mayor Craig Hughes.

Major areas of focus for his term include planning safety and housing elements, along with updates to the fire code from the Woodside Fire Protection District.

There has been a degree of tension between residents and town officials over housing projects and fire safety. To try to ease some of this acrimony and

communicate better, Hughes has proposed "PV Donuts," small group get-togethers with a council member and a host who invites about a half-dozen friends and neighbors to a 30-minute or hour long conversation on whatever topics the group wishes. The town will supply the donuts, the host will help assemble a group which



Craig Hughes

isn't "all the usual people."

"The volume and complexity of issues we need to address, primarily driven by state requirements, has increased dramatically over the last decade or so; we have tried to improve our public communications and systems for helping people stay informed and on top of as much of this as possible, but it's been increasingly clear that we need to do more in this arena," Hughes said in an email to residents on Jan. 13. He said the format and the way

that many of existing meetings are set up limits the amount of back-and-forth and detailed discussion on complex issues. "This can be immensely frustrating to those who wish to help the town arrive at the best outcomes. Large meetings mean it's hard for everyone to get a chance to speak or be heard; small meetings can have limited impact."

Hughes said he got the idea for the coffee and donuts meetups when Councilwoman Maryann Derwin misspoke when talking

about "PV Donates," calling it "PV Donuts."

Hughes, a serial startup founder, joined the council in 2013. He last served as mayor in 2017, and noted that he'd heard from few of the roughly 500 residents who signed a petition last year wanting the fire district to take more control over development. That's part of the reason he wants to engage with the broader community, he said.

See **MAYOR**, page 10

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CRIME BRIEFS

Three burglaries reported in Atherton

Burglars hit three Atherton homes last week, police said in a Jan. 14 news bulletin.

Between 6:45 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Jan. 13, people smashed rear door windows to break into the homes, according to the Atherton Police Department.

Two of the burglaries occurred on Valley Road in the West of Alameda neighborhood and one happened in the first block of Selby Lane.

On Jan. 7 a resident scared off a would-be burglar on the 400 block of Walsh Road by turning on backyard lights.

The Atherton Police Department is investigating the incidents.

If you saw anything or have video footage around the time of the burglaries on Jan. 13, Atherton police ask that you call 650-688-6500.

Suspect sought in New Year's Eve break-in

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office is seeking a suspect after someone broke into a home in Portola Valley on Dec. 31.

Sometime between 4 p.m. and 8:49 p.m., someone reportedly broke into a home on the 100 block of Bolivar Lane in Portola Valley's Westridge neighborhood by shattering a window, according to a Sheriff's Office press release. No one was home during the

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 10

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Atherton: Proposed leaf blower restrictions on Feb. 16 council agenda

The town is considering amendments to its restrictions on the use of small gas-powered garden equipment. This equipment includes leaf-blowers, outdoor vacuums, power lawn mowers, power washers, hedge trimmers, Roto-tillers, and other small equipment used in the general maintenance of landscaped areas.

Proposed amendments include:

- Gas-powered garden equipment would only be permissible Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The use of gas-powered garden equipment would be prohibited on the weekends.
- In addition to Monday through Friday hours, electrically powered garden equipment could be used Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Gas-powered garden equipment would be prohibited on any Spare the Air Day as declared by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.
- Two-stroke gas-powered leaf blowers would be prohibited in Atherton after Jan. 1, 2023.
- These restrictions would apply to all properties in Atherton: residential, educational, open space and governmental.

The City Council will discuss the the proposed changes during a Feb. 16 meeting.

A poll on the changes is at tinyurl.com/Athertonleafblowerpoll and additional feedback may be emailed to City Clerk Anthony Suber at asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us or City Manager George Rodericks at grodericks@ci.atherton.ca.us.

M-A students raising funds for tsunami victims

Menlo-Atherton High School student athletes from the Bears Without Borders program are raising funds for the victims of the volcanic eruption and tsunami in Tonga last weekend.

"We are overwhelmed by the willingness of our community to come together and support those affected by this tragedy. Our goal is to fund drinking water, food, first aid, building materials and school supplies," according to the group's Instagram account.

Bears Without Borders is a nonprofit organization run by M-A's football team.

So far the group has raised \$5,000. Donate at tinyurl.com/bearswithoutbordersfundraiser.

Vaccine clinics in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park

The Ravenswood City School District is partnering with the San Mateo County to offer afterschool vaccine clinics for

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 13

Here's what's changed as California's new COVID workplace rules go into effect

By Grace Gedye/CalMatters

Last Friday, as COVID-19 case rates in California have jumped to their highest levels yet — more than six times the peak of the delta variant wave — updated workplace rules kicked in to better help protect workers vaccinated against COVID-19.

The revised rules come from the California Division of Safety and Health — also known as Cal/OSHA — which regulates health and safety in California workplaces.

Changes include:

■ **Testing:** If there's an outbreak at work, employers need to make FDA-approved COVID-19 tests available to exposed employees at no cost, during paid time — and now that also goes for vaccinated, asymptomatic workers who were exposed.

Tests can no longer be self-administered and self-read. In other words, workers can't take a test at home by themselves. Tests that are processed by a lab, or observed by a

medical professional during a telehealth appointment, or administered and observed by medical professionals or an employer are still okay.

■ **Who gets sent home after exposure:** Previously, if a fully vaccinated person had close contact with a COVID-positive person, but didn't develop symptoms, they didn't need to be sent home from work. Now, vaccinated asymptomatic people need to be sent home from work unless they wear a mask and maintain 6 feet of distance from others for two weeks.

■ **Updating what counts as a mask:** If workers choose to wear a fabric mask, rather than a surgical or medical one, the new rules clarify that it needs to be sufficiently thick and tightly woven to not let light pass through it when held up to a light source.

The rules also require employers to ensure workers wear masks as required by California's public health department. On Dec. 15, a new statewide mask mandate that includes workplaces went into

effect, and it's slated to remain in place until Feb. 15. Workers need to wear masks indoors, but if a worker is alone in a room with a closed door, or if the workplace is a single person operation, masks aren't needed.

If someone gets exposed to COVID-19 at work, state law requires that employers send them home and maintain their usual pay until they meet the return to work criteria set forth by the workplace rules.

However, employers aren't currently required to offer additional sick leave for COVID as a general policy. A state law requiring employers with 25 or more workers to offer up to 80 hours of supplemental paid leave for COVID-19 expired in September, leaving workers legally entitled to just three days of sick leave annually.

Federal guidelines recommend that anyone who tests positive for the virus quarantine for five days.

Some legislators are pushing to bring back supplemental

COVID-19 sick leave in 2022, and the governor said working on sick leave was a "top priority" for him when he rolled out his budget proposal in early January.

Business pushes back on California COVID rules

Business and industry advocates protested the new rules at a public meeting in mid-December.

Melissa Patack, vice president of state government affairs for the Motion Picture Association, said the new rules requiring asymptomatic, vaccinated workers who were exposed to maintain 6 feet of distance would be challenging for her industry.

"Those who work closely with actors such as those who style hair, those who apply makeup...cannot maintain 6 feet of distance from the actor when doing their work," she said.

Robert Moutrie, a policy advocate with the California Chamber of Commerce, pointed out that the changes mean employers

are on the hook for providing even more tests to employees, and tests are in short supply.

What comes next

During that December meeting, business advocates critiqued the system of updating temporary rules every few months, saying it was hard for employers to keep up.

The new rules are set to expire in mid-April. Originally, regulators were going to be forced to come up with a longer term solution at that point, but just hours after the new temporary rules were approved in December, Gov. Newsom issued an executive order allowing regulators to do one more temporary revision and extension of the rules.

How, exactly, are employers supposed to ensure workers' fabric masks meet the new standard of not letting light pass through? And what are companies supposed to do if they can't acquire enough COVID-19 tests? As the revised rules go into effect, figuring out how to follow them may be no simple task. ■

Email Grace Gedye at grace@calmatters.org.

Coronavirus central: Feds launch website for free at-home COVID tests

By Embarcadero Media staff

The federal government has launched an online sign-up form to order free at-home COVID-19 tests. Each residential address is eligible to receive one set of four rapid antigen tests. The tests are available without any charge or delivery fee and are expected to begin shipping in late January.

All that is required to sign up is a name and address, with the option to also provide an email address to receive shipping updates.

To sign up, visit special.usps.com/testkits. For more information, visit covidtests.gov.

Santa Clara County receives \$2.4M grant for businesses

Santa Clara County received a \$2.4 million grant from the state this week to support local small businesses adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funds, which the county Board of Supervisors voted to accept this week, will enable the county to provide \$2,500 grants to roughly 875 businesses that had fewer than five employees in both 2019 and 2020 as well as less than \$50,000 in total revenue in 2019.

The grant came from the

state's Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant Program, a \$50 million package of one-time grant funding for businesses like sidewalk vendors and independent contractors.

"We hope every small business that is eligible has the opportunity to apply for the funds," the county's Chief Operating Officer Miguel Marquez said in a statement.

The county plans to partner with community groups to identify businesses that would be eligible for a grant. An application process will be made available in the coming weeks, according to county officials.

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. —Bay City News Service contributed to this report.



Courtesy Getty Images

Rapid Covid-19 antigen test kits are available for free through the federal government.

Your COVID-19 vaccine questions — answered

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

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

Should Our HOA Restrict Rentals?



Dear Monica:

The Homeowners Association where I own a condo is proposing a change to the rules that would restrict the ability to rent one's unit. Is this a good idea?

Mary C.

Dear Mary:

As a real estate broker, I have seen many times where any restriction on the use of one's property diminishes its value. It is a sweeping change affecting everyone. Would exceptions be allowed? If you have to move for a job or other life reason but want to hold on to a property for economic, tax or other reasons, would this be allowed?

You should also look at the demographic in the complex. If most present owners are older, how would a new and younger buyer look at this restriction? Likely not well. The number of people who will want to buy a property with this restriction is much smaller than without the restriction.

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

SCHOOLS

continued from page 1

can, to volunteer and partner with us through this crisis.”

Last week, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order loosening state regulations around the hiring of substitute teachers as districts grapple with staffing shortages, with teachers isolating at home with the virus.

