

# The Almanac

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

MARCH 11, 2022 | VOL. 57 NO. 27



WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM

## Some local preschools and day care centers decide it's time to drop the masks

It's a mixed bag this month, as some mask mandates remain while others make it optional

By Angela Swartz

The Peninsula's littlest ones will be taking off their masks as soon as next week at some area child care centers, but others are holding off on aligning with new state guidelines that make masks indoors optional, even as the San Mateo County Health Department said it plans to follow the guidance.

School districts in Portola Valley, Woodside, Mountain View and Palo Alto will drop their mask mandates come March 12 (masks will still be strongly recommended). Up until next week, early learning centers have required children over 2 wear masks during the pandemic.

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced last week that he would lift the requirement to wear a face mask inside schools or child care facilities at the end of the day on Friday, March 11. A representative from the Community Care Licensing Division

Child Care, the state's early learning programs oversight group, said updated COVID-19 guidance for child care programs will be available soon.

Parents of children under 5 who attend preschools and day cares are in a unique position. A vaccine has yet to be approved for kids in that age group.

Educators wonder how they'll explain to children whose parents continue to want them to wear masks why some of their classmates don't have to.

### Dropping mask mandates

The director of Building Kidz of Mountain View, which operates a franchise serving infants through kindergartners, anticipates dropping its mask mandate for its students and teachers come March 12.

Parents can decide whether they want their kids to go mask-free, said Director Ebun Evien, but the school will require

See MASKS, page 19



Magali Gauthier

**Morgan** soars through the air as Sarah waits for a push from Howard Shim at Mountain View Parent Nursery School in Los Altos on March 9. Masking requirements for students and teachers are starting to drop at some local preschools and day cares.

## Accountant for Palo Alto tech firm and her two children killed in Ukraine

Tatiana Perebeinis dies from Russian mortar artillery while trying to flee

By Zoe Morgan

The chief accountant for a Palo Alto technology company and her two children were killed in Ukraine while trying to escape from the city of Irpin, according to an online statement by her company, SE Ranking.

Tatiana Perebeinis and her children, Alise and Nikita, were killed by Russian mortar artillery on Sunday, March 6, while

trying to get out of the city northwest of Kyiv, which had no water supply, electricity or heating, according to SE Ranking's Facebook post.

"There are no words to describe our grief or to mend our pain," the post read. "But for us, it is crucial to not let Tania and her kids Alise and Nikita remain just statistics. Her family became the victim of the unprovoked fire on civilians, which under any law is a

crime against humanity."

Perebeinis had worked for SE Ranking for five and a half years and was one of the first employees to join the firm's Kyiv office, company spokesperson Ksenia Khirvonina said in an email.

Khirvonina remembered her colleague as an expert in financial regulations who would patiently answer questions from co-workers and clearly explain all the nuances of an issue.

"The whole team adored

Tania. You could always ask her for some personal advice or share your worries — she would find the right words for everyone," Khirvonina said. "Tania had a wonderful sense of humor. She was a great storyteller and would always make us laugh by telling funny stories about her kids, her husband, or the apartment remodeling."

After the Russian military

See ACCOUNTANT, page 13



Courtesy SE Ranking

**Tatiana Perebeinis**, chief accountant for SE Ranking, a Palo Alto technology company, and her two children were killed by Russian mortar artillery on March 6.

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[7edu.org](https://7edu.org)

(408) 216-9109

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[athenaacademy.org/summer](https://athenaacademy.org/summer)

(650) 543-4560

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[headsupsup.org](https://headsupsup.org)

Emerson: (650) 424-1267  
Hacienda: (925) 485-5750

### Harker Summer Programs

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[harker.org/summer](https://harker.org/summer)

(408) 553-5737

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### Los Altos

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[pinewood.edu/summerprograms](https://pinewood.edu/summerprograms)

### STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research

### Stanford

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[explore.stanford.edu](https://explore.stanford.edu)

[explore-series@stanford.edu](mailto:explore-series@stanford.edu)

### Summer at Sand Hill School

### Palo Alto

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[sandhillschool.org/summer](https://sandhillschool.org/summer)

(650) 688-3605

### Summer@Stratford

### Palo Alto/Bay Area

Stratford infuses its STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) curriculum into an innovative and enriching summer camp experience. Younger campers engage in hands-on learning projects, while elementary-age students collaborate to tackle real-world problems. At the middle school level, individual subject-based enrichment classes are offered and tailored for each grade level.

[stratfordschools.com/summer](https://stratfordschools.com/summer)

[pa@stratfordschools.com](mailto:pa@stratfordschools.com)

(650) 493-1151

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### Palo Alto

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[camp.integem.com](https://camp.integem.com)

(408) 459-0657

### Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls

### Palo Alto

Casti Camp offers girls entering grades 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music. Leadership program available for girls entering grades 7-9.

[castilleja.org/summercamp](https://castilleja.org/summercamp)

(650) 470-7833

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### Sunnyvale

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[sunnyvale.ca.gov/activities](https://sunnyvale.ca.gov/activities)

(408) 730-7350

### Community School of Music & Arts

### Mountain View

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[arts4all.org](https://arts4all.org)

(650) 917-6800 ext. 0

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### Palo Alto

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[hopemusicaltheatre.com](https://hopemusicaltheatre.com)

(650) 568-3332

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### Palo Alto

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[midpenmedia.org/summercamp](https://midpenmedia.org/summercamp)

(650) 494-8686

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### Palo Alto

At J-Camp, we build a spirited community where campers are immersed in joyful camp activities and develop meaningful relationships with others while engaging in individual personal growth. Our exciting day camp offers programming for incoming grades K-10.

[ofjcc-jcamp.com](https://ofjcc-jcamp.com)

(650) 223-8622

### Riekes Center

### Bay Area

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[riekes.org/summercamps2022](https://riekes.org/summercamps2022)

(650) 364-2509

### Stanford Jazz Workshop

### Stanford

Stanford Jazz Workshop on campus of Stanford University. Week-long jazz immersion programs for young musicians in middle school (Giant Steps Day Camp, starts July 5), high school (Jazz Camp, July 10 and July 17), and adults/advanced teens (Jazz Institute, July 24). All instruments and vocals. Jazz Camp tuition reduced by 1/3 for our 50th Anniversary Season!

[stanfordjazz.org](https://stanfordjazz.org)

(650) 736-0324

### TheatreWorks Silicon Valley

### Atherton, Palo Alto

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[theatreworks.org/education](https://theatreworks.org/education)

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## ATHLETICS

### Bald Eagle Sports Camps

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[baldeaglecamps.com](https://baldeaglecamps.com)

(888) 505-BALD

### Dance Connection Palo Alto

### Palo Alto

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[danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps](https://danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps)

(650) 322-7032

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[dsclosaltos.com](https://dsclosaltos.com)

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[kimgranttennis.com](https://kimgranttennis.com)

Text: (650) 690-0678

Call: (650) 752-8061

### Maccabi Sports Camp

### Atherton

Maccabi Sports Camp is an overnight Jewish sports camp. We welcome campers entering grades 3-11 with programs dedicated to building strong character and Jewish community through sports.

[maccabisportscamp.org/wp](https://maccabisportscamp.org/wp)

(415) 997-8844

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### Stanford

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[campcardinal.org](https://campcardinal.org)

[campcardinal@stanford.edu](mailto:campcardinal@stanford.edu)

### Stanford Baseball Camps

### Stanford

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[stanfordbaseballcamp.com](https://stanfordbaseballcamp.com)

(650) 725-2054

### Stanford Water Polo Camps

### Stanford

Whether you're new to water polo or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or full day options for boys and girls ages 7 and up. All camps provide fundamental skills, scrimmages and games.

[stanfordwaterpolocamps.com](https://stanfordwaterpolocamps.com)

(650) 725-9016

Please check directly with camps for updates and remote offerings. To advertise in print and online, call (650) 326-8210.



Magali Gauthier

**Olga Nolasco** stands in a bedroom of her home in East Palo Alto, which is still under construction after being damaged by fire.

## Still trying to get back home

After losing her home to a fire, East Palo Alto mother faced endless obstacles in quest to rebuild

By Sue Dremann

Each day as Olga Nolasco diligently cleans the homes of her Palo Alto clients, she goes from room to well-appointed room, dusting and mopping and earning a few more dollars that she hopes will bring her closer to moving back into her own house.

Nolasco, 56, fled from her burning home in East Palo

Alto six years ago, losing the residence where she lived with her aging mother, son and daughter-in-law and their baby. The fire broke out in a faulty heater in the 1-year-old child's bedroom and spread throughout the house, she recalled.

Since the day of the fire, Dec. 9, 2015, Nolasco has faced daunting challenges: A contractor absconded with \$40,000; she had to

declare bankruptcy; mortgage and insurance companies wouldn't free up money; going through the East Palo Alto planning process; eviction from the place in the East Bay that she shared with her mother and her daughter's family.

And a heart attack from all of the stress.

Now her daughter, Janet

See **HOME**, page 10

## San Mateo County mass-testing center to shut down

As the COVID-19 surge wanes, San Mateo and Santa Clara county officials seek to reduce some services while keeping an eye out for future outbreaks

By Sue Dremann

A sharp decline in COVID-19 cases is causing Santa Clara and San Mateo counties to adjust how they are handling the pandemic, reducing testing sites and closing some isolation shelters used to house homeless residents during the outbreaks.

Health officials in San Mateo County plan to close the COVID-19 testing site at the San Mateo County Event Center early next week, they told the county Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, March 8.

The drive-thru center will shut down after March 15, San Mateo County Health Chief Louise Rogers said. The center isn't considered essential at this point, since virus case rates have declined by 96% since the peak of the latest surge on Jan. 8. Of all county residents, 83% are now fully vaccinated.

Rogers thanked the event center's leadership and staff for their cooperation.

"We just could not have mobilized at the level we did without their partnership," she said.

The county will continue to sponsor vaccine clinics in East Palo Alto, Redwood City, San Mateo, Half Moon Bay, Day City and South San Francisco, said Dr. Anand Chabra, San Mateo County Health's COVID-19 mass vaccination section chief.

As of March 6, 89% of all county residents have received

at least one dose of the vaccine. The clinics will continue to target communities where vaccinations have been the lowest: 68% of Black residents, 79% of Hispanics, 66% of Pacific Islanders and 66%

of children ages 5 to 11 years old have received one shot of the vaccine, he said.

"Our message that it's not too late to be vaccinated and to get a booster remains relevant, as vaccination is the most important action that every eligible resident can take to protect themselves from the risks of severe disease or death," he said.