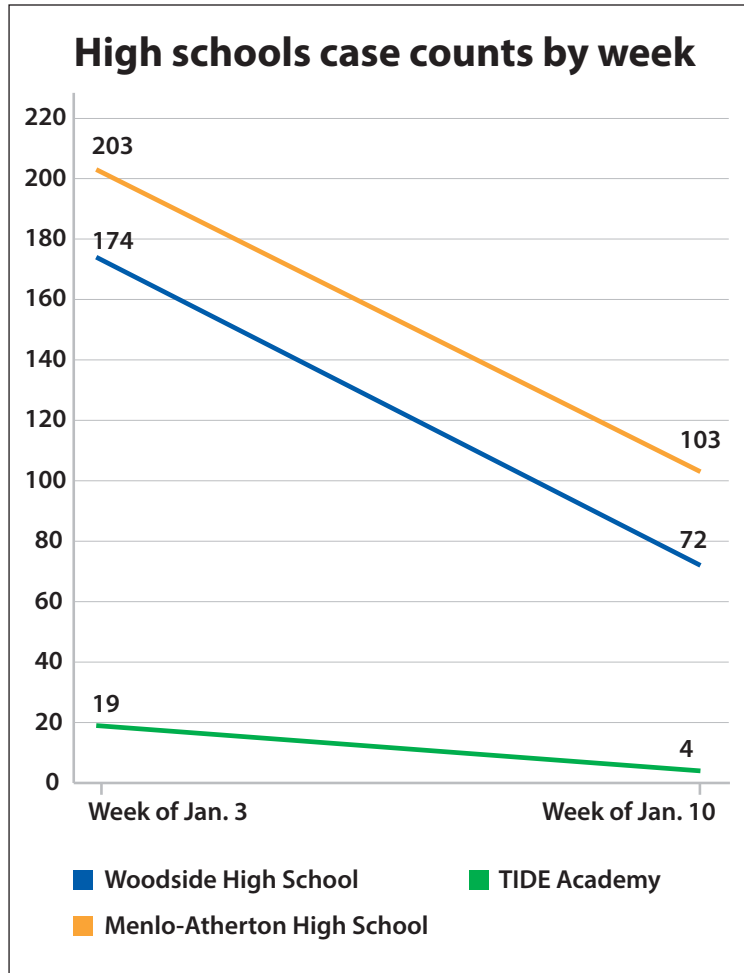
Through March 31, the order allows for temporary certificates to be issued to substitute teachers who don't have teaching credentials. The order also extends the length of time substitute teachers can be assigned to a class to 120 days and allows more flexibility for retired teachers to work as substitutes.

The district has about 100 substitute teachers, down from 110 at the start of the school year, according to Todd Beal, who recently became assistant superintendent of human resources. He noted teachers who retired from the district don't want to sub as much right now to protect themselves from the coronavirus. The district has posted job openings on EdJoin and is considering posting openings on Facebook or Twitter.

The Ravenswood City School District saw a jump in cases its second week back. The week of Jan. 3, there were 87 cases. The district reported attendance was down to 58% at the end of last week, compared to its typical daily attendance of 92-93%. That same week, there were 120 infections reported to the district. The majority of the cases (41) were at Ravenswood Middle School.

In the Menlo Park district, there were 40 cases the first week back to school and 88 the following week.

In the past month or two, the district has received inquiries for



Case counts at local public schools fell the second week back from winter break.

substituting from 36 parents and community members, said Parke Treadway, the district's public information officer in an email. Those interested in subbing or filling in other roles can contact hr@mpcsd.org.

The Woodside Elementary School District saw six cases its first week back and 17 the week of Jan. 10. The district is in "dire need of a teacher substitute," according to a Jan. 17 district newsletter. Parents interested in being a part-time substitute teacher can sign up at woodside-school.us.

Teacher and parent reactions

Teachers and parents appear to be adapting to the surge.

Jacqui Cebrian, a Menlo-Atherton High School parent and co-president of the school's PTA, said so far school has felt safe for her daughter, a senior. Cebrian, who teaches reading at Oak Knoll School in Menlo Park, canceled plans for a picnic at Mt. Diablo to celebrate her mother's birthday last weekend because she and her daughter are "swimming in a sea of COVID everyday" at school and



Magali Gauthier

Substitute teacher Laura Wiggs shows a kindergartner an easy way to tell his left hand from his right at Encinal Elementary School in Atherton on Jan. 19.

don't want to potentially expose her mother.

Cebrian's daughter has felt safe at school ("she's not nervous, so I'm not nervous," Cebrian said) and doesn't see distance learning as a good option.

"Other than not having absences, it hasn't really felt any different (since the omicron surge began) except for we're all talking about it a lot," she said.

Cebrian noted that it feels a little bit like it did in March of 2020, but she feels safer because people are vaccinated against the virus and wearing masks and not hanging out with people who are unvaccinated. She's adjusted her families' activities to limit her COVID-19 exposure to help keep schools open.

"The idea that we just have this last giant hurdle, and maybe this will be smoother soon, this helps," she said. "Sometimes you have to give people hope."

An M-A teacher, who asked not to be named for fear of retribution, said that the first week back to school was "really startling," but the school has been supportive of teachers, handing out masks and making sure airflow is good in classrooms.

"We're just frustrated more than anything," the teacher said. "We're in year two of this pandemic, why are we reacting? Why aren't we being more proactive?"

Their first day back at school, almost a third of their students were absent from their first period class (testing positive, having sick family members and delayed flights were some of the reasons for absences). The teacher said their classes have started to fill up again.

Tightened precautions

The Menlo Park district's governing board voted last week to require students to wear a medical masks, such as three-ply surgical, KN95 or KF94 or N95 in light of research suggesting that one of the best

protections against the current surge is masks that provide proper fit and filtration.

Cloth masks may be used but only in addition to the higher quality masks; cloth masks worn on their own are prohibited. The board will reevaluate this guidance at a Feb. 10 meeting. Schools have medical masks in children's sizes for students who forget them, damage them or don't have access to their own.

Prior to break, Superintendent Erik Burmeister was prepared to recommend the removal of the district's outdoor mask mandate, but then the omicron surge hit.

The Ravenswood district administered nearly 2,000 tests last week, according to a staff report prepared for a Jan. 20 governing board meeting. Schools are also arranging for students to eat lunch outdoors as much as possible. The county is providing adult size KN95 masks for all staff, and the district has ordered child-sized KN95 masks, which should be delivered by early to mid February.

School closure restrictions

Current state laws don't allow districts to close a school and offer distance learning because of staffing shortages, said Bonnie Hansen, Sequoia district's assistant superintendent of educational services during a board meeting last week.

A district must plan to offer independent study options and demonstrate that they have exhausted all staffing options by consulting their county office of education and the state, said the California Department of Education website.

Private schools have more flexibility. Menlo School in Atherton, for example, went remote its first week back to reduce transmission of the virus on campus. ▀

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



Magali Gauthier

Substitute teacher Laura Wiggs, a Menlo Park City School District parent, shows kindergartners at Encinal Elementary School how to tell their left from their right on Jan. 19.



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MAYOR*continued from page 5***Development**

By early February, the town expects to receive a draft environmental impact report from Stanford University for its proposed 39 housing units on part of 75 acres of its property often referred to as the “Stanford Wedge.” Hughes expects construction on the project, called Portola Terrace, to begin by the end of the year.

The town is also planning for a significant increase in the number of units it’s required

to designate for development. Portola Valley’s 2023-31 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) for the next 2023-2031 cycle is a total of 253 housing units. This is compared to just 64 units last cycle.

Cities and towns across the state are also required to update their safety elements by January 2023. Updates cover not just fires, but earthquakes, floods and other potential disasters.

These projects will put strain on the town’s already small planning staff, he said.

“We have a lot of challenges coming, but none of them appear

insurmountable if we roll up our sleeves in the PV tradition and do the work to keep our town on the path that we want to see it follow,” he told residents in the email. “I look forward to sharing donuts with as many of you as I can.”

Hughes said there are also major changes to state garbage collection laws, which will require “far more detailed” tracking of what types of garbage are collected and how they are processed. The town doesn’t yet have systems in place for the required tracking, he said. Senate Bill 1383 mandates food scraps go into compost bins.

Within the next couple of months, the town government plans to start hybrid in-person/Zoom meetings once tech upgrades at the schoolhouse are complete. Because of supply chain issues, equipment has taken longer to ship to the town, Hughes said.

“It’s been almost two years (since the council met in person),” he said. “I’ve become quite comfortable with Zoom meetings. You do lose something from being in person.”

The remote meetings have improved the accessibility of council meetings, Hughes said. Historically, attendees had to come to the school house for meetings. If you had children who needed care or a job that doesn’t let you out until later in the day, it was hard to show up.

Attendance has been higher, at around 15-20 participants, than in pre-COVID times when about five to 10 people would show up to meetings, Hughes said. There would be about 10 to 20 if a big issue was on the agenda, he said.

Since Hughes joined the council, the character of the town has changed, with a wealthier makeup of residents. Residents are a little less hands-on than in the past; for example, residents don’t commonly present their building applications to

committees anymore, a representative does, he noted. Residents are less prone to manage their own yards.

‘We have a lot of challenges coming, but none of them appear insurmountable.’

MAYOR CRAIG HUGHES

“The level of expectation of services from the town has been changing,” he said. “How do we manage that while continuing volunteer civic engagement in our 50-year history? What people have traditionally done themselves versus what the town does.”

Hughes said he hasn’t decided if he’ll run for reelection in November when his term is up. He is leaning toward running, since he enjoys solving the difficult problems the town faces, he said.

Hughes has an initial set of interested PV Donuts hosts, but the town is looking for more through the year. If you would like to be a host, email the mayor at chughes@portolavalley.net. ■

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

January 21, 2022
4th Quarter 2021

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

Este aviso contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable, por favor lea el aviso en español si va aquí incluido. Si el aviso en español no va incluido aquí, contacte al sistema de agua para pedir una copia

The O’Connor Tract Co-Operative Water Company has levels of manganese above the secondary drinking water standard.

Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. Our water system is in violation of a secondary drinking water standard. Violation of a secondary standard does not pose an immediate threat to health.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Average results for water samples for the last four quarters have manganese levels of 56 ppb in well #1 and 140 ppb in well #2 (ppb=parts per billion). This is above the secondary drinking water standard, or secondary maximum contaminant level of 50 ppb.

Manganese concentrations above the standard may have an effect on taste and tend to leave black deposits in some plumbing systems.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to use an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water).** There is no health risk.

If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

O’Connor Water has been above the secondary standard for manganese for many years, and this has been described to members in the annual Report on Water Quality Measurements. Recent state regulations have imposed stricter requirements for complying with the secondary standard for manganese. The state has issued the company a citation for noncompliance. The state ordered the company to start quarterly monitoring in February 2012, and this monitoring is still ongoing at both wells. The state also required that manganese monitoring be continued quarterly and that the results of these tests be reported to all water consumers.

The Company is working with State agencies and the City of Menlo Park to complete the planning of a manganese treatment facility that will then be installed and operational on the Company’s property.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this public notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For further information contact:

Secretary-Treasurer Telephone 650-321-2723 Email: occonnorwater@gmail.com

O’Connor Tract Co-Operative Water Co., System 4110019

P.O. Box 1375, Palo Alto, California 94302-1375

CRIME BRIEFS

continued from page 6

break in.

Anyone who has information regarding the crime is asked to call the Sheriff’s Office anonymous tip line at 1-800-547-2700 or the Investigations Bureau at 650-599-1536.

—Angela Swartz

Scammer impersonating deputy, Sheriff’s Office warns

The San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office is alerting the public to a financial scam involving a person who is claiming to be a deputy to extract money from victims.

A person called an intended victim on Jan. 15 in San Carlos and identified himself using the name of an actual county deputy sheriff. He told the victim that he had two outstanding arrest warrants totaling \$2,000. The scammer instructed the victim to stay on the phone and to drive to either a local CVS or Walmart and purchase \$2,000 in Moneypack vouchers. The scammer told the victim to give him the numbers on the back of the vouchers once he purchased them, the sheriff’s office said in a press release on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

The victim reported the incident to the sheriff’s office and

didn’t sustain a loss, the agency said.

“This is not the first time this scam has occurred in San Mateo County. The sheriff’s office, or any other law enforcement agency, will never call someone making a monetary request. If someone representing themselves as a law enforcement officer calls you requesting money over the phone, you should hang up and call your local law enforcement agency,” the sheriff’s office said.

—Sue Dremann

Man arrested after shots fired

A 38-year-old man was arrested late Sunday night on suspicion of firing a gun in the unincorporated area of North Fair Oaks, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office.

Deputies responded to a 10:11 p.m. report of shots fired on the 2700 block of Devonshire Avenue and arrested the man, a North Fair Oaks resident, on suspicion of two offenses: discharge of a firearm and felon in possession of a firearm.

There were no related injuries reported in this incident.

Anyone with information about this crime is encouraged to contact Detective D. Chiu at 650-363-4057 or email dchiu@smcgov.org.

—Bay City News Service



Courtesy San Mateo County Event Center

The San Mateo County Event Center, located in San Mateo, has served as a mass COVID-19 testing and vaccination site during the pandemic.

\$7 million in county's surplus COVID supplies damaged after being left outside in rain

By Eli Walsh/
Bay City News Service

Roughly \$7 million in surplus safety equipment and cleaning supplies at the San Mateo Event Center was damaged in recent months after being moved outside and remaining there during this winter's storms, San Mateo County officials said Friday, Jan. 14.

The county bought the supplies — including non-medical-grade medical gowns, face shields, goggles, bleach and mop buckets — early in the COVID-19 pandemic amid global supply shortages, according to County Manager Mike Callagy.

As supply issues for hospital-grade equipment waned, so did the local need for the supplies, especially those that were not

suitable for medical use.

The supplies do not include the county's stock of medical-grade personal protective equipment like high-quality masks and gloves, which continue to be stored indoors in a separate facility.

"The county is solely responsible for our materials at the Event Center," Callagy said in a statement. "We deeply regret that this occurred and are hiring an external investigator to identify all facts related to the damage and make recommendations to avoid future incidents."

The materials were moved outside to a fenced-in area in mid-September to accommodate an event at the venue. According to the county, the supplies should have been placed back inside after the event but remained outdoors.

The county also did not have indoor storage space available in another facility, according to Callagy.

The county has worked with the California Office of Emergency Services in previous months to offer the supplies to health care providers, schools and other states, but found few takers.

Callagy said the county plans to donate the supplies to a nonprofit organization once it inspects and cleans them. His statement did not state whether the county has decided on an organization that will receive the supplies.

The county also does not anticipate the damages will affect its ability to provide protective equipment to local health care facilities. ■

Elderly women robbed at gunpoint while lunching at Stanford Shopping Center

By Sue Dremann

A man who pointed a handgun at two elderly women stole their purses on Tuesday afternoon at Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto police said.

The robbery, which occurred at the popular mall at 180 El Camino Real, did not result in physical injuries. The man approached the two women as they were eating lunch outside True Food Kitchen, pointed a black handgun at them and demanded their purses, police said in a press release. The women, one who is in her 70s and the other who is in her 80s,

complied, police said. The incident was reported around 2:45 p.m. and officers immediately responded.

The man was initially thought to have fired a shot into the air before fleeing the scene. The women reported hearing a "pop" or "click" noise come from the gun. Other witnesses reported seeing an orange color on the gun, including possibly at its tip. Police said it's possible the weapon was a replica handgun. Officers didn't find any projectile or damage from a projectile at the scene.

Witnesses described the robber as a Polynesian male in his late teens or early 20s who was

about 6 feet tall, had short curly hair and an average build. He was wearing a black hooded sweatshirt with red lettering, black pants, red shoes and a face covering. The man was last seen on a blue bicycle riding north toward Sand Hill Road.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Palo Alto Police Department's 24-hour dispatch center at 650-329-2413. Anonymous tips can be emailed to paloalto@tip-now.org or sent by text message or voicemail to 650-383-8984. ■

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

Marianne Tucker Ault-Riche

July 9, 1947 – January 10, 2022

Marianne Tucker Ault-Riche died peacefully in her sleep on Monday, January 10, 2022 at the age of 74 after a long battle with Q Fever and a life-long heart condition. She is survived by her daughter Gabrielle Ault-Riche and son-in-law Joe Gruber Jr. of Pacifica, CA; her son JeanMarc Ault-Riche, daughter-in-law Alice Ault-Riche, and granddaughter Scarlett Ryder of Palm Springs, CA; and her sister, Nicole Riche of Ossining, NY.



Marianne was born in New York City 07/09/1947 and raised in a bilingual French and English home in Ossining, NY. She attended school for 12 years at Scarborough Country Day School, followed by NYU, the Sorbonne, Howard University and the University of Maryland where she received an MSW. Following a post-masters year in Psychiatric Social Work at the Menninger Clinic (then in Topeka, KS), she worked at the Clinic for 20 years as a social worker and family therapist.

Early in her career she was sent by Menninger to study Family Therapy from the major pioneers in the field and developed an Integrated Model of Family Therapy with David Rosenthal, PhD, which was taught in Menninger's School of Psychiatry. In the late 1970's Marianne developed a course for Washburn University called "Talking Straight and Fighting Fair with those you Love." Subsequently she developed with Harriet Lerner, PhD, a workshop of the same name, which contributed to Lerner's best selling book *The Dance of Anger*. In 1985, Marianne edited the first book on the subject of Women and Family Therapy, which offered a feminist critique of the field. Also during this time she co-produced with Steve Lerner, PhD an educational videotape, "Love and Work: One Woman's Study of Her Family of Origin." During her last years in Topeka, Marianne was the consultant to the Family Preservation Program of the Department of Social Services, an effort to provide intensive in-home services to keep children at imminent risk of removal, safely with their families. She also volunteered at the Carriage House project and provided pro bono consultation to the Battered Women's Program of the YWCA, where she also moonlighted as an exercise instructor.

Marianne's passion was teaching Family Therapy, and she taught regularly throughout the Midwest in the 1980's. Marianne moved to Palo Alto, California in 1994 so that her then husband, Dana Ault-Riche (son of Bob & Marilyn Ault), could pursue a post doctorate degree with Arthur Kornberg, MD at Stanford. Their children attended the French-American School in Palo Alto (later called ISTP - International School of the Peninsula), where Marianne subsequently provided consultation. In the late 1990's she taught Family Therapy at the University of California School of Social Work in Berkeley and supervised interns at MRI in Palo Alto.

During her 28 years in California, Marianne had a private practice of Family and Couple Therapy. She developed a reputation for her very direct style and her willingness to work with the most challenging of families. In 2012, she became certified in EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) Therapy and was starting to give presentations on how to introduce EMDR into a Family and Couple Therapy practice.

Marianne is remembered as a strong spirit unencumbered by convention, a fierce advocate for social justice and women's rights, and an incredibly devoted and loving mother and friend.

A celebration of life will be organized later this year. If interested, please contact her family at marianne.remembrance@gmail.com.

Marianne donated her body to Stanford University Medical School. Contributions in her honor may be made to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

https://support.splcenter.org/site/Donation2?2022.donation=form1&df_id=2022&mfc_pref=T

PAID OBITUARY

Thank you for supporting the Holiday Fund

Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$260,000 from more than 170 donors for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

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As of Jan. 14th, 150 donors have contributed \$259,594 to the Almanac Holiday Fund.

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Menlo Park Firefighters' Association	500

The Almanac will make every effort to publish donor names for donations unless the donor checks the anonymous box.

All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

* Donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed below.

Boys & Girls Clubs

Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, and mentoring for 1,800 low-income K-12 youth at nine locations across Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

Fair Oaks Community Center

This multi-service facility, serving the broader Redwood City community, provides assistance with child care, senior programs, citizenship and immigration, housing and employment, and crisis intervention. Programs are available in Spanish and English.

LifeMoves

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

Literacy Partners — Menlo Park

Supports literacy programs and projects through fundraising and community awareness. Helps community members enhance their reading, writing and related skills and education to improve their economic, professional and personal wellbeing.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded by voluntary contributions and community grants, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers take-home bags of food, as well as emergency food and clothing assistance.

StarVista

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people and families, with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

Upward Scholars

Empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher-paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

The organizations below provide major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.



The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation



Rotary Club
of Menlo Park

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 6

children ages 5-11 at the following times:

■ 3 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 31, in Belle Haven Elementary School's cafeteria, 415 Ivy Drive in Menlo Park.

■ 3 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 1, in Costaño Elementary School's gym, 2695 Fordham St. in East Palo Alto.

■ 3 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 26, in Los Robles-Ronald McNair Academy's BGCP Parking Lot, 2033 Pulgas Ave in East Palo Alto.

Parent or guardian consent is required.

Get paid \$50 for a vaccine this weekend

East Palo Alto residents who come to a COVID-19 vaccine clinic hosted by Stanford Health Care any Saturday in January or February to receive their first or second vaccine doses will receive \$50 (12 years and over) or \$20 (if they are 11 and under) when they complete their full vaccine series.