The county also is pulling back on contact tracing and will focus on high-risk populations such as residents of congregate-care

**'On a community level, omicron was much, much worse than delta.'**

DR. SARA CODY,  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
HEALTH OFFICER

See **TESTING CENTER**, page 9

## With reluctance, Menlo Park approves El Camino Real street development near Stanford's Middle Plaza project

Some council members shared concerns that they were cornered into making a quick decision

By Lloyd Lee

After a muddled second round of talks on street development for a portion of El Camino Real near the Middle Plaza project, Menlo Park City Council came full circle from its last meeting on March 1 and voted Tuesday to accept the city staff's initial proposal to install a 2-foot wide median between Middle and College avenues by removing

eight parking spaces around 401 to 441 El Camino Real.

City Council voted 3-2 at its March 8 meeting, with Cecilia Taylor reversing her "no" vote from March 1. Ray Mueller and Drew Combs were opposed.

The decision will also remove street parking by Stanford University's Middle Plaza — a new 429,739 square-foot development — and The Stanford Park Hotel, from 700 El Camino Real to the Menlo Park-Palo Alto city

limit. Part of the rationale is that Stanford's development will provide ample on-site parking, and by removing the existing street parking, the city can consider adding a buffered bike lane in the future.

Perhaps one of the main roadblocks to the changes, however, was the eight parking spaces in front of the businesses between 401 to 441 El Camino Real, including Menlo Velo Bicycles, a UPS store, Level Lux Salon and

Namesake Cheesecake.

In the March 1 meeting, City Council members hoped to find a solution that didn't eliminate those spaces. A few business owners have said they were crucial for customers who want to make quick stops close to the storefronts.

"Taking these parking spots away would be detrimental to my walk-ins, to my curbside pick-ups, to my senior citizens," Cherith Spicer, owner of

Namesake Cheesecake, said in a brief interview.

City staff members tried to allay these concerns by proposing a one-hour time limit for residential parking spots on College Avenue that can fit about seven cars, 150 to 250 feet away from the businesses, which was approved with Tuesday's decision. The logic is that, with time restrictions, vehicles will

See **EL CAMINO**, page 20

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A Community for LGBTQ Older Adults



With support from the County of Santa Clara, Office of LGBTQ Affairs.

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The Almanac

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Established 1965

## The Almanac

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The Almanac (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County. The Almanac is delivered to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to [AlmanacNews.com/subscribe](http://AlmanacNews.com/subscribe) to start supporting The Almanac today.

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### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### MPCSD fundraiser for therapy dogs, mental health supports in schools

The Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation (MPAEF) has launched a \$100,000 Fund-a-Need drive to support the Menlo Park City School District's mental health programs across all four district schools.

Last year, the Fund-a-Need drive raised nearly \$95,000, including for the creation of the Hillview Wellness Center and Calming Corners, a designated space within a classroom to help support self-regulation, in every K-5 classroom.

This year's campaign funds will go toward an emotional support dog at each school site, continuing the wellness center next school year, free mental health support for all district families, and continued social and emotional training for over 400 district staff members.

The campaign coincides with the MPAEF's annual online auction. The auction, which includes over 150 items, opens at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 16, and ends at 9 p.m. on Monday, March 21.

Go to [biddingforgood.com/MPAEFSpringAuction](http://biddingforgood.com/MPAEFSpringAuction) for more information.

#### Transitional kindergarten registration opens

Registration is open for the Menlo Park City School District's pilot transitional kindergarten (TK) program in fall 2022.

The district will offer half-day slots, with morning and afternoon sessions, for children turning 5 before Feb. 2, 2023, according to staff.

The district is partnering with the Early Learning Center, to offer fee-based options for extended, early and late care for families that need full-day care for their children, according to a district press release.

It will cost the district about \$1 million to offer TK in its first year and \$800,000 each year thereafter, according to the release. Enrollment in TK is optional.

More information can be found online at [district.mpcsd.org/Page/2630](http://district.mpcsd.org/Page/2630).

#### Ravenswood summer programming

The Ravenswood City School District will partner with the Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula to offer a free four-week, full-day summer program to K-8 students who live in the district.

The program runs June 27 to July 22, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For rising kindergarteners through fifth graders, the morning will have academically-focused enrichment. Rising sixth to eighth graders will have a choice of different enrichment classes (like dancing and coding) with local organizations. All grades will spend the afternoon doing hands-on enrichment and outdoor activities.

Programs for younger children will be held at Belle Haven or CostaOo schools, while older children will be at the Los Robles-Ronald McNair campus.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided to all students at no cost.

For more information, go to [ravenswoodschoools.org](http://ravenswoodschoools.org) and click on "summer" in the "students & families" menu.

#### Sacred Heart teacher to play in world lacrosse championship

Liz Hogan, a physical education teacher and coach at Sacred Hearts Schools, Atherton, has been named to the U.S. Women's National Team roster to play in this summer's World Lacrosse Women's World Championship, according to a press release from the school.

This will be Hogan's first world championship. Hogan, a goalkeeper for the team, joined the team in 2012 and nearly made the final 18-member championship roster twice before, the release states.

"Honestly, it feels pretty surreal," Hogan said in a statement. "I've been working at making this team for almost 14 years now; to finally hear that I made it is pretty wild."

Hogan is also the Lower and Middle School's associate dean of students, a sixth grade advisory teacher, and coaches five sports at the school.

The U.S. has won eight of 10 world women's world lacrosse championships.



Liz Hogan

— Angela Swartz

# \$50 million construction project kicks off at Ravenswood middle school

By Angela Swartz

At the back of Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School's campus are 30-year-old portables, which have been in use far longer than intended. The buildings are juxtaposed by the pristine-looking lawn of the neighboring Rich May Memorial Field.

The "stark contrast" between the field and the campus make clear how much the school needs updates, said Ravenswood City School District Chief Business Officer Will Eger. That's why last month, construction began on the \$50 million project, expected to last a year and a half, which aims to bring the East Palo Alto school facilities up to modern standards, with air conditioning and flexible working spaces for students.

It is the single largest new capital project in Ravenswood's history, and calls for two new buildings at the front of the 2450 Ralmar Ave. campus. Half the school is open to its 567 students during construction, which is expected to be completed in December 2023.

The district's first two-story building will include seven classrooms and a media center that looks out onto two courtyards.

The second, a one-story building, will create a single point of entry for the school. It will include four new classrooms as well as a new cluster of student service offices for students to meet with various support staff. The plan also calls for renovating all remaining classrooms.

"It's a more cohesive, unified design," said Chris Bradley, a

senior associate partner with SVA-Architects, who helped design the school.

When the middle school opened in 2017, it shared the campus with Cesar Chavez Academy. The 2019-20 school year marked the first year that the school operated as only one entity, exclusively serving sixth through eighth grade.

The project, initiated by the school board's facilities committee in 2015, is funded through the \$70 million Measure S bond passed by voters in 2018.

The school district is also partnering with Palo Alto's Magical Bridge Foundation to build a playground at the middle school site. The non-profit creates and develops playgrounds for people of all abilities. ▀

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).



Magali Gauthier

**A construction crew** works on campus at Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School in East Palo Alto on March 2. A major project to upgrade the school to modern standards kicked off last month.



Magali Gauthier

**Superintendent Gina Sudaria** of the Ravenswood City Elementary School District describes the changes being made to the campus on March 2.



Courtesy Ravenswood City School District

**A rendering** of the future Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School. The new design will showcase an existing mural at the East Palo Alto school.

## County supervisors OK hiring incentives in quest to fill vacancies

By Astrid Casimire/  
Bay City News Service

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, March 8, approved new hire bonuses and other incentives to attract candidates as the county seeks to fill job vacancies.

County departments have increased recruitments, but the county is receiving few job applications following a hiring freeze that began in 2020 and ended last year.

Human resources director Rocio Kiryczun told the board that the situation is not exclusive to the county.

"We have all read and heard about the 'great resignation,'" Kiryczun said. "Nationwide and locally, there has been an uptick in workers leaving their jobs. They're reevaluating their situation in the ever-changing environment experienced during the pandemic."

Despite the county's recruitment efforts, its vacancies and turnover rates are higher than normal. The county's vacancy rate this year is 13% compared to the usual 10%. And turnover rates are at 11% this year so far, compared to 7% last year.

Kiryczun added that the turnover rate will likely increase as people retire.

Some of the hardest-to-fill positions have been in the law enforcement and health departments, for roles such as social workers, nurses, doctors and sheriff's deputies.

County spokesperson Michelle Durand said in a statement that while the current job vacancies are not impacting the county's operations right now, departments are using more extra help and overtime hours.

"The use of overtime does however place an additional burden on employees and is not sustainable long term," Durand said. "As the hiring and training for new hires takes time, the county is looking at ways to fill

vacancies as soon as possible so we don't see a future impact to the service delivery."

The board approved three recommendations to attract candidates for its hard-to-fill positions.

First, new employees hired for these positions would receive advanced benefits, such as 40 vacation hours and up to 80 hours of sick leave, up from the previous 48 hours of sick leave. They may also be able to accrue vacation hours at an advanced rate depending on past work experience.

Second, a pilot program would provide a hiring bonus of up to \$30,000 for people hired as sheriff's deputies and nurses or

up to \$15,000 for deputy sheriff trainee and correctional officer positions. The bonus would be split into several payments, with an initial payment upon starting and the rest paid over three years pending ongoing employment.

Current county employees would receive a \$1,000 award for referring a candidate that is successfully hired in a hard-to-fill position and who completes probation. This is an increase in the previous referral award of \$500.

The cost of these programs will be covered by the respective departments.

See **HIRING INCENTIVES**, page 18

# Executive director of Kepler's popular speaker series is stepping down

Under Jean Forstner, Kepler's nonprofit arm became known for hosting cultural icons and social justice leaders

By Lloyd Lee

After leading the independent bookstore's nonprofit arm for five years, overseeing a speaker series that became known for hosting popular and renowned cultural figures, Jean Forstner will step down as executive director of Kepler's Literary Foundation.

Forstner is set to leave this month, though she couldn't speak on an exact exit date. In an interview, the executive director said she'll be taking a break after guiding the organization through a pandemic for the past two years.

"I have a great deal of pride in what we've done," Forstner said. "And at two years into the pandemic, and with hopefully things opening up in a different way, it's really time to hand it over to somebody else who wants to take it in the next phase."

Forstner spearheaded Kepler's Literary Foundation, or KLF,

since its inception in 2017.

Under her leadership, the nonprofit hosted a highly popular speaker series on the Peninsula that would see a diverse lineup of guests, from Justice Sonia Sotomayor to youth author Rick Riordan, and over 100,000 attendees in the past five years. The events carried on during the pandemic online.

Before the founding of KLF, Forstner helped establish the Ravenswood Literacy Project, which donated about 5,000 books to over 15,000 students in the Ravenswood School District. The project also brought popular youth authors to campus. Dan Gilbert, chair of the KLF Board, credited Forstner for leading the program.

"What really made the program unique is that we gave the schools 20, 30, 40 copies of a book so that it could really be dispersed among the schools," Forstner said.

Forstner joined Kepler's in 2007 as a community volunteer,

developing programs that partnered with local libraries, schools and other nonprofits.

In 2012, as the director of community relations, Forstner was part of the team that mapped out Kepler's future as the bookstore faced another major existential threat when owner Clark Kepler announced his retirement.

Praveen Madan, who had just joined Kepler's as its "community engagement officer" and restructured operations, envisioned a hybrid business, part for-profit and part nonprofit.

Kepler's first established Peninsula Arts & Letters, which was fiscally sponsored by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, before KLF applied for its own nonprofit status.

Soon, Kepler's bookstore was set up as a social purpose corporation, while KLF would act as a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit arm responsible for community programs and events, with Forstner as its executive director.



Daniella Sanchez

Jean Forstner, who first joined Kepler's in 2007, is stepping down after leading the bookstore's nonprofit organization since 2017.

At the time, the nonprofit had an annual budget of about \$500,000 and a staff of about five people, Forstner told *The Almanac* in 2017.

KLF maintained its community programs during the pandemic, including its popular speaker series. Forstner said guiding the nonprofit through a pandemic was a challenge but found that some of the programs may have worked better online than in person, such as the literary seminar program led by Kimberly Ford. By hosting the sessions online, attendance has

increased from around 25 to 30 people per session to around 100, she said.

Though she's stepping down from KLF, Forstner said she hopes to continue to be involved in community organizations. Climate is a topic at the top of her list.

"We really aim to sustain the momentum that Jean has built over the course of the past, let's call it 10 years or more, with Kepler's, and continue to produce terrific events for our customers in the community at large," Gilbert said. ▀

**TOWN OF WOODSIDE  
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
MARCH 16, 2022 6:00 PM**

PURSUANT TO WOODSIDE TOWN RESOLUTION NO. 2022-7468, PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AS HYBRID MEETINGS WITH THE OPTION TO ATTEND BY TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO CONFERENCE OR IN PERSON. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT WISH TO ATTEND AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING MAY DO SO IN PERSON OR BY JOINING THE ZOOM MEETING [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/86068472736](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736) PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED BOTH IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM MEETING. ANY EMAILS SENT TO [SHARPER@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG](mailto:sharper@woodsidetown.org) WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

IN THE EVENT THAT ANY MEMBER OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION PARTICIPATES IN A MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE OR VIDEO CONFERENCE, PURSUANT TO THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT, GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953, ALL VOTES OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION SHALL BE BY ROLL CALL.

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**Meeting ID:** 860 6847 2736

**Weblink:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736>

**Remote Public Comments:**

Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. The following email will be monitored during the meeting and public comments received will be read into the record.

**Email:** [sharper@woodsidetown.org](mailto:sharper@woodsidetown.org)

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**2. Town-wide**

GPAM2022-0001

Housing Element, Cycle 6 (2023-2031)

Jackie Young, Planning Director

Review of the Cycle 6 (2023-2031) RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Assessment) allocation (328 units) for Woodside, Cycle 6 single-family residence and ADU production projections, pipeline projects (single-family residences, ADUs and land divisions), and rezoning to increase density (minimum 20 units per acre) outreach for multi-family and/or student/faculty projects required to plan for this allocation.

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING JACKIE YOUNG AT [JYOUNG@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG](mailto:JYOUNG@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG)

## Two years of COVID: Poll seeks to gauge readers' experiences

As we approach the two-year mark since the World Health Organization officially declared the coronavirus pandemic, we're conducting a survey to assess the community's experiences, attitudes and opinions of living under COVID-19 since 2020 and people's vision of the future.

Many of us have become acclimated to new routines, from wearing masks in public to working from home to meeting virtually. The pandemic has led to deeper risk assessments for situations that we previously didn't think twice about, from a personal level ("Could my cough be a symptom of COVID-19?") to the bureaucratic ("Should we

institute a vaccine policy?").

Never in recent history has public health been at the forefront of local, national and global conversations.

The past 12 months brought increased vaccine availability, a revolving door of reopening plans and the spread of variants. But questions remain over when the pandemic will end and whether we're transitioning to an endemic phase.

We invite you to take the survey, which is available below and can also be found at [tinyurl.com/MPsurvey2](https://tinyurl.com/MPsurvey2), through March 13. We'll be sharing the results in a story on March 18. ▀

—*Almanac staff*

### 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](https://tinyurl.com/COVIDvaccinequestions). Have a question? Send it to [editor@paweb.com](mailto:editor@paweb.com) and we'll do our best to answer it.

# Woodside, Menlo Park school districts to drop their indoor mask mandates

By Angela Swartz

Woodside Elementary School and Menlo Park City School District (MPCSD) teachers and students will no longer be required to wear masks to class come March 14.

The Woodside district announced in an email to families on March 4, that it will follow state guidelines lifting the requirement to wear a face mask inside schools at the end of the day on Friday, March 11. Masks will continue to be recommended in local classrooms.

“No one should make assumptions regarding someone’s beliefs or health status based upon their choice to wear or not

wear a mask, nor should they comment on them,” Superintendent Steve Frank said.

The MPCSD’s Board of Trustees unanimously voted on Tuesday, March 8, to lift the district’s indoor mask mandate next week.

The Woodside and Menlo Park City districts join the neighboring Portola Valley School District, which opted earlier last week to drop its mask mandate on March 14.

The Sequoia Union High, Ravenswood City and Las Lomitas school districts were still mulling whether they’ll follow the state guidance as of The Almanac’s Wednesday press deadline.

The roughly 365-student Woodside district has seen 89

COVID-19 cases among students and staff since the beginning of this school year. There was just one case reported to the school last week.

Frank noted that with the help of a robust contact tracing program, it was firmly determined that all but two cases were acquired outside of school.

“The remaining two cases remain uncertain,” he said. “The point of sharing this data is to clearly show the effectiveness of mask-wearing in combating the spread of COVID in schools.”

According to research cited by the state health department, the masking requirement in California schools has allowed them to keep schools open when compared to other parts

of the country.

California accounts for roughly 12% of all U.S. students but accounted for only 1% of COVID-19 related school closures during the omicron surge. Nationally during the delta surge in July and August 2021, jurisdictions without mask requirements in schools experienced larger increases in pediatric case rates, and school outbreaks were 3.5 times more likely there.

“The change in masking guidance reflects CDPH (California Department of Public Health)’s approach to rolling back safety measures now that COVID-19 conditions have improved across the state,” he said. “According to CDPH, these decisions are based

on science and data, including case and hospitalization rates. As conditions continue to improve, CDPH will move to less restrictive guidance. If the state experiences another spike, then CDPH could pivot back to requiring masks in schools and elsewhere.”

In San Mateo County, cases have fallen 54% over the last two weeks, with an average of 104 cases per day as of Tuesday, March 8, according to county data. Hospitalizations were also down 28% over the last two weeks. The county has roughly 760,000 residents. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).

## TESTING CENTER

continued from page 5

facilities, shelters and jails.

Rogers noted that hospitalizations also continue on a downward trend, and there are only two residents in “safe isolation” in motels or other locations that are sheltering homeless people who test positive for the virus.

But while the county might be winding down its larger-scale response to the pandemic, officials are still keeping a close eye on the situation in the event there is another surge.

Santa Clara County plans to maintain its mass testing and vaccination infrastructure while developing a nimble model that will allow it to scale up or down as demand changes, Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody told the Board of Supervisors, also on Tuesday. The county will continue to maintain overall preparedness and outbreak-response programs.

“While our cases are still declining the rate of decline does appear to be slowing just a little bit,” she said.

The county has achieved an 84.9% vaccination rate for all residents, and 68.8% of eligible residents have received boosters, according to the county’s COVID-19 online dashboard.

“We saw more cases — many more cases — during the omicron surge than at any previous surge, and this was the case even in our very highly vaccinated population. This was in large part due to the incredible transmissibility of omicron,” she said.

She noted that the county saw a rise in the number of deaths from the omicron variant outbreak. At the peak in late January, 46 residents died in a week compared to 26 during the

delta surge, according to county dashboard data. Although on an individual basis the cases were milder, the sheer numbers of cases on a community level caused by omicron were such that even a small proportion of serious illnesses resulted in a higher number of deaths, she said.

“We must continue to think about our community and not just individuals. On a community level, omicron was much, much worse than delta,” she said.

Cody said the county is preparing for future surges. Officials are strengthening the public health system through continuing disease surveillance, engaging with the community and working with health care providers and the public to prepare for other emerging variants. The county is also focusing on health equity and outreach to underserved communities, which have been hit hardest by the virus.

How Santa Clara County will track the virus and understand new surges and variants also is changing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has shifted its focus on the outcome of the virus, such as hospitalization rates — a “community level” model — rather than the amount of transmission, she said. The data from this model lags, however, and makes identifying warning signs of surges slower, she said.

As more people have shifted to home testing, the county needs to rely on other systems to understand transmissibility, she said. County health officials continue to surveil DNA from the virus and its variants found in wastewater. The wastewater surveillance program, which began in fall 2020,

has been a reliable source of information about where outbreaks are occurring and how the spread is trending, she said.

The county also is ending its at-home and financial assistance program referrals, no longer taking in new clients. It expects to process all pending requests by April 30 and release 80% of staff to their regular jobs by May 1. They’ll reduce the current two leased

hotels used for isolation cases to one by March 15 and begin to prioritize placements to unhoused people coming from congregate-care settings and hospitalizations. A program will be put in place to transition people to other supportive services.

Supervisor Mike Wasserman asked staff to develop a “playbook” for handling COVID-19 based on lessons

learned during the past two years of the pandemic that relate to infrastructure, testing and vaccinations.

“Another virus may come to town and be the next COVID,” he said.

County administrators plan to bring a summary before the board at a future date. ■

Email Sue Dremann at [sdremann@paweekly.com](mailto:sdremann@paweekly.com).