The clinic takes place from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 45 Newell Road, East Palo Alto.

Stanford Health Care will be offering Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Those ages 12 and up are now eligible and encouraged to get booster shots.

Walk-ins are welcome and no appointment is needed. Text 650-665-9174 for more information.

—Angela Swartz

Recology workforce impacted by omicron variant

Recology in San Mateo County is "experiencing a heavy impact on its workforce," according to a recent statement from the waste collection agency. There are fewer drivers available, which has made it difficult to maintain full route coverage, despite extending workday hours and adding routes on Sundays, the agency said.

If Recology doesn't pick up waste on a customer's scheduled day, customers are advised to leave their containers out, as the agency is prioritizing those stops for the next day.

Despite careful planning and efforts to comply with public safety guidelines, the agency has still been impacted, it said. In particular, there are escalating staffing shortages; the agency needs backup drivers

and hasn't had enough time to backfill specialized positions, it said.

The customer service phone line has been experiencing a larger than usual call volume, so people are advised that they can also email RSMC_Notifications@recology.com or go to is.gd/recologycontact to reach customer service.

Volunteers sought for homelessness count

Once every two years, volunteers help to canvass every block statewide, counting the number of unhoused individuals or families as part of the county's One Day Homeless Count. The count, led by San Mateo County's Human Services Agency, is usually held in January but has been rescheduled to Feb. 24. That data is used alongside other sources to shape services for people experiencing homelessness and those who are at risk of homelessness.

Go to is.gd/smhomelesscount to sign up or email HSA_OneDayCount@smcgov for more information.

Free refrigerator recycling and rebates

Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County's nonprofit primary renewable energy provider, is now offering a program that allows people to easily arrange to recycle their old refrigerators or freezers and get paid \$35 for each. Through a partnership with ARCA Recycling, the program aims to incentivize county residents to get rid of old appliances that use up a lot of energy and enable them to save on their energy bills, cut landfill contaminants and prevent greenhouse gas emissions.

To be eligible, applicants should live in San Mateo County and own the refrigerator or freezer being recycled, which has to be in working condition, a regular household size (between 10 and 30 cubic feet) and at least 10 years old. After the item is picked up, the agency will send a \$35 rebate check per unit within four to six weeks; there is a two-unit maximum limit per household per year. The program is first-come, first-served until funding runs out.

Go to peninsulacleanenergy.com/fridge for more information or to schedule a pickup.

— Kate Bradshaw



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How a fictional plague helped Sequoia Nagamatsu overcome grief

‘How High We Go In The Dark’ explores human resilience in a dystopian world

By Michael Berry

“How High We Go In the Dark” by Sequoia Nagamatsu is a futuristic novel about a catastrophic pandemic that eerily mirrors current times. The first-time author, however, penned his story, which was released this week, before COVID-19 was on anyone’s radar.

After the death of his grandfather, Nagamatsu said he flew to Japan to grieve and explore his Japanese heritage. It was there, about a decade ago, that he started writing the collection of individual stories that all tie together in “How High.”

Nagamatsu’s novel starts with the uncovering of a pathogen in the melting Arctic permafrost, but the emphasis of “How High” isn’t about virus hunting — instead, it explores grief, loss, hope and the emotional toll taken on families around the world for decades into the future.

Nagamatsu, who attended Pinewood High School in Los



Courtesy Lauren B Photography

Sequoia Nagamatsu wrote a futuristic novel about a catastrophic pandemic before COVID-19 was on anyone’s radar. It was published this week.

Altos Hills, said the book is about the possibility of hope. Writing the novel helped him deal with his own grief and feelings of isolation after his grandfather died.

“I was curious about exploring

my own heritage,” Nagamatsu said during a telephone interview. “I’d never really had an opportunity to do that. Being third-generation Japanese-American, I was disconnected from that past. I also wanted to



Courtesy William Morrow/ HarperCollins Publishers

Sequoia Nagamatsu’s “How High We Go In The Dark” was written following the death of his grandfather.

use that time abroad as a kind of reset button to reflect about next steps and to grieve for my deceased grandfather, and think about ways I could honor him.”

Initially set in 2030, “How

High” chronicles the discovery of a 30,000 year-old corpse, dubbed “Annie,” inside the Batagaika Crater in Siberia. Annie’s remains are infected with a mysterious virus — one that everyone swears is harmless. Soon, the entire planet is decimated by the Arctic Plague, altering the course of history.

Each chapter is told from the perspective of different narrators. The time structure moves linearly through multiple generations, but perceptive readers are able to see the hidden connections among the characters. Among the cast of characters are a stand-up comedian who takes a job at an amusement park for terminally ill children and helps them ride a roller coaster that stops their hearts with crushing G-forces. A scientist who has a tiny black hole implanted in his brain. And a pig who learns to speak (his first word is “doctor”) and becomes sufficiently intelligent enough to understand his

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schools and day care for working families as well as the social isolation that has made the pandemic tough for kids.

But they are advising families to revisit early pandemic precautions about limiting get-togethers, avoiding unnecessary activities and protecting their youngest and most vulnerable family members by masking, social distancing and getting vaccinated.

In Orange County, a child under 5 died from COVID complications in December, the county’s health agency said.

California mirrors the nation in seeing the highest number of pediatric hospitalizations with

COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, said Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in a briefing on Friday, Jan. 14. Still, hospitalizations are relatively low with rates of 4 in 100,000 for those under 5 and 1 in 100,000 for kids five and above.

In Los Angeles, Dr. Colleen Kraft, a pediatrician at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, worries about the number of sick kids because even a small percentage could mean thousands of ill children. Already this year, among symptomatic kids in the emergency department, 45% are testing positive, up from 2.9% in November, she said.

“Omicron is so contagious that the people that are unvaccinated

are at highest risk,” Kraft said. “In many cases we have families and parents who could be vaccinated who are choosing not to and they are putting everyone at risk.”

At her hospital in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles, 41 children are currently admitted and a quarter of them are in the intensive care unit, she said. It’s the highest number of admissions in the last 12 months for the hospital.

She is most concerned about children who are not vaccinated, especially those under 5.

“Parents and family members that come in contact with them should be vaccinated,” Kraft said. “For the next few weeks while the cases are really high, they should think about whether they want to be doing their extra activities or things that are more optional.”

In California, 65% of children aged 12 to 17 are vaccinated, while just 19% of youngsters aged 5 to 11 are vaccinated, according to state data. Those figures are just slightly ahead of national averages of 54% and 16%, respectively.

For one family in Orange County, the consequences of the surging omicron variant came due just after the new year when their toddler was hospitalized with COVID-19.

Adeline Zermeno, 2, developed a fever around Christmas and tested negative for COVID. A little more than a week later she landed in the hospital after a

10-day stretch of non-stop fever that reached 104.9, fatigue and a positive COVID test, said her mom, Lindsey Zermeno.

Adeline spent two nights in the hospital with ear and sinus infections brought on by COVID and is still dealing with a lingering viral rash. Her big brother and father got sick too but their cases were mild.

The family had gathered with their extended family for Christmas and everyone who could be was vaccinated. Still, nine of the 23 attendees got sick, including Adeline.

“It felt incredibly scary,” said Lindsey Zermeno, a nurse at Children’s Hospital Orange County where her daughter was admitted. “There is so much that is unknown about COVID and although for the most part many people get through it just fine, there are still so many unknowns.”

Now she is vigilant for signs of MIS-C, a rare syndrome marked by inflammation in the body’s organ systems, including the heart, kidneys and brain.

“I pray to God that we get skipped over for that complication because it was so stressful having her in the hospital,” she said.

There have been 783 MIS-C cases in California during the pandemic.

“It is rare but it is very severe and kids have died from it, they can require life support, it causes decreased heart function,” said Dr.

Angela Dangvu, a pediatrician at the Children’s Hospital of Orange County Primary Care Network who works at an off-site clinic. “It’s all a balance. Parents have to decide what kind of activities are important for their kids and the chance of them getting sick.”

In addition to the risk of MIS-C, children who have had COVID are also at risk of what has been dubbed “long COVID” and, separately, an increased risk for diabetes, according to a new study from the CDC.

For all these reasons, experts said vaccination among kids who can get it is critical. If they get a breakthrough case, their symptoms are typically mild and the vaccine helps prevent longer term complications, said Dangvu, who is Adeline’s pediatrician.

Doctors said drug-makers are conducting pediatric vaccine trials for those under 5 and recently changed the testing plan to include a third dose for those 6 months through 4 years old to see if that boosts their immunity to COVID.

As for Lindsey Zermeno, she can’t wait for the vaccine to be available for her daughter.

“I’m very anxious for the vaccine,” she said. “As a former pediatric ICU nurse, I’ve seen really bad things happen to kids because they were not vaccinated for the flu or pertussis.”

Email Elizabeth Aguilera at elizabeth@calmmatters.org.



Magali Gauthier

Children arrive for the first day of school at Laurel Elementary in Menlo Park on Aug. 19, 2021. COVID-19 infections among California children are the highest they’ve ever been.



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Stressed-out parents divided over sending kids back to school amid omicron surge

By Karen D'Souza/EdSource

Just when it seemed like a little normalcy might be returning to the lives of beleaguered California families at long last, the deep-seated angst and confusion that comes with parenting amid a pandemic has returned.

As the highly contagious omicron variant sweeps through the state and a new wave of schools shut down due to outbreaks and staff shortages, many parents are feeling conflicted about sending their children back to school after winter break. The timing coincides with what may be the peak of the latest surge, as the infection count climbs and test kits and child-size masks are hard to come by, all of which puts more strain on frazzled parents.

"As a parent, I'm part of a community and an ecosystem where all of us are struggling right now," said Janelle Scott, an Oakland mother of two children in their early teens. "Like a lot of parents, I can tell I'm nervous by how hard I've been clenching my jaw. The excruciating parental calculations of what is safe during this surge for teenagers who want and need to be with friends are exhausting."

Some are most worried about schools shuttering again, fearful of remote learning, which led to emotional damage and learning loss for many. Others, particularly those with children too young to be vaccinated, are keeping their children at home out of caution.

"We are afraid of sending our son back to his preschool," said Amie Zheng, a Menlo Park mother of two who is keeping her 3-year-old son at home for now. "We feel health is the most important thing in our family. Mainly because we have a 6-month-old baby at home."

The piercing uncertainty of the situation leaves many parents confused about how to proceed and what is safest for their children. The constant risk assessment can be draining.