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# Former Palo Alto VA chief of cardiology pleads guilty to sexual battery

A former chief of cardiology at the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System pleaded guilty on March 8, to one felony count of abusive sexual contact, a spokesperson for the Department of Justice, Northern District of California announced.

Atherton resident John Giacomini, 73, subjected a subordinate

to unwanted sexual advances over a period of time beginning in the fall of 2017, which the DOJ said culminated on Dec. 20, 2017, when he turned out the lights in a room, pulled her from a chair, released the drawstring of her scrubs and fondled her breasts and other intimate areas. A janitor opened the door and

interrupted the contact, prosecutors said.

The woman had “explicitly” told Giacomini on Nov. 10, 2017 that she was not interested in a romantic or sexual relationship with him, prosecutors said. She later resigned from her job, prosecutors said, citing the cardiologist’s behavior as her

principal reason for leaving.

Giacomini had previously held a faculty position at the Stanford University School of Medicine. He was a federal employee for more than 30 years and had undergone training on preventing workplace sexual harassment and sexual harassment, prosecutors said.

Giacomini was indicted in 2020. His sentencing is scheduled for July 12. He faces a maximum sentence of two years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, restitution, supervised release and assessment, according to the DOJ. ■

—Bay City News Service

## HOME

continued from page 5

Macedo-Campos, has organized a GoFundMe page to raise money to help her mother finish rebuilding her home.

“My mother is a hard-working single mother of six. She has been praying for this nightmare to end, but there have been so many obstacles to get this home rebuilt and move-in ready,” Macedo-Campos said.

Nolasco has owned and operated her own business, Olga’s Housecleaning, for 28 years. She purchased her Saratoga Avenue home from her parents. Before the fire, the home was the gathering place for her family — a place filled with memories and pets and the pride of home ownership after decades of hard work, she said.

After the fire, Nolasco and her 79-year-old mother, Mariana, lived with Janet and her family in a rented home where they shared a bedroom and the garage.

“I got used to hearing the rats where I was staying in the garage. They had the little babies. I tried to ignore them



Magali Gauthier

The kitchen is still under renovation in Olga Nolasco’s home.

when I would read,” she said.

When the landlord decided to sell the home, the family was evicted. Nolasco and her mother lived in motel rooms and bounced from family member to family member. Janet and her family also had no home and moved in with Janet’s father.

One day, Nolasco felt a pressure in her chest. It was difficult to breathe. Thinking she had COVID-19, she went

to the hospital emergency room. Instead, the physician informed her that she’d had a heart attack.

“The doctor said, ‘You were so lucky. You were dying,’ she recalled.

When asked what had caused her so much stress, Nolasco told the doctor about the difficulties she faced with her house.

“Don’t think about your house. Think about your life,”

the doctor said.

Since her heart trouble, Nolasco said she’s also lost some of the vision in her left eye due to high blood pressure. As she spoke on the phone recently, Nolasco said she is being treated for eye bleeding and inflammation.

COVID-19 has also caused a decline in house-cleaning jobs, which has resulted in less income. Some of her clients, knowing her situation, have given her extra pay to help pay her rent, she said.

While she tries to save money to complete repairs on her home, Nolasco said she’s had to pay additional costs, fees and contractor estimates, and several thousand dollars to an attorney. She’s also needed a storage unit for some of the belongings that didn’t burn, she said. Initially she thought rebuilding her home would take a year; now it’s been six.

Three years ago, she hired another contractor after the first one skipped out with her money. The new contractor was working diligently, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, the work halted. In the last few months, he has returned to the project and is trying to complete it. But now he is running out of money.

Nolasco said she also has little to no money left. She needs to fund the upper kitchen cabinets, bathroom fixtures — four sinks and three toilets — lighting throughout

the house, upgrade a gas chimney, buy and paint the home’s exterior, build backyard decks, construct the front yard railing and get a new fence. There’s also the need for new furniture. Then, there’s also the piles of construction debris and the costs to remove it.

The price tag is as high as \$60,000.

Meanwhile, as the house sits empty, it remains vulnerable. Someone came and stole all of her landscaping plants, she said.

Macedo-Campos said she hopes her mother and grandmother can soon return to the home they love, find stability and live without constant worry.

“My mother is working tirelessly trying to come up with funds to get her foot back in the door and sleep in her bedroom. She doesn’t care that there will be no furnishings, she just wants to go home,” Macedo-Campos said.

“All I want is to see my mother happy again, living in her home, dancing while cooking and singing to her vegetables growing in the garden,” she said.

Anyone who wants to help Nolasco complete her home can find more information at [tinyurl.com/gfm-olga](http://tinyurl.com/gfm-olga). ■

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at [sdremann@paweekly.com](mailto:sdremann@paweekly.com).



## NOTICE OF ORDINANCE PROPOSED ADOPTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ATHERTON

The City Council of the Town of Atherton, at its meeting of **March 16, 2022**, will consider the adoption of an Ordinance of the City Council of the Town of Atherton, State of California, repealing and replacing in its entirety Chapter 8.56 Disposable Food Service Ware to the Atherton Municipal Code.

This meeting is being held via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e)(1)(B) and in compliance with the Brown Act. Section 54953(e)(1)(B) permits the Town to hold a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency via teleconference in order to determine whether as a result of the emergency meeting in person would present an imminent risk to attendees’ health or safety. The meeting will be held by tele or video conferencing. The public may participate in the City Council Meeting via:

### Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/506897786>

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

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### Remote Public Comments:

Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. The following email will be monitored during the meeting and public comments received will be read into the record.

Email: [asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us)

**Description:** The purpose of the amendment is related to disposable food service ware regulations in Town and practices are set to be fully compliant with State and County regulations. A copy of the City Council staff report and draft ordinance can be found online, by Friday March 11, 2022 here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/Archive.aspx?AMID=41>

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that said ordinance is set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on **March 16, 2022, at 6:00 PM** via teleconference accessible through the above-described information, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the amendments should or should not be approved.

If you have any questions on the item please contact Anthony Suber, City Clerk, at [asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us) or 650-752-0529. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the City Clerk’s Office Building Division at (650) 752-0529 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Date Published: March 4, 2022

Date Posted: March 4, 2022

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL  
/s/ Anthony Suber  
Anthony Suber, City Clerk



## NOTICE INVITING BIDS TOWN OF ATHERTON, CA

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

### 2022 SPRING PATCHING PROJECT

Grind and replace approximately 35,000 square feet of asphalt to a 6-inch depth of pavement failures. Some hand work around utility access-hole covers will be necessary.

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

SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, California 94027, **until 1:30 p.m.** Pacific Standard Time on **Tuesday, March 29, 2022**, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids must be for the entire work and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: “Bid of (Contractor) for **2022 SPRING PATCHING PROJECT**”, along with date and time of bid opening.

# Sereno Welcomes Menlo Park Office Founding Agents



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DRE 01380340

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### **Samira Amid-Hozour**

650.868.1577  
[samiraandsue.com](https://samiraandsue.com)  
DRE 01445386

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### **Kristin Cashin**

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DRE 01438764

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### **Nathalie de Saint Andrieu**

650.804.9696  
[nsahomes.com](https://nsahomes.com)  
DRE 01351482

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# A defiant pep talk, a gas rebate in Gov. Newsom's State of the State

By Alexi Koseff/CalMatters

Even as the coronavirus pandemic finally appears to be receding, Californians are in a funk.

They are nearly evenly split on whether the state is headed in the right direction, according to a survey released last month by the Public Policy Institute of California, and gave poor marks to Gov. Gavin Newsom on almost every policy issue, from wildfires to crime to homelessness, in another poll published a few weeks later by the UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies.

So on Tuesday evening, March 8, Newsom turned his annual State of the State address into a defiant pep talk, assuring wary residents that, in a world unmoored by autocratic leaders and attacks on voting and abortion rights, the "California way" is still a beacon.

"People have always looked to California for inspiration," he said. "Now, in the midst of so much turmoil, with the stacking of stresses and dramatic social and economic change, California is doing what we have done for generations: lighting out the territory ahead of the rest,

expanding the horizon of what's possible."

Newsom touted better job creation and lower coronavirus death rates than other states, an ongoing expansion of pre-kindergarten to all four-year-olds and billions of dollars in additional funding for homelessness services during his administration.

But there's only so much comfort to be found in troubled times.

## 'The California way means rejecting old binaries and finding new solutions to big problems.'

GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM

In an 18-minute speech — uncharacteristically brief for Newsom — the governor could not entirely ignore the unfolding war in Ukraine, which he noted at the top of his remarks mattered far more to most people than anything he had to say, or looming challenges such as rising public anxiety over crime.

The only new policy

announcement came during an acknowledgment of spiraling gas prices, which have recently surpassed an average of \$5 per gallon in California.

After previously calling in January to pause the annual increase to the state gas tax scheduled for July, Newsom pledged to work with legislative leadership on a plan for a tax rebate for drivers.

"Now it's clear we have to go farther," he said, though he rejected calls from the oil industry and some lawmakers to ramp up oil drilling in the state.

The governor provided no further details about who would receive financial relief or how much. At a post-event press conference, Dee Dee Myers, the governor's top economic adviser, said the plan, which is not yet complete, would likely distribute billions of dollars to California residents who had registered their cars with the state.

"We want to make sure that the money gets into the hands and pockets of the people who are paying these gas prices, and not into the hands of companies who might take advantage of a moment to increase profits," she said.

The speech in the auditorium of



Courtesy Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

**Gov. Gavin Newsom** speaks during his State of the State speech in Sacramento on March 8.

the California Natural Resources Agency, where Newsom unveiled his budget proposal in January, was a far cry from last year's kickoff of his recall defense at Dodger Stadium — or even the usual pomp and circumstance of an annual event that is typically held in the majestic Assembly chamber at the state Capitol.

A bipartisan phalanx of

legislators and other state officials filled the auditorium, which had been lightly decorated for the occasion with live plants onstage — native California species, naturally. Attendees were required to show proof of vaccination and test negative for COVID, but with a statewide indoor mask requirement recently dropped, face coverings were sparse.

Republicans, before and after the event, put out a series of videos and statements on the "real state of the state," slamming Newsom and fellow Democrats for policies that they said had made California unsafe and unaffordable.

Seeming to anticipate those criticisms, Newsom nodded a handful of times to the issues that voters have consistently ranked as the most pressing in the state, including homelessness and public safety. He touted his commitment to violence-prevention programs and a recent proposal to establish county mental health courts, among other solutions that he said would not repeat the failures of the past.