"I would say we are worried about all of it," said Qasim Ali, a father of two girls, ages 8 and 11, in Redwood City. "It's a hard choice to make, but if I had to choose one thing I'm most worried about since both girls are thankfully vaccinated, I'd say we are most concerned about schools closing again."

Many parents say they have been run ragged by navigating the ongoing volatility of the situation.

"It's so frustrating. It's been two years of this," said Katharine Fitzpatrick, a mother of three who lives in San Diego County. "You reach a point of fatigue."

Down to her last at-home test kit, she is scrambling to find more and take all necessary precautions with her three small children, ages 6, 5 and 3. However, even though her 3-year-old is too young to be vaccinated, Fitzpatrick remains committed to in-person learning.

'We are afraid of sending our son back to his preschool.'

AMIE ZHENG, MENLO PARK RESIDENT

"I know we need to be vigilant," she said, "but at this point, I'm more worried about school shutting down than about anything else."

Some parents feel strongly that safety measures have not been rigorous enough at school. Some have even switched their children from public to private schools as a result. Others are hoping that enhanced safety protocols will become more widespread as the public health

crisis drags on.

"This is yet another example of how the pandemic exacerbated issues of inequity," said Jessica Reid Sliwerski, an Oakland mother of one. "I don't feel worried about sending my child to school because she goes to a private school where they've implemented weekly pool testing and have outdoor classrooms they've set up for kids. They figured out how to safely reopen when so many other kids were at home doing remote school."

Sliwerski, a former teacher who now runs an educational nonprofit, is mindful of her privilege in this regard.

"I feel insanely fortunate that I can afford private school," she said, "and also very sad that what my child is receiving isn't universally what all kids are getting."

Meanwhile, some parents of vaccinated children are avoiding most indoor activities other than school, for which they are willing to make an exception.

"It can happen anywhere, so why should we stop kids from going to school?" said Gaurav Bharadwaj, a Fremont father of one. "The only thing to do is to take precautions, get the vaccine, wear a mask, wash

hands and try to stay outdoors as much as possible."

There are myriad tradeoffs on the table. Staying at home might be best for a child's physical health, for instance, keeping them safe from the virus, but it might also deepen the mental health crisis among youth. The surgeon general has called for urgent measures to grapple with the national emergency in children's mental health triggered by the pandemic.

"They need school to socialize," Bharadwaj said. "And I am afraid if they stop school I don't know if they will open again."

Learning loss is also a concern. Student test scores have plummeted in the wake of COVID-triggered remote learning. To make matters worse, the data shows that existing achievement gaps between Black and Hispanic students and their white and Asian peers have gotten even wider.

Many parents are concerned that children who fall behind now will struggle to catch up, shaping the course of their academic future for the worse.

"I am a stay-at-home mom, but I can't duplicate the academics or the social-emotional learning of being in the classroom," Fitzpatrick said. "They really need that peer engagement."

Children crave stability, as

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NAGAMATSU

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ultimate fate as an organ donor.

Clever, intense and heart-breaking, Nagamatsu's novel is a stylish and accomplished debut, suitable for any readers ready to expand their pop-culture horizons. (It's reminiscent of science fiction novels such as David Mitchell's "Cloud Atlas" and Emily Mandel's "Station Eleven.")

Some of the premises of the individual chapters may seem far-fetched, but Nagamatsu grounds the characters in

realistic detail.

"While it certainly is a difficult read in a lot of ways, it is about everyday life and the connections that tie us together," he said.

Nagamatsu said the book's Asian American and Asian narrators reflect his own life experiences.

"I also wanted to give voice to people who are third- and fourth-generation Asian American, where maybe small aspects of life are different because of family heritage, but by and large are disconnected from the realities of grandparents or

great-grandparents," he said. "My great-grandmother came to America in the early part of the 20th century. My grandfather was in a Japanese internment camp in World War II ... Those were their stories. I wanted to write the story of the kind of life that I lived."

Nagamatsu, who now lives in Minneapolis, spent most of his early life in Hawaii and Northern California. Nagamatsu said he was struck by the "writing bug" in high school while taking creative writing classes at Pinewood in Los Altos Hills.

"I really loved English, I was

always very bookish and the education at Pinewood encouraged that in me to a large degree," he said.

After his sojourn in Japan, where he taught English for a couple of years, Nagamatsu returned to the U.S. and enrolled in Southern Illinois University for creative writing graduate school before accepting a visiting professorship at College of Idaho. He now teaches at St. Olaf's in Minnesota. He published his first short-story collection, "Where We Go When All We Were Is Gone," which contains a dozen stories inspired

by Japanese folklore and pop culture. They feature Godzilla, ghosts and shapeshifters and act as tantalizing warmups for "How High We Go in the Dark."

Up next for Nagamatsu is another novel, "Girl Zero." The book is about how a family that has lost a daughter attempts to replace her with a shape-shifter that is able to take her form. Nagamatsu expects the book to be published in 2024. ▀

Contributing writer Michael Berry can be emailed at mikeberry@mindspring.com.

BURGLARS

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The pair now won't leave their home without activating their security system, even for a few minutes. They also added sensors to glass windows and doors.

At the time of the burglary, only half the alarm system was activated since they had someone coming daily to check on the home. Not activated was the alarm that would directly alert the police of a break in.

Community support

From neighbors alerting them and police as soon as the flooding was spotted to family members temporarily housing them, Clary and Dean said they were touched by the people who helped them.

Family and friends helped the two, who flew back from their trip early, to move personal items, even heavy furniture and damaged rugs.

"It changed our hearts and attitudes to a spirit of fight and resolve; we were on a mission to

recover," Clary said. "I still get a little choked up. It's really the kindness that does it to us; it's not feeling violated."

Home security cameras captured two women and a man breaking into the home through a window at the back of the house.

"Though we were devastated, it was comforting to know they were going to do what they could to catch the criminals," she said of the police. "The response reminded us that the spirit of our community will never be overcome by the darkness of criminal activity," Clary

said. "We will have a heightened awareness for our safety. ... The police would like us all to know they're working to catch this ring of criminals; it can help by reporting all suspicious people."

Police believe that home burglaries over the last year in Atherton — including the theft of \$800,000 worth of jewelry reported stolen from a home on Dec. 8, 2020 — are linked to a crime spree in town in 2018 by members of a Chilean gang operating out of Southern California.

Police are analyzing items

found through a search warrant.

"I would say it appears this burglary is connected with the rest of the burglaries we have had, but I cannot say anything definitive until the search warrant returns are received and looked through," said Atherton police Sgt. Anthony Kockler in an email.

Police plan to host a community meeting with residents about the burglaries on Feb. 16. ▀

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

PAL, SCVAL football merger becomes a reality

By Glenn Reeves

The merger of the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League and the Peninsula Athletic League for football has been agreed upon and will take place in the fall of 2022.

Many of the details are still to be worked out as athletic directors have been inundated by postponements and cancellations of winter season games due to the onset of the omicron variant of the coronavirus.

There will be two A divisions, two B divisions and one C division. The SCVAL and PAL names will remain, but there will be some shifting of teams.

The SCVAL De Anza Division will have six of the seven teams from last season with Santa Clara moving down.

The PAL Bay Division will have four of the six from last season — Menlo-Atherton, Sacred Heart Prep, Half Moon Bay and Burlingame — along with Menlo School and Aragon.

The SCVAL El Camino Division will be composed of Gunn, Cupertino, Los Altos, Santa Clara and former PAL members The King's Academy and Sequoia.

The PAL Ocean Division will have Hillsdale, Capuchino,



Courtesy Bob Dahlberg/ @bobd_photo

The Menlo-Atherton High School varsity football team plays against the Half Moon Bay High School team in Half Moon Bay on Oct. 8, 2021. A merger between the Santa Clara Valley and Peninsula athletic leagues will keep the two teams in the same division this fall.

Jefferson, Carlmont, Terra Nova and San Mateo as its six teams.

The PAL Lake Division will bring together SCVAL schools Fremont, Monta Vista, Lynbrook and Saratoga to join with Woodside, Mills, El Camino and South San Francisco from the PAL.

Teams in the A and B divisions will have five league games

and two equity-based crossover games. For example, M-A, which has won the PAL Bay title the last four years, has crossover games with Los Gatos and Wilcox, the two top teams in the De Anza Division last season.

At the end of the season the plan is to rank the teams from 1 to 32 and do it all over again.

"It might have made more sense if we went 8-8-8-8 (and had four divisions for 32 teams)," SCVAL commissioner Brad Metheany said. "But if we'd done that our A division would have been unbelievable, better than the WCAL." **A**

Email Staff Writer Glenn Reeves at greeves@pawebly.com.

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all parents know, and recent Harvard research shows that educational disruptions, a hallmark of the pandemic that includes school shutdowns and switching between in-person, hybrid and remote learning formats, negatively affect children's social, emotional, and behavioral well-being.

Juggling the shifting uncertainties and weighing the risks is no mean feat for stressed-out parents, some of whom are reluctant to let go of in-person learning and return to Zoom school.

"I'm so worn out. This has gone on for so long," said Fitzpatrick, as her three children vie for her attention in the background. "Also, I can't handle all the Zoom stuff."

For others, the plan is to wait it out and hope for the best. Zheng, for one, intends to keep her little boy at home from preschool until the spike has passed.

"We will wait to see some numbers drop down," she said. "Right now we are not comfortable when we are at the top of the pandemic wave." **A**

—This story was first published by EdSource, and its staffer Sunny Xie contributed to this report.

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The overlooked women who saved the Big Basin redwoods

Traci Bliss quit academia to document the overlooked female activists behind the founding of one of America's most iconic parks

By Kate Bradshaw

Traci Bliss, whose family has for generations called the Santa Cruz area home, was an education professor at Idaho State University when a story she'd heard as a kid lured her back to Santa Cruz.

Her great-great-aunt, nearly a centenarian when Traci was a child, had told her that women had been heavily involved in the work of advocating for the creation of Big Basin Redwoods State Park, established in 1902. However, none of the official narratives she could find about the park's history bore that story out — many credited the redwoods' preservation primarily to photographer and activist A.P. Hill. So she decided to retire to pursue the story full time.

What she learned involved a far broader cast of early preservationists than was previously acknowledged and a compelling and timely narrative about how a wide range of civic groups exerted their influences to protect a remote redwood forest on the California coast from being logged and transform it into the beloved home it became for recreation and respite.