But his focus was largely on the grander scheme. He repeatedly

See **NEWSOM**, page 18

## Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

Aktive hoMes  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 290155  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
Aktive hoMes, located at 533 Airport Blvd. Suite 400, Burlingame, CA 94010, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
ANNE KAREN MANNING  
555 Bryant St. #451  
Palo Alto, CA 94301  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/10/2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 4, 2022.  
(ALM Feb. 18, 25; Mar. 4, 11, 2022)

MENLO ROTARY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 290190  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Menlo Rotary Community Foundation, located at 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County; Mailing address: P.O. Box 876, Menlo Park, California 94026.  
Registered owner(s):  
ROTARY CLUB OF MENLO PARK FOUNDATION  
75 Arbor Road  
Menlo Park, California 94025  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 9, 2022.  
(ALM Feb. 18, 25; Mar. 4, 11, 2022)

MENLO PARK DESIGN DISTRICT  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 290149  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Menlo Park Design District, located at 800

Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
MENLO DESIGN DISTRICT, INC.  
800 Santa Cruz Ave.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
California  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on February 1, 2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 4, 2022.  
(ALM Feb. 18, 25; Mar. 4, 11, 2022)

JMFINLEY PROPERTIES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 290249  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
JMFinley Properties, located at 1172 La Rochelle Terrace E, Sunnyvale, CA 94089, Santa Clara County.  
Registered owner(s):  
JAY M. FINLEY  
1172 La Rochelle Terrace E  
Sunnyvale, CA 94089  
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 February 15, 2022.  
(ALM Feb. 25; Mar. 4, 11, 18, 2022)

TRUSHIELDS ADVISORY  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 290228  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
TruShields Advisory, located at 50 Escuela Dr. Apt. 22, Daly City, CA 94015, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 447 Sutter St Ste 405 PMB 70, San Francisco, CA 94108.  
Registered owner(s):  
SHERYLL CAGASCA  
50 Escuela Dr. Apt. 22  
Daly City, CA 94015  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact

business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/5/2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 11, 2022.  
(ALM Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

PENINSULA HOME NETWORK PROS  
HILLSBOROUGH HOME NETWORK PROS  
PORTOLA VALLEY HOME NETWORK PROS  
ATHERTON HOME NETWORK PROS  
WOODSIDE HOME NETWORK PROS  
HOME NETWORK PROS  
MENLO PARK HOME NETWORK PROS  
PALO ALTO HOME NETWORK PROS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 290325

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Peninsula Home Network Pros, 2.) Hillsborough Home Network Pros, 3.) Portola Valley Home Network Pros, 4.) Atherton Home Network Pros, 5.) Woodside Home Network Pros, 6.) Home Network Pros, 7.) Menlo Park Home Network Pros, 8.) Palo Alto Home Network Pros, located at 597 Morse Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94085, Santa Clara County.  
Registered owner(s):  
CorePoint360 LLC  
597 Morse Ave.  
Sunnyvale, CA 94085  
California Article Reg. #201310710175  
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 23, 2022.  
(ALM Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

SMILES MOBILE REMITTANCE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 290382  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Smiles Mobile Remittance, located at 1299 Bayshore Highway, Ste., 200, Burlingame, CA 94010, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
DIGITAL WALLET US LLC

1299 Bayshore Highway, Ste., 200  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
Texas  
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 1, 2022.  
(ALM Mar. 11, 18, 25; Apr. 1, 2022)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
File No. 289476  
The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.  
Registered Owner(s) abandoning the use of the fictitious business name(s):  
CABLE JUSTICE, INC.  
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):  
Cable Justice, Inc.  
161 El Camino Real,  
South San Francisco, CA 94080  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):  
HUMANITARIAN CABLE JUSTICE  
161 El Camino Real,  
South San Francisco, CA 94080  
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:  
November 16, 2021  
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY:  
Corporation.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on March 3, 2022.  
(ALM Mar. 11, 18, 25; Apr. 1, 2022)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
File No. 289475  
The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.  
Registered Owner(s) abandoning the use of the fictitious business name(s):  
CABLE JUSTICE, INC.  
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):  
Cable Justice, Inc.  
161 El Camino Real,  
South San Francisco, CA 94080

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):  
HCJ  
161 El Camino Real,  
South San Francisco, CA 94080  
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:  
November 16, 2021  
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY:  
Corporation.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on March 3, 2022.  
(ALM Mar. 11, 18, 25; Apr. 1, 2022)

PUNCH MAGAZINE  
PUNCH  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 290398  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Punch Magazine, 2.) Punch, located at 1047 El Camino #202, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
36 Media, LLC  
1047 El Camino #202  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
California  
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/1/2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 2, 2022.  
(ALM Mar. 11, 18, 25; Apr. 1, 2022)

**Call Alicia Santillan at  
650-223-6578 or  
email [asantillan@pawekly.com](mailto:asantillan@pawekly.com) for  
assistance with your  
legal advertising  
needs. The deadline is  
Monday at noon.**

## ACCOUNTANT

continued from page 1

invaded Ukraine, Perebein- is's apartment building was destroyed and she was forced to shelter in the basement, Khirvonina said. According to SE Ranking's Facebook post, she and her two children were killed while trying to evacuate on Sunday.

"We have no words to address those finding excuses for this war — only curses," Khirvonina said.

**'We have no words to address those finding excuses for this war — only curses.'**

KSENIA KHIRVONINA,  
SE RANKING SPOKESPERSON

The Russian military's invasion of Ukraine started on Feb. 24 and, as of the end of the day local time on Tuesday, March 8, the United Nations had confirmed that 516 civilians have been killed in Ukraine, with another 908 injured. The United Nations reported that the true numbers are likely considerably higher.

SE Ranking has offices in both Palo Alto and London, according to its website, and wrote in a March 1 blog post that a large part of its team are Ukrainian. Khirvonina said that roughly half of the company's employees are based in Ukraine.

"Some of us have spent days on the road striving to bring our families to a safer place," content marketer and editor Svetlana Shchehel wrote in the March 1 post. "Some are still in Kyiv and other cities of Ukraine, trying to do their daily routine to the sounds of air raid sirens. All of us feel scared and devastated, but also hopeful and strong."

According to the American Community Survey of the U.S. Census, there are about 114,146 residents in Santa Clara County who report having Ukrainian ancestry. In recent weeks, local Ukrainians and their allies have held rallies to urge greater U.S. support for Ukraine in the conflict. ■

Email Staff Writer Zoe Morgan at [zmorgan@paweekly.com](mailto:zmorgan@paweekly.com).

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AlmanacNews.com

## LET'S DISCUSS:

Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues on Town Square at [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com)



## Las Lomitas Elementary School District

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OF PROPOSAL FOR INCREASING SCHOOL FACILITIES FEES AS AUTHORIZED BY EDUCATION CODE SECTION 17620 AND GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65995**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that immediately following a public hearing on the matter, a resolution will be considered by the Board of Trustees of the Las Lomitas Elementary School District at its regular meeting on April 13, 2022 which, if adopted by the Board, will increase development fees established by the District against residential construction and reconstruction to \$4.79 per square foot and against new commercial or industrial construction to \$0.78 per square foot. The proposed fees are authorized by Education Code Section 17620 and Government Code Section 65995. Data pertaining to the cost of school facilities is available for inspection during regular business hours at the District's administrative offices at 1011 Altschul Avenue in Menlo Park. The increased fees, if approved by the Board of Trustees, will become effective on June 13, 2022 which is 60 days after the proposed adoption by the Board of the resolution levying such fee.

## Jean M Colby

December 28, 1924 – February 21, 2022

Jean MacKaye Colby died peacefully February 21, 2022 at Channing House in Palo Alto, CA. She enjoyed being a resident there for over 20 years and appreciated the many friendships and excellent care provided there.

Jean was born on December 28, 1924 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Lavinia Gould MacBride and Robert Keith MacKaye. Her mother became a pediatrician at the University of Michigan and also later moved to Channing House for the final 20 years of her life.

Jean attended the University High School in Ann Arbor and made life-long friendships there. She was very involved with their literary journal production and enjoyed writing poems. For college, she considered following her mother with the pre-med track and got a Chemistry degree from University of Michigan. Her career ambition was distracted after meeting Starr Jocelyn Colby during college. They fell in love, got married a week after her graduation and enjoyed over 50 years together.

Starr's aerodynamic career took them around the country, including Pacific Palisades, CA, Alexandria, VA and ending up in Atherton, CA. Jean was busy raising five children and taking leadership positions in PTA, AAUW and LWV.

Jean had a passion for supporting quality public education and was a founding member of EdSource and later ran successfully for the San Mateo County Board of Education.

Jean loved to gather people around a table and was always ready to serve tea. She cultivated many friendships through theater groups, church groups, an investment club and family reunions in the Adirondacks. Her investment club, 'Dow Dames', made enough profit several years to pay for their annual meeting to be in either London or Paris, which Jean was proud to organize.

She touched many lives and will be dearly missed.

Jean is survived by her daughter-in-law Ruth Colby, son Peter Colby, son David Colby, daughter Betsy Colby and son-in-law Barry Herman, and grandchildren Jordan Colby, Kye Colby and wife Stevi Colby, Eben Colby and Jason Herman. She is predeceased by her sister Nancy Wertheimer, husband Starr Colby, son Stephen Colby, daughter Sally Colby and granddaughter Carol Busch.

In lieu of flowers, consider making a donation in Jean's name to EdSource ([edsources.org](http://edsources.org)) or LWV ([www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)).

PAID OBITUARY



## Derek "Derk" Kenneth Hunter

April 25, 1931 – February 19, 2022

Derek ("Derk") Kenneth Hunter passed away peacefully February 19, 2022, at his home in Woodside, CA, surrounded by his family. Born April 25, 1931, in San Marino, CA, he was the son of Kenneth and Helen Hunter. He is predeceased by his wife, Fredricka ("Dricka") Hunter, his daughter, Antonia ("Toni") Hunter Breck, and his brothers, Tony and Kenneth Hunter and sister Diana Roth.



Derk attended Villanova Prep in Ojai, CA, and graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in Business Administration, where he was a member of the Sigma Alfa Epsilon Fraternity. It was at UofA that Derk met his wonderful wife of 59 years, Dricka Haswell from Dayton, OH.

Derk served in the Army during the Korean War and was stationed in the Presidio in San Francisco. Derk and Dricka fell in love with Northern California, ultimately settling on the mid-Peninsula, in Woodside, where they raised their four children, Toni, Helen, Deke and David. Their Woodside home and garden was a big part of their family's life where many wonderful memories were made.