In a recent interview, Bliss talked about the fascinating history of California's oldest state park, and how she dug past the existing scholarship to find a much richer history of its origins. She talked about how women — many of whom still lacked the right to vote — Stanford and Santa Clara College faculty and a wide range of civic groups and institutions became involved in the campaign. In the aftermath of the 2020 CZU wildfires, she also reflects on what's next for the park.

Bliss was scheduled to speak about the topic at a Zoom webinar organized through the Bill



Courtesy Traci Bliss

Traci Bliss, author of "Big Basin Redwood Forest: California's Oldest State Park."



Magali Gauthier

New growth on trees in Big Basin Redwoods State Park one year after the CZU August Lightning Complex fire burned through the park.

Lane Center for the American West at Stanford University on Jan. 20, after *The Almanac* went to press.

Here's an excerpt from our Q&A with Bliss. Responses have been edited for length and clarity.

In the promotional information about your book, it says that you began your research based on a story you heard from a great-great-aunt. I was curious about what that story was and how it triggered your curiosity.

My great-great-aunt Jenny Bliss Jeter was 98. It was her birthday, and she wanted to tell us the story of how Big Basin was saved because her husband was one of the key leaders of the Big Basin movement.

All I ever remembered growing up from that story was how essential women were. But then, later in life, when I was an adult, whenever I'd go to Big Basin or look at any of the literature, it was a "one great man" story about saving the park. Women were never mentioned. I mean, they didn't even get a nod. And that just continued on and on.

I just felt, 'I have to retire so I could pursue this story.' I was a professor at Idaho State University. My colleagues would say, 'You're taking such a risk. How can you do this?' But I felt the greater risk would be not to pursue it. It hounded me out. And so that's when I decided in 2008, that I needed to move back to my roots in Santa Cruz and begin

this journey.

There was such a small amount of scholarly research that had been done on Big Basin, that I kept finding these major surprises as I would dive into the research. And one of the gratifying parts, but also a major surprise was to see that not only women had equal roles in the movement with men — this was 11 years before they won the right to vote — but women led the publicity arm of the entire movement.

They produced 90% of all the publicity around Big Basin, and they took the movement statewide, mobilizing women's groups all over the state. And those women's clubs all over the state were essential to getting the legislation (to create the park that became Big Basin Redwoods State Park) passed.

Why do you think women were so successful in doing this, and what inspired their groups to take on this advocacy?

This is what I think happened. In 1896, women were mobilized around California to win the right to vote, and that effort failed. But they had this huge statewide network of women who were suffragists and were really fighting for it. So when they lost the right to vote, and three and a half years later, there's this opportunity to save the redwoods, all the women of California came together ...

All of these different women's groups — not all of whom had been in favor of suffrage could

say, 'Well, we may have lost our fight to get the right to vote, we will not lose our state's trees.' I'm sure that because of that earlier loss, they were so highly motivated.

What role did Stanford play in the effort to create Big Basin?

I was so just amazed and excited about the essential role that the Stanford community played in saving Big Basin. In 1889, Leland Stanford was our California senator. He was also the president of the Southern Pacific Railroad, and he called for Big Basin to become a Grand Park and Southern Pacific Railroad owned the Big Basin land.

The head of the botany department, a professor named William Dudley ... was the leading expert on Big Basin. His data convinced all these other academics around the Bay Area and businessmen of the fact that Big Basin was in imminent danger of being logged, how extraordinary the forest was, and that it needed to be preserved.

In 1904, three months after (Big Basin) officially open to the public, there was a horrendous fire. It had very similar characteristics to the CZU 2020 fire that destroyed 97% of Big Basin. The minute Dudley heard about the fire, he recruited 12 Stanford undergraduates, all athletes, members of the DU fraternity. One of them was his nephew. One of them was President (David Starr) Jordan's son. And the undergraduates didn't hesitate. They were all immediately on board. They took

all these supplies to the firefighters who were ... in the mountains in Big Basin, and as soon as they had delivered the supplies, they then went to Pescadero and literally created the firewall ... that saved Pescadero.

How did you dig past all of the official narratives to figure out the real history?

The only way I could do the research and really make sure I was doing justice to the whole was, I took about 15 different individuals, I think it (was) ... seven women and eight men. In each case, I just focused on that individual person without contaminating my research with any of the other people. Each person got their own individual biography. And then (it was a matter of) putting them all up on a storyboard, and looking at all of the ways they connected with the park.

What was the game-changer, in terms of research, is within the last six or seven years, digital newspapers coming online. By having this huge collection at newspapers.com, I could (follow) someone who may not have showed up in biographies or second-person accounts.

What surprised you most in your research for this book?

It's such an inclusive story, that men and women really had such equal roles. But more importantly, it was totally nonpartisan. And the leaders of the movement made sure it stayed nonpartisan. I think that's such a relevant message. This is such a great model for the environmental challenges that we face today, that you have this extraordinary first-of-its-kind statewide movement, but there were no partisan politics involved in the creation of the park.

I guess the biggest surprise I had overall was that this very narrow telling of the story in the past, that appeared in almost all of the state parks literature (which left out women, Stanford and the role of Santa Cruz).

I think that the problem with that is not simply that all these people were left out, it's much more than that so diminishes the magnitude of the accomplishment.

What do you think is going to happen to Big Basin as it builds back from the CZU fires?

I think there's an exceptional commitment. (The state,

BIG BASIN

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governor and the director of state parks have) allocated a huge amount of funds to the recreation of Big Basin. Evidently by summer, there will be very specific parts of the park that can be reopened to the public, but public safety comes first, so it has to be very gradual. I think it will be years before any of the buildings are put back ...

My hope is that there will be a lot of consideration to 'What does it mean to put the health of the forest first?' One of the areas that I'm most interested in personally, because I've been a docent for Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, is how we interface with the public going forward. In the book, I

go into some detail about the indigenous people who had been stewards of the Big Basin land for thousands of years before it ever became privately owned. I think it's essential going forward that the presence of indigenous people, as co-partners with us, are telling their stories. I have not encountered any docents or interpreters who do come from a Native American background. So I think really opening up those doors and those opportunities ... should be one of our goals going forward.

While Big Basin is recovering, what trails or hikes should people seek out elsewhere?

The Rancho del Oso is actually open. I really encourage people to check out ... the wonderful nature center there

and experience the marshlands. When I do history tours at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, I always tell the Big Basin story because for Santa Cruzans, the story of the saving of Big Basin and the saving of Henry Cowell is one continuous story. There are plenty of wonderful trails at Henry Cowell.

More information

"Big Basin Redwood Forest: California's Oldest State Park" by Traci Bliss is published by The History Press and available online at arcadiapublishing.com, Amazon.com or at Kepler's for \$21.99. **A**

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



Magali Gauthier

Gov. Gavin Newsom and EPA Administrator Michael Regan listen to Chris Spohrer, superintendent for state parks' Santa Cruz district, discuss how the CZU August Lightning Complex fire damaged Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

MEMOIR

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but Lewis believes "there's been a cultural shift with regard to veterans in general and Vietnam veterans in particular."

Those who served — often because they were drafted — are now judged less harshly, he said in an interview.

Though he had protested the war during his student days, Lewis accepted a commission in 1969 to serve as a U.S. Army chaplain. He "struggled mightily" with the decision, but explains he ultimately accepted because of a major shortfall of volunteer chaplains — especially rabbis — and his guilt over the fact that clergy were exempt from the draft.

"I did not want to be identified with support of the war to which wearing a uniform would surely testify," he writes "Yet how could I not feel responsible for brethren who were drafted?" That central conflict tugged at Lewis throughout his two years of military service, the second of which was in Vietnam.

The 28-year-old, newly

ordained rabbi had been married just one month when he was deployed to Nha Trang, South Vietnam, in June 1970 to tend to the spiritual needs of about 500 Jewish service members widely scattered over the Central Highlands. His memoir is drawn from the daily letters he exchanged with his wife, Lorri, who was living in Seattle.

Lewis carried his "chaplain's field kit" — including prayer books, candle holders and a miniature printed scroll of The Torah — as he traveled by all manner of aircraft and troop carrier to reach the sometimes extremely isolated Jews in his territory. In one "desolate post," there were only four Jews out of 1,016 men.

He quickly realized his brief prayer services were only "a pretext for the main event — an opportunity to gather and be fully present with one another. Conversations might begin with small talk but soon might touch on serious personal issues and feelings and the need for advice or intervention," he writes.

Within weeks of arriving, Lewis was summoned to conduct

a memorial service for 32-year-old Richard Pearl, a married man who had been due to leave for home later that week when he was killed by a rocket explosion.

Shortly thereafter, he was called to the bedside of Lloyd Kantor, an upbeat New Yorker he'd previously met, who was hovering between life and death, with all four limbs amputated and an eye missing. He had been hit by shrapnel from two booby traps that killed two of his fellow soldiers.

'I often wonder what the Vietnamese men must think of GIs and the U.S. when we have done so much damage to the women.'

—RABBI SHELDON LEWIS

"No one expected (Kantor) to come through, but he seems to have an unlimited amount of determination to make a comeback and something out of his life," Lewis wrote at the time. Kantor now lives in Arizona with his wife, Loretta, who was his girlfriend at the time of the explosion.

A 2020 Zoom reunion with the couple and others who'd survived the 1970 explosion prompted Lewis to revisit his Vietnam letters and write the memoir.

Among his many projects in Vietnam, Lewis worked to ensure that the weekly Friday night observance of Shabbat took place at every major base.

"Every familiar melody, each reading in Hebrew or English that resonated with memory, each exchange of simple 'Shabbat Shalom' greetings helped transform and lift that time into another welcome zone," he wrote.

He managed the importation of kosher food for soldiers who required it, with help from Jewish organizations back home. Lewis's wife even finagled 50 pounds of sliced lox and bagels for the break-the-fast at Yom Kippur, which was flown in by a supply navigator from Tacoma who carried the goods in his cockpit.

"Bagels and lox in Vietnam! This was certainly something about which to write home," Lewis wrote. "There is no way to describe the looks of amazement on the faces of those men and women as they ended the Yom Kippur fast."

Lewis was touched by countless instances of interfaith cooperation, as well as by the support he received from senior military officers that year. For the autumn Jewish observance of Sukkot, which requires the construction of a temporary hut, he was assisted by Catholics, Protestants and even a career U.S. soldier, who had been born in Germany and had served in the Luftwaffe during World War II.

At Christmas, Lewis attended his first midnight Mass. That same week, he welcomed Protestant and Catholic chaplains and two Filipino secretaries to his Hanukkah party. At Passover, he held a Seder meal for his Christian colleagues.

"Having the opportunity to witness each other's special days was so characteristic in the military," he wrote. "We worked together so closely that it is natural to be included in each other's sacred occasions."

But he was heartsick observing the suffering of the Vietnamese people, the many orphans created by the war and "the pervasive culture of sex and drugs among the GIs ... as soldiers sought relief and comfort."

Returning one evening from dinner with fellow chaplains, Lewis' jeep passed the entrance

to an Army barracks where young Vietnamese men were openly offering women for the U.S. soldiers to choose among.

"The scene was a graphic picture of how our military presence corrupted both the GIs and Vietnamese families," he wrote. "It's incredible how many whores the war has produced and how much the men use them. ... I often wonder what the Vietnamese men must think of GIs and the U.S. when we have done so much damage to the women." Sexually transmitted diseases were rampant.

In lamenting the U.S. soldiers' general lack of knowledge and sensitivity toward the Vietnamese culture, he writes, "Many feel themselves to be unavoidably ugly Americans."

When his Vietnam duty ended in 1971, Lewis arrived home to a nation in such turmoil over the war that returning service members were not welcomed.

"Of course, I relished being reunited with my newlywed wife and family. Yet, in the atmosphere of war protest, I was greeted with silence," he writes.

He served for decades as rabbi at Palo Alto's Congregation Kol Emeth before feeling it was time to speak of his Vietnam service.

"Now it is different," he said. "The moral assessment of the war has not changed, but those who served, especially during a period of the draft, are treated belatedly with respect. ... I no longer hesitate to wear a hat which identifies me as a Vietnam vet."

But 50 years have not softened Lewis' view that the war was immoral.

"I am not a pacifist when there is a need to defend oneself from harm," he said. "Yet this was a war that should have been avoided." **A**

Contributing writer Chris Kenrick can be emailed at ckenrick@paweekly.com



Adam Pardee

Retired Rabbi Sheldon Lewis scans through letters he sent to his wife that used to help write his memoir about his year as a chaplain in the Vietnam War.

Artscene

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

FANCY FOOTWORK

Rising COVID case numbers
spur local arts groups to make
alternate plans

By Heather Zimmerman



The holiday season brought a happy rush of returning to in-person performances and other arts events, but as winter wears on, the quick spread of the coronavirus' omicron variant has postponed or put on hold in-person events scheduled for the first months of 2022.

But it's not the throwback to the grim, empty calendars of spring 2020 that it might initially seem. After nearly two years of navigating the ups and downs of the pandemic, some groups are now adding a virtual option or expanding virtual options that they already had in place.

Many groups are also

rescheduling in-person events — postponing them anywhere from a few weeks to a number of months down the road.

Here's an evolving list of arts postponements and cancellations on the Peninsula. Check back at almanacnews.com/arts for updates.

Unless otherwise noted, rescheduled or canceled events are in person.

TheatreWorks

In late December, TheatreWorks announced that it was postponing its production of "Hershey Felder as Monsieur Chopin." The show, which was slated to open in mid-January at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts (MVCPA), has been moved to summer,

planned for Aug. 17 through Sept. 11 and will still be at the MVCPA.

The company's musical adaptation of Jane Austen's "Sense and Sensibility," running March 9 through April 3 at Palo Alto's Lucie Stern Theatre, is expected to go ahead.

For more information, visit theatreworks.org.

Stanford Live

The performing arts presenter canceled the bulk of its January schedule, including these upcoming dates: "Rite of Spring" by Chinese dance legend and renowned choreographer Yang Liping (Jan. 21-22); New Century Chamber Orchestra's program "Hope Leads Appalachian Spring" (Jan. 22); Sundays with the St. Lawrence concert (Jan. 23); and Cliff Cardinal's solo play "Huff" (Jan. 27-28); song writer Anaïs Mitchell featuring Bonny Light Horseman (Jan. 30).

Beyond January, Stanford Live Communications Manager Katie Haemmerle confirmed that at this time, most other upcoming shows are still slated to go forward, except for these cancellations:

Omer Quartet (Feb. 13); Russian National Orchestra (Feb. 20); Basel Chamber Orchestra (March 6); Abdullah Ibrahim (April 27); "And So We Walked: An Artist's Journey Along the Trail of Tears" (May 20-22).

January shows still going ahead (as of Jan. 18) are:

Inua Ellams and Fuel present: An Evening with an Immigrant (Jan. 29-30), in person at Bing Studio and a related discussion, "Un-othering Through Artistic Exchange: A Dialogue between Inua Ellams and Professor Ato Quayson," that will take place via Zoom Jan. 28. Jenny Scheinman's "Kannapolis: A Moving Portrait" has been rescheduled from mid-January to June 1.

For more information, visit stanford.edu/calendar.

Los Altos Stage Company

In early January, the company announced that it rescheduled its production of Lisa Loomer's "Roe," about the landmark case that legalized abortion in the United States, from mid-February into March, with the new run taking place March 3 through 13. There will be a streaming option for the shows taking place on March 4-6 and 11-13.

For more information, visit losaltosstage.org/roe.

Palo Alto Players

Last week, the company announced that its production of "Men on Boats," planned for mid-January, was rescheduled to run Feb. 4 through 20 at the Lucie Stern Theatre, with streaming on demand offered Feb. 17-20. Jaclyn Backhaus' "Men on Boats" offers a modern take on a 19th-century expedition of the American West's waterways led by Civil War veteran John Wesley Powell.

For more information, visit palyplayers.org.

Music@Menlo

The chamber music nonprofit rescheduled its benefit concert and reception, originally planned for early February, to March 13.

The concert features a program of works by Shostakovich, Beethoven and Amy Beach performed by Chelsea Wang, piano; Audrey Chen, cello; James Thompson and Angela Wee, violin, and Lisa Sung, viola. For more information, visit musicatmenlo.org.

Also coming up: "A Spanish Journey: Behind the Music," a two-day mini-artist residency exploring Spanish music slated for April 8-9. The group's flagship summer festival is scheduled for July 14 through Aug. 6.

For more information, visit musicatmenlo.org.

The Pear

The theater company announced this week that it's postponing its winter shows by two weeks. "The Mountaintop" and "Sunset Baby," presented in repertory as part of the company's 20th anniversary season of "Pear pairings," had been slated to open mid-January and will now both open the weekend of Feb. 4.

Katori Hall's "The Mountaintop," which runs Feb. 4 through 19, offers a reimagining of events the night before civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. "Sunset Baby," which runs Feb. 5 through 20, is a new play by Dominique Morisseau that tells of a former Black revolutionary and political prisoner who is desperate to reconnect with his estranged daughter.

For more information, visit thepear.org.

Oshman Family JCC

Designer Isaac Mizrahi, who was scheduled to bring his musical cabaret show "Moderate to Severe," to the Palo Alto Oshman Family JCC in mid-January has postponed his appearance. A new date has not been announced yet.

For more information, visit paloaltojcc.org.

Palo Alto Art Center

The art center's winter exhibition, "Creative Attention: Art and Community Restoration" is still taking place in person and will open as scheduled on Jan. 22. But the Jan. 28 opening reception for the show has moved online.

A March 4 conversation featuring artists from the show will take place online as planned.

For more information, visit cityofpaloalto.org.

West Bay Opera

This week, the opera company announced that it has bumped its winter 2022 production of Verdi's "La Traviata" to the fall, with the new dates of Oct. 21-30. Its production of Tchaikovsky's "Pique Dame" is expected to open as planned on May 20. The company is based at Palo Alto's Lucie Stern Theatre.

For more information, visit wbopera.org.

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

Top: Performances of "Rite of Spring" by Chinese dance legend and renowned choreographer Yang Liping slated for Jan. 21-22 are among the shows at Stanford Live that have been canceled. Courtesy Stanford Live. **Above left:** Violinist Angela Wee is one of the musicians on the program for Music@Menlo's benefit concert and reception, which has been moved from early February to March 13. Courtesy Sang Park (Zoene Studio)/Music@Menlo.

Food & Drink

Good as gold: Aurum chef Manish Tyagi chats beating critics' bad reviews and Bobby Flay

Try chipotle paneer kebab, potato spiral chaat, mushroom pot pie and more in Los Altos

By Sara Hayden

You might know Manish Tyagi for his culinary creations throughout the Bay Area and beyond, including at Aurum in Los Altos, August 1 Five in San Francisco and the Amber India restaurants. You may also recognize him from television — he beat chef and TV personality Bobby Flay on the Food Network reality program “Beat Bobby Flay.”

In the coming months, you'll also catch his work in collaboration with teams at other restaurants: Aurum, which Tyagi joined in December 2020, will be collaborating with Pausa in San Mateo Jan. 27 and Feb. 3, bringing together Indian and Italian cuisine. More collaborations will follow, including with Afro-Latino eatery and cocktail lounge Sobre Mesa and Israeli restaurant Pomella, both in Oakland. In all these collaborations, there's a passion for exploring different cuisines and mixing tradition with new twists.

“Why we're doing this and what the beauty is about it ... when people and cuisines travel to different places and get exposed to that, they get a new idea,” Tyagi says. “We are looking to find some similar points and join them together to make something new.”

Working in the hospitality industry was meant to be, Tyagi says. When Tyagi was a child, his father worked in government services in northern India, and his family often invited guests to their home in Dehradun.

“My mother used to end up cooking alone for them. When we were growing up, we started helping. My brother and I did the odd jobs of serving the guests,” Tyagi recalled. “That's how this cooking started.”

Tyagi kept with it. More so than the theoretical, Tyagi enjoyed the practical applications of math and physics in the kitchen.

“When I was doing my college, I was not very sure about what I was going to do. I wasn't a brilliant student — I was an average student,” says Tyagi, who

studied for a bachelor of science degree. “Given all the entrance examinations for professional studies, the hotel management entrance exam came my way. It was in my destiny, so I completed that.”

After graduating, Tyagi worked with numerous luxury hospitality establishments and went on to join the Taj Hotels and Resorts, where he became a regional and executive chef.

Then, at the age of 30, Tyagi was presented with an opportunity to move to the United States as a chef de cuisine. The move to be part of a global opening team was a jump from his work as a regional chef.

“I always had this in mind — how the industry works in the U.S.,” Tyagi says. “It was kind of a challenge to open a fine-dining restaurant in a world you hadn't been to.”