Derk is survived by his daughter Helen and her husband Brad Miller, his son Deke and wife Lori Eschelman Hunter, his son David Hunter and his son-in-law Peter Breck. Known as "Pops" to his 10 grandchildren: Hunter and Beau Breck; Jack, Teddy and Ginny Miller; Ellie, Grace and Derek Hunter; and Francesca and David Hunter, Jr; and his 6 great grandchildren. He will be forever remembered by all for his engaging storytelling and infectious sense of humor. Derk was lucky enough, after Dricka's passing, to find happiness a second time with his partner of several years, Kingsley Jack. Derk and Kingsley shared lots of laughter and created many great memories.

Woodside and Santa Barbara were Derk's favorite places, and he was fortunate to live in both. Derk loved golf and had many great rounds and lots of laughs with his friends at Menlo Country Club, The Valley Club of Montecito and Cypress Point. He also got involved in his communities, giving to The Boys and Girls Club, The Santa Clara Humane Society, The Parkinson's Institute, Eastside Prep, and Pathways.

Derk enjoyed fly fishing with friends and family and pursued the sport with vigor and enthusiasm. He fished all over the world with his favorite adventures split equally between floating on the McKenzie River in Oregon and wading in the White River at Rio Blanco Ranch in Colorado. All his grandchildren have Pops to thank for learning the joys of fly fishing. Wherever Derk was he made friends, and he cherished them all.

In 1959 Derk started his real estate development career with his partner, Roy Demmon, specializing in commercial buildings for the burgeoning technology industry. The legacy of those beginnings is carried on by his son, Deke and grandson, Derek, in the Silicon Valley offices of Hunter Properties. In 2021 Derk received the Pioneer Award, marking 60 years of excellence in real estate development, an honor he deeply appreciated.

Derk will be laid to rest next to his wife, Dricka Hunter, in Santa Barbara. A celebration of Derk's life will be held by the family at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Derk's honor to The Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula.

By Check:  
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula,  
401 Pierce Road  
Menlo Park, CA 94010  
Attention: Gift in honor of Derk Hunter

To make an online gift in honor of Derk, please visit <https://www.bgcp.org/donate> or call Kathryn Yee at 650-763-6024 to pay with a credit card over the phone.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula's Tax ID number is 94-1552134.

PAID OBITUARY



# 25362 LA LOMA DRIVE LOS ALTOS HILLS



## STUNNING VIEWS ON OVER 1.25 ACRES

Panoramic views of the San Francisco Bay and beyond stretch for miles from this expansive home set on more than 1.25 acres of land in Los Altos Hills. A paver pathway through the peaceful grounds leads you inside, where over 2,600 square feet of living space enjoys a bright, airy ambiance and grand-scale formal rooms provide excellent spaces for both entertaining and everyday living. Highlights include the massive Spanish-style fireplace anchoring the living room, the kitchen with stainless-steel appliances including a DeLonghi range, and the family room with numerous windows that showcase the home's incredible setting. Outside, ample deck and patio space offers tremendous space to relax, unwind, and take in the natural beauty that Los Altos Hills provides. This incredible location puts you just moments to beautiful trails and nature preserves, and just a short drive to the excitement of downtown Los Altos, as well as to Interstate 280 for Bay Area commuting. Plus, children may attend top-ranked schools including Gardner Bullis Elementary and Egan Junior High (buyer to verify eligibility).

**OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

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# 1970 MENALTO AVENUE MENLO PARK



## BRIGHT, INVITING, AND A GREAT LOCATION

A delightful front yard welcomes you to this bright and inviting 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home in the charming Willows neighborhood of Menlo Park. Stylish details including refinished hardwood floors and detailed moldings create a warm ambiance throughout over 1,200 square feet of living space. Highlights include a light-filled alcove with views of the front yard, the fireplace centering the living room, and the kitchen with a breakfast bar. Enjoy the outdoors in the fenced front yard shaded by privacy hedges, as well as the covered rear deck. This home also provides the added benefit of having water service provided by the O'Conner Tract Cooperative Water Company, which could potentially result in lower-than-average utility bills. Just minutes to Willow Oaks Park, this home is also a short drive away from downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, and offers access to acclaimed Menlo Park schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

**OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

**[www.1970Menalto.com](http://www.1970Menalto.com)**

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## INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF EXCELLENCE

Team - Small



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Portola Valley  
CalRE #00884747  
CalRE #02058127

Individuals



**HUGH CORNISH**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #00912143



**STEPHANIE ELKINS**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #00897565



**ANNIE WATSON**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01964881



**HANNA SHACHAM**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #01073658



**HOSSEIN JALALI**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #01215831



**JULIE LAU**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01052924



**NANCY GOLDCAMP**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #00787851



**DOUGLAS ANDREW GONZALEZ**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #00895924

## INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S PREMIER

Individuals



**RINI SEN GUPTA**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01896566



**CARRIE DAVIS**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #01983911



**VERONICA KOGLER**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #01788047



**MIA BANKS**  
Portola Valley  
CalRE #01890669



**CLARA LEE**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01723333



**SHAWNNA SULLIVAN**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #00856563



**CAMILLE EDER**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #01394600

## INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S ELITE

Teams



**ELAINE BERLIN WHITE**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #01182467



**SCHOELERMAN GROUP**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01092400



**THE JOHNSTON LAMPERT GROUP**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #01228365



**JUDY SHEN**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01272874



**ELLEN ZHU**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01945702



**DIPALI SHAH**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #01249165



**DJUNA WOODS**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #01442831

Individuals



**JENNIFER LIU**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01933885



**MATTHEW MILLS**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #02050582



**ALEX COMSA**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01875782



**KELLY GRIGGS**  
Branch Manager  
650.464.1965  
kelly.griggs@cbnorcal.com  
CalRE #01812313

## INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

### Individuals



**INGRID HUANG**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01800367



**MIKE SOKOLSKY**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01402534



**DEBBIE NICHOLS**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #00955497



**MICHELLE CHANG**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01412547



**JOHN MARSHALL**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #01386617



**JASMINE LEE**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #01961084



**JUDY BYRNES**  
Portola Valley  
CalRE #01178998



**COLLEEN COOLEY**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01269455



**LEA NILSSON**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #00699379



**TINA LI**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #02085908



**TORY FRATT**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #01441654



**JEANINE WADE**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #02074822



**SUE CRAWFORD**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #00587710



**CHERYL RIVERA SMITH**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01890738

## INTERNATIONAL DIAMOND SOCIETY

### Team



**THE AMELIA MIDDEL  
TEAM**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #01103989

### Individuals



**GORDON FERGUSON**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01038260



**PAT MCDONNELL**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #01926896



**MAHA NAJJAR**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01305947



**HALEY SCOTT**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #02060202



**JIM MILTON**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #01833221

## INTERNATIONAL STERLING SOCIETY

### Team



**LYN JASON COBB  
TEAM**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #01332535

### Individuals



**MASAKO TAKEMURA**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01763865



**GWEN LUCE**  
Menlo Park  
CalRE #00879652



**SUSAN SELKIRK**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01071564



**CARTER TAPPAN**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01917401



**SARUUL BARRIOS**  
Palo Alto - Downtown  
CalRE #01925631

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## HIRING INCENTIVES

*continued from page 7*

Surveys have shed some insight into why people stay and why people leave their jobs in the county.

“Essentially what we’re hearing from employees is that they want quality jobs, competitive salary benefits, (a) flexible work environment, purpose and career development opportunities,” Kiryczun said.

The high cost of housing has also proven to be a challenge for recruiting new hires and one of the reasons that people choose to leave.

To help employees with housing, the county has programs such as an employee down payment assistance program, which offers a \$100,000 loan for eligible employees to put towards purchasing a home.

However, the demand for the program is higher than what the county can provide.

The loans are distributed via lottery and the number of people drawn depends on funding availability. Only four people were selected in the January draw, according to the county’s website. Kiryczun said that sometimes employees don’t take the loan because of the cost of housing in the area.

One person who called in to the meeting, who identified herself as a county employee, said that she hoped the supervisors would consider expanding the down payment assistance program.

The county also has an external firm reviewing its recruitment and retention practices to provide extra recommendations. That study is expected to be complete by June this year. ■

## NEWSOM

*continued from page 12*

presented California as an alternative to the anger and fear dividing not just the country, but the planet.

“California does democracy like nowhere else in the world. No other place offers opportunity to so many from so many different backgrounds,” Newsom said. “The California way means rejecting old binaries and finding new solutions to big problems.”

His best hope at overcoming those “binaries” in the near future may be his rebate proposal, which follows weeks of loud pleas by Republican legislators to suspend the state gas tax.

Their early reaction was muted, however. GOP leaders said they were willing to work with the governor on the policy while also dismissing it as another half-baked plan from a man with lots of ideas and not enough follow-through.

Senate Republican Leader Scott Wilk of Santa Clarita said it was “humorous” to hear Newsom speak loftily of democracy and inclusiveness during the State of the State.

“He just completely forged all the realities of what’s happening in this state,” Wilk said. “He is not addressing the needs of everyday Californians.”

Democrats, who hold a supermajority in both houses of the Legislature and could act without any Republican votes, were more receptive to Newsom’s proposal on relief for gas prices, applauding loudly when he announced it during his speech.

Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins of San Diego and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon of Lakewood, who have been cold on the governor’s pitch to suspend the gas tax increase, released a joint statement after the event promising to “put the state’s robust revenue growth to work by returning substantial tax relief to families and small businesses as fast as possible.”

In an election year where the sour mood could be a significant liability for Newsom and fellow Democrats across the ballot, the rebate is potentially a major political gift. For all of Newsom’s attempts to cheer up gloomy Californians on Tuesday evening, the biggest serotonin boost was likely experienced by members of his own party. ■

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**MASKS**

*continued from page 1*

teachers to be fully vaccinated and boosted before peeling off their masks.

She said parents are divided about whether they want their kids to lose their masks.

“Some of them are tired of it; they say it makes their kid look sick and puts them in a frightened mood,” she said. “Two years is more than enough. Most of the parents want to see the faces of teachers and most of the kids want to see their faces again.”

She also hopes to drop temperature checks. Building Kidz currently check people’s temperatures at the entrance of the school and every two hours in classrooms.

**‘Tricky’ situation for toddlers**

At Woodside Preschool on the Woodside Elementary School District campus, masks will come off on March 14.

Preschool Supervisor Lisa Dayeh said parents of the 37 children who attend her program can opt to have their kids continue to mask. Dayeh noted that some children have had difficulty understanding emotional cues with masks on. She recounted a time she backed up and slipped down her mask to help a child understand she wasn’t angry with them.

“It’s tricky when you look to the face to catch social cues, but it really has kept us healthy,” she said, noting the preschool has seen COVID-19 cases but there hasn’t been transmission of the virus in her classrooms. Other types of illnesses have also been kept at bay, since toddlers put their hands in their mouths a lot more before masking, she said.

Dayeh noted that it could be difficult for some children — whose parents ask the school to continue to have them mask — to understand why their peers

can go maskless.

“It’s tricky when you’re 3 and all your friends have their mask off,” she said. “They’re used to wearing it all day. Any time you change the routine for the little ones there’s a bit of a learning curve.”

Although the evidence is clear that masks don’t impair kids’ ability to breathe, it’s less evident how masking affects emotional development, according to a report from National Geographic. Though some studies show preschoolers are less able to identify emotions when interacting with people with masks on, the studies don’t take into account hand gestures and tone of voice, Dr. Theresa Guilbert, a pediatric pulmonologist, told National Geographic. There’s no sign that masking stifles children’s social development, but remote learning certainly caused them more anxiety and depression, she noted.

**Keeping masks on for now**

Like some elementary and high school districts in the area, Windmill School in Portola Valley, which serves 108 2- to 5-year-olds, has yet decide if it will lift its mask mandate for students and teachers yet. The school’s board of directors and faculty are still in discussions about the mandate, according to Executive Director Jodi Cocconi. Masks will remain on at the Early Learning Center (ELC), which has two centers located on Menlo Park City School District campuses in Atherton and Menlo Park.

In an email to families on March 3, Director Jessica Mihaly said she spoke with staff and other preschools in the county and she decided that, for the time being, ELC students and staff will continue to wear their masks.

The school will allow fully vaccinated teachers to remove their masks for short periods of time when it will help them



*Courtesy Early Learning Center*

**Preschool students** play with a microscope in the Early Learning Center at Laurel School in Atherton, where a mask mandate will remain in place for the time being.

communicate more clearly with children. For example, they may remove their masks while reading a story or in focused language development lessons during circle times, according to the note.

“In addition to the data supporting continued masking, our experience continues to demonstrate that children are not troubled by their masks, as they have become a normal part of their school routine,” Mihaly told parents.

Mountain View Parent Nursery School in Los Altos isn’t dropping its mask mandate since most of its children are under 5 years old and aren’t eligible for

vaccines to protect themselves against COVID-19, said Claire Koukoutsakis, director of 3- and 4-year-olds, in an email.

All Five, which offers infant and preschool programs in Menlo Park, will continue to require teachers and children to wear masks, also due to the lack of availability of a COVID-19 vaccine, Carol Thomsen, its founder and executive director, said in an email.

Teachers at Knox Playschool in Atherton will be keeping their masks on, but parents may let teachers know if they’d like their children to continue wearing a mask after March 11, said owner

Susan Knox in an email.

Parents will not be required to wear a mask to drop off and pick up their child as long as they stay outside the gates and maintain a bit of distance from the teachers, she said.

“We will still be staying in our classroom ‘pods’ indoors and out for the time being,” she said. “We are hoping to soon get to the point where we do not need to close a classroom for a COVID exposure, just issue an exposure notice.”

*Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).*



*Courtesy Early Learning Center*

**Students** play with a projector screen in the Early Learning Center at Laurel School in Atherton.



*Magali Gauthier*

**Cody** works on a drawing at Mountain View Parent Nursery School in Los Altos, which plans to keep its mask mandate in place.

**EL CAMINO**

*continued from page 5*

have to move in and out of the spots, leaving space for customers throughout the day.

Vice Mayor Jen Wolosin added to last night's decision a direction to staff to look into changing two more residential parking spots in that area to timed spaces. She hoped that this, along with potential new customers from visitors of Middle Plaza, which is slated to open this year, will soften the immediate impacts.

Spicer said that she has no choice but to hope that the development will bring in more customers.

**'Taking these parking spots away would be detrimental to my walk-ins, to my curbside pick-ups, to my senior citizens.'**

CHERITH SPICER, OWNER OF  
NAMESAKE CHEESECAKE

"What I'm losing is the 10 years of clients who are used to just swinging in," she said. "I would hope there's more (customers) but I can't count on that.

Assistant Public Works Director Hugh Louch outlined some short-term options the council could move forward with, if not installing the 2-foot wide median now. One option is to

retain parking by the businesses and the existing median, which consists of flexible posts, and move forward with the crosswalk. The City Council could also maintain the status quo but with additional direction to staff to explore different median options.

Council member Ray Mueller said he preferred the latter choice, with hopes that the city could move toward developing a protected bike lane on the side of the Stanford development.

To the surprise and concern of some council members, the item returned to the agenda just a week after City Council discussions.

Interim City Manager Justin Murphy said new information had come to light regarding Stanford University's construction timeframe for the median, which is why he was compelled to quickly bring it to the council again.

But council member Drew Combs chided Murphy that a timeframe was something that council never approved.

"You're saying, 'Oh, there is now a time limit on a project which council hadn't approved and that was the impetus for it coming back,'" Combs said.

Murphy did not respond to an inquiry about what that new information was before The Almanac's press deadline.

John Donahoe, Stanford's director of planning and entitlement who brought the Middle Plaza project to council in 2017, reminded City Council that



Screenshot from Google Maps

**Parking spots** by a small strip of El Camino Real businesses were removed after a City Council decision on March 8.

evening that the development agreement not only stipulates that the university would take care of the crosswalk and median, but also assist with funding the grade-separated bike and pedestrian crossing of the Caltrain tracks at Middle Avenue.

"I think he was just reminding (the city of) the good will that Stanford had done by doing that," Mueller later said.

One of the concerns the city staff brought forward last week was that the university would relinquish any financial responsibilities for the median and that the city would have to pay for it instead.

Donahoe also addressed Mueller's previously stated desire to shave off sidewalk space from the Middle Plaza project side and said that it would be extremely challenging to achieve.

"I can't overestimate how difficult and the amount of time we spent in designing our project because of the Hetch Hetchy water line that is right at that curb line, working with Caltrans, the city and the Public Utility Commission for the design of our project," Donahoe said. "And it would be very difficult to make adjustments on our side of the property."

Some council members expressed dismay that city staff members may have broken the chain of command throughout the process of this relatively modest development.

The staff had previously told council that the proposal to install the 2-foot wide median and remove the parking on both sides of El Camino Real was already approved by Caltrans, the state agency that has authority over any changes to the road, also known as State Route 82.

"With respect to staff, I do have concerns that we went to Caltrans and got approval for something that had not been approved by council," Combs said, adding that it's "incredibly problematic" that a project was approved by another agency first, which then influenced the council's subsequent decision.

Taylor later told The Almanac that she had addressed this same concern with Murphy in a meeting on Monday, March 7.

"I believe the process must start with pedestrian safety and community outreach with a timeline, bring it to council and then Caltrans approval," she wrote. "That did not happen last Tuesday, March 1."

Taylor ultimately voted to move forward with the parking changes and crosswalk, citing pedestrian safety as top priority — "Usually we say bike-ped, I think ped-bike," she said at the meeting — and a desire for an outcome where the staff wouldn't have to return to council again on the matter.

"Sometimes the smallest projects take as long as some of the bigger ones," Louch said.

**New online platform to sign up for city programs and services**

In other City Council news, Menlo Park will get a new online platform where the public can sign up for recreation classes, reserve city facilities such as tennis courts, submit rental applications, pay fees and conduct other business between the city.

The City Council approved a five-year contract with PerfectMind, a management software company, in order to create a "parks and recreation registration management platform," according to a staff report.

The total cost of the five-year contract would be \$318,268, the report stated.

Staff members reviewed six potential vendors and chose PerfectMind as the preferred service provider on the "strength of its platform's overall user-friendliness, flexibility, functionality, technical support, customer satisfaction reviews and references, and predictable flat-fee pricing model."

Several other Bay Area jurisdictions currently use PerfectMind's platform, including Oakland, Walnut Creek, Sausalito, Santa Rosa, Saratoga and Los Gatos. ■

*Email Staff Writer Lloyd Lee at llee@almanacnews.com.*



Courtesy Peggie MacLeod

**A patch of purple in Woodside**

A lush swath of lupines is blooming along Woodside Road on Village Hill, thanks to the Woodside Landscape Committee's multi-year efforts to beautify the area with wildflowers. Community volunteers and donors also contribute their time and money to plant, weed and care for other public spaces, such as the nearby triangle across from Roberts Market.



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COMPASS

## Turn on, tune in to 'The Dropout'

### Hulu miniseries brings Elizabeth Holmes' Theranos scandal to life

By Peter Canavese

★★★★ (Hulu)

When the Elizabeth Holmes scandal erupted, Hollywood immediately smelled the blood in the water. In real life, there was no mistaking that Holmes — the Stanford dropout turned Palo Alto health-tech startup founder and CEO — was a character, and where there's a character, there's a role for a hungry actor.

As the world awaits Jennifer Lawrence's take on Holmes in the AppleTV+ feature "Bad Blood" — to be adapted and directed by Adam McKay ("Don't Look Up") from the John Carreyrou book — an eight-part Hulu miniseries starring Amanda Seyfried charges out of the gate with a challenge: beat this. Often underestimated, Seyfried has been quietly racking up terrific performances when given the chance (as Marion Davies in David Fincher's "Mank," a mother battling post-partum depression in "A Mouthful of Air," and as Bobby and Shelly's daughter in David Lynch's "Twin Peaks" revival), and her riveting take on the intense, strange, pitiable, deplorable Holmes has got tongues wagging.

In telling the true-crime tale of fraudulent health technology company Theranos, once headquartered in Palo Alto, "The Dropout" comes with an impressive pedigree. It takes as its source material Rebecca Jarvis' six-episode ABC Audio podcast of the same name, which dropped in early 2019. Elizabeth Meriwether, best known for the hit FOX sitcom "New Girl," holds a creator credit for the miniseries and screenwriting credit on the first and last episodes (the latter shared with Sofya Levitsky-Weitz). Michael Showalter, who directed the recent biopic "The Eyes of Tammy Faye," helms the first half of the miniseries, while directors Francesca Gregorini ("Killing Eve") and Erica Watson (TV's "Snowpiercer") split the last four episodes.

Exceptional casting also distinguishes the series, with Naveen Andrews ("Lost") as Seyfried's romantic and business partner Sunny Balwani, two-time Emmy winner William H. Macy ("Shameless") as Holmes' antagonist Richard Fuisz, three-time Emmy winner Laurie Metcalf ("The Conners") as Stanford professor of medicine Phyllis Gardner, Stephen Fry as Theranos chief scientist Ian Gibbons,



Courtesy Beth Dubber/Hulu

Amanda Seyfried plays Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes in Hulu's "The Dropout."