It was a high-pressure start. Tyagi made his U.S. debut at the high-profile Rasika West End restaurant in Washington, D.C., before joining Amber India restaurants in the Bay Area, initially at Amber Dhara in San Francisco. Former San Francisco Chronicle restaurant critic Michael Bauer had previously issued the restaurant a one-star review, indicating that Bauer thought the restaurant was “fair.” One star was better than no stars, Bauer's rating for “poor” — but far from what Tyagi was satisfied with when he arrived.

“When a person like Michael Bauer from the San Francisco Chronicle (writes a review), it can make your career. If they write bad about you, it can break your career,” Tyagi says. “All these things matter a lot when you open a business. Somebody puts (out) a review of you and judges you on your skills and your offerings and quality, (and) people actually follow him.”

Tyagi set out to turn negative perceptions around.

“You have to do an amazing job in terms of cuisine, standards, techniques, service. It should show that you really care for it — it's not just a business for you. It's a passion for you. That drives you every day to give



Courtesy Hardy Wilson

Aurum chef Manish Tyagi is teaming up with Pausa in San Mateo for a couple of collaboration dinners blending Italian and Indian techniques and flavors.

your best, and bring out your cuisine,” Tyagi says. “That's the whole driving force to me.”

A few years later, Tyagi joined August 1 Five. In a review of that restaurant, Bauer gave an overall rating of three and a half stars — between Bauer's assessments of “excellent” and “extraordinary.” About Tyagi, Bauer wrote, “It wasn't until he stepped into the August 1 Five kitchen that his immense talent and creativity emerged, blending influences of his native and adopted lands. The menu looks very different from what you'll find at most places, and any familiar classics have been artfully re-imagined.”

“That relationship, our understanding of my food with Bauer, actually helped me kind of get to this level where I am today,” Tyagi says.

After that, Tyagi went on to appear on “Beat Bobby Flay” in Season 16's “Eye of the Tiger” episode. Now, Tyagi is the chef and chief operating officer at Aurum, the name of which takes inspiration from “gold” in Latin. The restaurant made current San Francisco food critic Soleil Ho's list of top South Asian restaurants. And in the fall of 2021,

the most recent Michelin Guide included Aurum. Tyagi says that carries weight.

“How much it brings a difference to your establishment, when you've been mentioned by such a prestigious organization. If such kind of an organization recognizes you, that separates you from unheard of restaurants,” Tyagi says. “People give value to that. They start appreciating your things, whereas before, nobody knows where you are or what you're doing. That makes a difference.”

But it's not just prominent publications that Tyagi is cognizant of. Customers also hold power. “In today's world, you see how much influence people have through Yelp or OpenTable or Google,” Tyagi says. “Whenever someone goes to try a new place, first thing they do is go to reviews from other customers.”

Interacting with different audiences, Tyagi has a point to make: “We're trying to change the mindset of people that Indian food is greasy, that it's sauce-drenched.”

You'll see that throughout the menu, including with dishes like the Barley-Kachumber salad

with hung curd, cucumber, grape tomato, radish and dill, and the La La Lamb-Tandoori Lamb Chop with cashews, roasted carrot puree, beet gel and roasted Romanesco. There are desserts too. Save room for ghevar cardamom-dusted cream and cake, or a tippie from the beverage menu like the low-proof Pomelo Paani with Lillet Blanc, orange vermouth and chaat masala tincture.

Tyagi says he's “an ambassador of Indian cuisine,” working not only as a chef, but also as a storyteller as he develops and writes menus.

“I take this opportunity with all my abilities and knowledge to bring the right representation and knowledge to my guests here,” Tyagi says.

That's no small task, given that India includes more than a billion people, dozens of states, hundreds of cultures and countless culinary traditions. Tyagi started to learn as he worked across the different states, and has continued since.

“If you go to the Himalayas, the place is cold. The language is different, their food habits

See **AURUM**, page 22

AURUM

continued from page 21

are different than the guy who's living in the coastal area ... They have some similarities but also their own styles. The use of coconut, the use of mustard, the use of chiles and peppers, it's so interesting," Tyagi says. "I can't tell you in words, but when you see the representation through your eyes (of) the versatility — the same ingredients, but the (differences in the) techniques they use — it's so mesmerizing.

"When you learn different techniques, you get influenced, and you kind of create your own styles after that," Tyagi says.

These influences and variations present endless culinary possibilities.

"One idea is to make my

country's cuisine appreciated by people, giving them the right knowledge about different cuisines. India itself is a very multi-language, multicultural country. There's a lot more to offer that's not even reached to the table yet."

On the table now: I'm Not Pasta-Spinach & Paneer Lasagne. This is Tyagi's iteration of the iconic dish that gained renown on the Food Network reality show "Beat Bobby Flay." Leading up to Tyagi's big moment facing off against Flay, Tyagi imagined something out of the box, and rehearsed the dish.

"I have to make things different," Tyagi remembers thinking. "If I'm going to make it this way, it's going to catch the eyes of the people."

On set, there was absolute focus as Flay and Tyagi went

toe-to-toe, each with their own take on palak paneer.

"I see some tension on Bobby's face," Tyagi said in the heat of competition.

"Don't worry about my face. Look in your sauté pan over there," Flay responded.

"Thanks for the hint, Bobby," Tyagi quipped.

In the end, Tyagi successfully made his own winning creation, flavoring spinach with cumin, coriander and turmeric. He layered it with paneer slices, taking inspiration from lasagne, and topped it all with grated cheddar cheese. Tyagi served the dish with a tomato-cashew sauce made with onions, cumin seeds, turmeric and garlic, as well as roti on the side.

"It's a playful dish," Tyagi says. You can get a variation of the

dish at Aurum, where Tyagi uses brown garlic, fenugreek leaves and mozzarella.

On the table coming up: Italo-indianmisu. This is one course out of five as part of a special menu in a collaboration between Aurum and Pausa.

Tyagi and Pausa chef and owner Andrea Giuliani decided against independently developing dishes and alternating them throughout their prix-fixe menu. Instead, they decided to combine their skills and styles throughout.

"I was excited, because I love the diversity between the two countries and the two cuisines, but there's a lot of ingredients and techniques that we share," Giuliani says, "The base, the technique, the seasonality and the freshness, it (all) comes together, that's for sure."

Taking inspiration from tiramisu, Tyagi and Giuliani's dessert has espresso gel, coffee sponge cake, saffron and mascarpone cheese mousse, ghevar, white chocolate soil, coffee cream and fior di sale.

Also on the menu is hamachi tartare with pani poori, cilantro and mint water; slow-cooked pork belly; smoked lamb leg; and roasted quail.

For the lamb dish, Tyagi suggested smoking it and adding spices. When Tyagi and Giuliani taste-tested together, "We looked at each other and said, 'Maybe we need some acidity,'" Giuliani recalls. "So we added some stracchino cheese." The result introduced a creaminess that delighted both of them.

"You can tell the passion we both have for our food," Giuliani says.

The special menu will be available on Jan. 27 at Aurum in Los Altos, and Feb. 3 at Pausa in San Mateo. Make reservations in advance for the event at Aurum on Resy, or at Pausa on OpenTable (be sure to add a note that says the reservation is for the "collaboration dinner.")

Aurum: aurumca.com; 132 State St., Los Altos; 650-383-5221.

Pausa: pausasanmateo.com; 223 E. 4th Ave., San Mateo; 650-375-0818. ■

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

J & SON'S GENERAL MAINTENANCE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 289770

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

J & Son's General Maintenance, located 919 Runnymede St., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
JESUS O. CRUZ RUIZ
919 Runnymede St.
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303

This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/13/21.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 20, 2021.
(ALM Dec. 31, 2021; Jan. 7, 14, 21, 2022)

HAMILTON INTERIOR DESIGNS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 289683

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

Hamilton Interior Designs, located at 332 Arbor Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
JOHN F. HAMILTON JR.
332 Arbor Road
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 02/13/14.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 9, 2021.
(ALM Dec. 31, 2021; Jan. 7, 14, 21, 2022)

THIS AND THAT HANDYMAN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 289689

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

This and That Handyman, located at 2801

Marlborough Av., Redwood City CA 94063, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
JOSE ANGEL ABARCA PEREZ

2801 Marlborough Ave.
Redwood City, CA 94063

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 9, 2021.

(ALM Dec. 31, 2021; Jan. 7, 14, 21, 2022)

ROCKS UNLIMITED
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 289818

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Rocks Unlimited, located at 441 Alameda Ave, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
DIANE FENNELL
441 Alameda Ave.
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
ROBERT S. TUCKEY
441 Alameda Ave.
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

This business is conducted by: A General Partnership.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/1/2013.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 23, 2021.

(ALM Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2022)

EPRINTS AND DOCUMENT SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 289862

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

EPrints and Document Services, located at 1120 Broadway Ave., Burlingame, CA 94010, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
F. SHARABIANLOU
1120 Broadway Ave.
Burlingame, CA 94010
S. SHARABIANLOU
1120 Broadway Ave.
Burlingame, CA 94010

This business is conducted by: Married Couple.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/31/2018.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 31, 2021.

(ALM Jan. 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 2022)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. : 0000008515298 Title Order No.: 1110948 FHA/VA/PMI No.: ATTENTION RECORDER: THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE TO AN ATTACHED SUMMARY APPLIES ONLY TO COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR, NOT TO THIS RECORDED ORIGINAL NOTICE. NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 04/15/2004. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 04/28/2004 as Instrument No. 2004-083184 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of SAN MATEO County, State of CALIFORNIA. EXECUTED BY: WILLIAM COATS AND SHERRI COATS, HUSBAND AND WIFE, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by California Civil Code 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 02/02/2022 TIME OF SALE: 1:00 PM PLACE OF SALE: AT THE MARSHALL STREET ENTRANCE TO THE HALL OF JUSTICE AND RECORDS, 400 COUNTY CENTER, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 10 JOAQUIN ROAD, PORTOLA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 94028 APN#: 080-130-220 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of

Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$861,356.21. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 833-561-0243 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit

this Internet Web site WWW.SALES.BDFGROUP.COM for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 0000008515298. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 833-561-0243, or visit this internet website WWW.SALES.BDFGROUP.COM using the file number assigned to this case 0000008515298 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: 833-561-0243 WWW.SALES.BDFGROUP.COM. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP as Trustee 3990 E. Conours Street, Suite 350 Ontario, CA 91764 (866) 795-1852 Dated: 12/23/2021 BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER and WEISS, LLP 4004 Belt Line Road, Suite 100 Addison, Texas 75001-4320 Telephone: (866) 795-1852 Telecopier: (972) 661-7800 A-4739372 01/07/2022, 01/14/2022, 01/21/2022

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