Alan Ruck ("Succession") as Walgreens exec Jay Rosan, and Sam Waterston ("Law and Order") and Anne Archer ("Fatal Attraction") as George and Charlotte Shultz, just for starters.

Certainly, "The Dropout" will generate plenty of opinions and touch raw nerves in Palo Alto, where so much of the action takes place. People who were there for these events or know the people involved will have to make up their own minds as to the overall veracity of the show's depictions. But the scripts for the seven episodes thus far made available for review hew closely to the known facts of the case, while offering a believable interpretation of Holmes' psychology.

Meriwether and the writing team wisely take a chronological approach to the complex unfolding narrative, apart from opening the miniseries (and each subsequent episode) with a taste of Holmes' July 2017 deposition in San Francisco, re-created by Seyfried. The story then picks up in Houston in 1995, establishing Holmes' family history — including her father's own corporate strikeout at Enron — before heading to Stanford (early decision) in 2002. "I don't want to be president," she tells her family. "I want to be a billionaire." And so it is that she abandons her undergraduate study to follow the college-dropout-turned-disruptor

model of Steve Jobs by chasing the dream of inventing a world-changing medical device.

The big idea: a machine that could painlessly test a drop of patient blood and provide while-you-wait lab results. In one of the miniseries' best scenes, Holmes pitches her idea to a skeptical Gardner (in a win for authenticity, the production boasts footage shot on the Stanford campus). In the role of a media-age Cassandra, Gardner rejects Holmes' idea as unfortunately impossible and, when pressed, calls out the naivete of Holmes' vaulting ambitions, and what women like her are up against, in a killer monologue: "As a woman, let me explain something to you. You don't get to skip any steps. You have to do the work. Your work, other people's work. You have to do so much work that they have to admit that you did it, nobody helped you. You have to take away all their excuses. And then if you get anything, anything wrong, they'll destroy you and they'll be so happy to do it."

"The Dropout" proves consistently thoughtful about how Holmes' initial good intentions — however colored by the promise of attendant fame and fortune — and feminist pride set her on a course that made her feel there was no turning back. Self-aggrandizement ironically locked

Holmes into years of painfully certain imposter syndrome as she stalled investors, hoping she could produce a technology she had already guaranteed she had cracked. The story traces that fine line between having hustle and being a hustler, a line we watch Holmes cross after being fed the exceptional stories of Silicon Valley disruptor culture.

From the other side of that line, it looks a lot like a velvet rope: now part of the elite, Holmes enjoys the trappings of luxury and rubs elbows not only with enthusiastic investor George Shultz, but also Rupert Murdoch, Bill Clinton and Joe Biden. In its margins, "The Dropout" exposes how the art of the deal outpaces any substance in the house of cards that is our late-stage-capitalist economy. Creating the appearance of success out of nothing, Holmes begins to take on the quality of an evangelizing cult leader.

Holmes' fabulist fraudulence in a high-stakes world, her completely unsustainable long con, make for addictive drama that also dips into suspenseful paranoid-thriller territory and, at times, perverse humor (Holmes dancing to "Too Legit to Quit" in front of her troops even as her lies are on the brink of being exposed). "The Dropout" stocks up on sad and telling details of a businesswoman surrounded by patriarchy, whether it be Holmes worrying over the middle button of her blouse, buttoning and unbuttoning it before a key meeting, or adopting a strange new voice in a "masculine" low register that Seyfried nails.

Meriwether isn't interested in a mere ritualized torture of Holmes, which would be tempting given her crime of endangering the medically vulnerable. Of course, the narrative fairly and emphatically criticizes Holmes for her moral failings, but it is also crucially, touchingly sympathetic toward her and the agony and the ecstasy of belief in oneself. We see Holmes berate an Apple "Genius," equating her seeming lack of ambition with a lack of purpose, but just as innovation needs bold risk-takers who believe they can achieve the impossible, there's a venture-capital graveyard filled with those who flew too close to the sun and crashed down to Earth. ■

*Peter Canavese is a freelance movie critic and author of the website Groucho Reviews. You can reach him at GrouchoReviews@aol.com.*



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# Food & Drink

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Mayan Kitchen's chef adapts traditional recipes for a larger audience

By Anthony Shu

Many chefs harness recipes passed down from mothers and grandmothers, and memories of growing up in Hunucmá, Mexico, surrounded by Maya communities inspire Ed Correa's menu showcasing Indigenous cuisine at Mayan Kitchen in Sunnyvale. Through his partnership with Katie Voong, owner of K Tea Cafe, a bubble tea and jianbing shop, executive kitchen manager Correa's cooking has evolved to reach a wider audience, even though it has meant making changes that wouldn't get the approval of his family's matriarchs.

Correa is determined to share Maya cuisine with the Peninsula and sees his style of cooking as an essential evolution to educate people about an overlooked culinary tradition. He does not consider his food inauthentic or watered-down. "I know that it's not just about making this food that I find delicious to myself. It's also making that food to advocate (for Maya culture)," Correa says.

While many Mexican restaurants harness the Maya name, few establishments actually present Maya cuisine. The exact size of the Maya population in the Bay Area is hard to pinpoint, but the number was estimated at 5,000 in 2002. Voong and Correa assert that they run the only Maya restaurant on the Peninsula, although other restaurants might serve a handful of the culture's most well-known dishes including cochinita pibil, the slow-roasted pork traditionally

cooked in underground ovens, and poc chuc, pork marinated with citrus that may have originated from efforts to preserve meat through brining.

At times, it can be difficult to draw the line between Maya and Mexican cuisine, as some aspects of Maya cooking have been adopted as Mexican, and international influences including colonization shaped the Yucatecan version of Maya food that Correa presents. Maya is a term used to collectively describe many diverse groups that live throughout Central America today and their ancestors.

Correa says that even in his home country of Mexico, Maya cuisine is underappreciated. Despite the popularity of the same few dishes, he says that people are unwilling to familiarize themselves with the cuisine. "(Names of dishes) are in the Mayan language, the names are kind of foreign even to Mexicans ... We have so many different dishes that are really delicious that people don't even want to try," he says.

Voong and Correa started working together at K Tea Cafe

four years ago, and the business relied heavily on catering gigs that disappeared when the pandemic started. Proudly identifying as a female entrepreneur, Voong says that she thinks differently from most small business owners. Learning from Correa and noticing how the fruit and vegetable-forward Maya cuisine lended itself to current trends in dining, she and Correa decided to partner on Mayan Kitchen, which opened one month ago in downtown Sunnyvale. K Tea Cafe has become a delivery-focused business without a dining room.

It is true that many of Maya cuisine's elements link closely to the demands of diners in the Bay Area today. Many items are naturally gluten-free, and others can be made vegan. The cuisine originated around fruits, vegetables and a robust agricultural system. Correa says, "(My mother and grandmother) mapped out which food is available when, and they just put it together in a delicious way. That's how I grew up eating. That's how I learned food is supposed to be."



Magali Gauthier

**Katie Voong**, owner of K Tea Cafe, and **Ed Correa**, executive kitchen manager of Mayan Kitchen, in front of the space that houses both businesses in Sunnyvale on March 7.

However, both Voong and Correa are hesitant to prepare foods exactly as Correa remembers them. The duo has a strong partnership in the kitchen because of their complementary expertise in different cuisines. Voong has experience in Japanese, Korean and Chinese restaurants, and Correa came up through French and Italian kitchens. Voong

describes Mayan Kitchen's menu as "handcrafted" because each item emerges through collaboration. Voong offers feedback on how to make dishes appealing to the restaurant's diverse customer base, and Correa attempts to adapt the home cooking he learned from his family.

While this mediated approach might invite accusations of Mayan Kitchen's food being inauthentic or watered-down, Correa would strongly disagree. Highlights of the menu are prepared using Maya techniques and include panuchos, tortillas filled with black beans and fried, and salbutes, tortillas that are fried fresh to ensure they puff up. While some diners might mistake xnipec for pico de gallo, the sauce is brightened up with a punch of sour orange, a common Maya ingredient. Many of the restaurant's sauces are based on habaneros, which provide heat but are also aromatic and flavorful. They are one of the main crops cultivated in Yucatán and even have a geographic appellation.

On the other hand, changes have been made to the menu. Overall, the spice level is toned down, and most dishes are available in variations that allow for adding chicken or beef to create a more robust meal. Vegan and gluten-free options are also prevalent at the restaurant. There are some dishes borrowed from a



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**Mayan Kitchen** in Sunnyvale offers empanadas, cochinita pibil, panuchos, salbutes, vegan horchata and hibiscus tea.

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**Ed Correa** puts the finishing touches on cochinita pibil at Mayan Kitchen on March 7.

seemingly random assortment of cuisines, including vegan cheesecake, persistently trendy bao, and bruschetta. Still, these are shifts that Correa wants to make. “(My mother and grandmother) are like, ‘You cannot change anything. You have to go by the book. Or if you cannot, don’t cook it’ ... Times are different now. And if you want to share something, you have to actually adapt. You cannot stay in the past,” he says.

Some of these adaptations are also ones that reflect Correa’s own culinary journey and slightly detached relationship to his culture. The cochinita pibil is served alongside traditional accompaniments of rice and black beans, but Correa adds a favorite childhood snack, xec, a salad of jicama and citrus, to the plate. He finds that the salad brings brightness and acidity to the rich dish, but admits that the pairing would puzzle his mother. Unlike his parents, Correa cannot speak any Mayan languages fluently. His family encouraged him to focus on learning Spanish in order to access more professional and economic opportunities across the world. “(Although) I don’t know the language, I know the food ... I want to share the part (of Mayan culture) that I

actually have available to me,” he says.

As Correa seeks to expand the menu to include more meals he remembers from his childhood, he will look for Voong’s approval alongside feedback from clientele who also grew up with Maya cuisine. He is delighted when customers tell him how happy they are to see a restaurant bringing Maya culture to the community.

“That is the best compliment I can get,” Correa says. **A**

*Mayan Kitchen, [tinyurl.com/mayankitchen](http://tinyurl.com/mayankitchen), 139 S Murphy Ave., Sunnyvale; 650-305-6595.*

*Mayan Kitchen provided samples for tasting.*

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**A salbut**, a puffed deep-fried tortilla, is topped with achiote-marinated chicken, black bean purée, pickled onions, housemade salsa verde and cotija cheese.



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