

# The Almanac

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

NOVEMBER 4, 2022 | VOL. 58 NO. 9



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## Sacred Heart teacher is lacrosse gold medalist

Liz Hogan competed with the U.S. Women's Lacrosse team this summer

By Angela Swartz

After years of training, long days and a lot of waiting, Liz Hogan not only played on the U.S. Women's Lacrosse team this past summer, she took home a trophy.

Hogan, 33, a Redwood City resident and teacher at Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton, took part of the lacrosse world championship as the U.S. Women's National Team's goalkeeper in July. The team won the gold medal, its fourth world title in a row. She said she's received an outpouring of support from the Sacred Heart community, with many students asking, "Can we see your medal?"

"It's hard balancing work life as a full-time teacher," said Hogan, who has taught physical education at the school for six years. She is an associate dean and also coaches lacrosse at Sacred Heart. "I'd train when I could. To finally get that call in February, it was pretty incredible to know all that hard work paid off."

She booked many 12-hour days, arriving at school by 6 or

6:30 a.m. and would work out until 8:15 a.m. She'd teach, then practice again after school, with her days going until 6 or 7 p.m.

Hogan, who is originally from Rochester, New York, came to the area to serve as assistant coach to the women's lacrosse at Stanford University. She ended up taking on a PE teaching job at Sacred Heart.

"Getting to see them (students) grow up and progress is rewarding to see," said Hogan, who first tried out for the team in 2009 and was on the training roster in 2013 and 2017. "I didn't expect to get into teaching. ... It was really just happenstance. They needed a first grade PE teacher. I really can't imagine doing anything different."

Hogan started playing lacrosse in the second grade on a boys-only team — it was her only option at the time. She played lacrosse until sixth grade when she switched to softball. She returned to lacrosse her freshman year of high school to play alongside her twin sister Allyson.



Liz Hogan, goalkeeper for the U.S. Women's Lacrosse team, during a practice.

Courtesy USA Lacrosse

See **LACROSSE**, page 21

## Local school districts' state test scores are a mixed bag

Districts release the first scores since the pandemic froze testing, with many seeing declines

By Angela Swartz,  
Leah Worthington and  
Zoe Morgan

Midpeninsula students' standardized test scores were all over the map, shedding light on how schools and students are performing, according to California Department of Education data released last week.

The tests, administered in spring 2022, were the first California Assessment of

Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) tests since 2019, when they were put on hold through the pandemic. The hiatus has challenged the state's ability to compare student performance year-over-year. Students in grades three through 11 take the tests, which measure English and math skills.

In the Ravenswood City School District, which hosts the most socioeconomically disadvantaged students locally, test

figures are starkly lower than neighboring districts, consistent with past years. Just 6% of students met or exceeded the math standards in 2022. Only around 12% met or exceeded the English language arts (ELA) standards. Neighboring districts' scores hover in the 80% range.

Test scores were down in the Menlo Park City School District and Woodside Elementary School District, while Las Lomas students saw gains.

Math scores improved in the Portola Valley School District from 2019, while ELA test scores dipped.

### San Mateo County students

Students across San Mateo County are performing 12% higher than the California average, according to a new report from the state. However, the CAASPP results also show a small decline from 2019.

Compared to the 2019 statewide results, the county saw a 3% decrease in the number of students meeting or exceeding state standards in English language arts, and a steeper 6% decrease in math.

"Our students have experienced an incredible upheaval in their short lives. As has been documented, the impact on their mental health and social-emotional development

See **TEST SCORES**, page 9

INSIDE

FALL HOME + GARDEN DESIGN

VIEWPOINT 22 | ARTS 23 | FOOD 26





**Eugene**

**"I rely heavily on your Meals on Wheels. I don't know what I'd do without the support."**

*Eugene is an 85-year-old veteran and loves his independence. He became a PVI's Meals on Wheels recipient at the start of the Pandemic when his medical condition made it impossible for him to shop and cook for himself. Eugene's painful neuropathy and chronic arthritis severely impact his mobility. Managing both chronic conditions have significantly affected his lifestyle, yet Eugene describes PVI's Meals on Wheels "as a life-saver!" Not only does he enjoy the nutritious meals, he looks forward to the warm and friendly delivery drivers.*

**Daily Senior Impact:**

**1 in 6 seniors is facing hunger**

**1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia**

**Nearly 1 in 5 spousal caregivers passes away before their loved one**

**1 in 4 seniors live alone and feel lonely.**

**50% of seniors living alone are without the finances for basic needs, transportation, or technology to access the wellness programs they need**

**Among PVI's Firsts:**

- The first **suburban senior activity center** in the U.S. to promote health and well-being.
- The first groundbreaking initiative and **HUD grant in the U.S. for the construction of affordable senior housing.**
- The first state-of-the-art, purpose-built **licensed adult day services facility** for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias.
- One of the first **on-demand, concierge transportation services** for seniors to empower independence.

# Celebrating 75 years

## PVI

*Enabling Seniors to Age in Place*

**Your impact spans PVI's 75-year history of firsts in senior services**

Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. (PVI) celebrates our **75th year of enabling seniors to age in place.** We accomplished this milestone because of your significant generosity spanning our humble yet bold beginnings. **Thank you for staying by our side.**

PVI was a **leader in gerontology** at a time it was unheard of. **In 1947**, our visionary women founders built a remarkable legacy, enriching the lives of countless thousands of local seniors and their families.

**The challenges are now much larger in scope**

Many local seniors are struggling to stay afloat in today's uncertain environment. Current needs are far outstripping the growth of the local aging population and the gap is widening. **Widespread loneliness, social isolation, hunger, and health inequities** cut deeper into community lives. **Mounting inflationary costs** are further straining financial resources beyond sustainability and shutting our seniors out.

**Join us as we transform aging**

PVI will continue to **transform aging** in our local communities, changing the way seniors are cared for and treated as valuable members of society. New levels of concierge caregiver and family support services, expansion of innovative community partnerships, and extension of our local geographic reach will meet the challenges ahead for you and your family members.

**You may ask, how can I make a difference right now?**

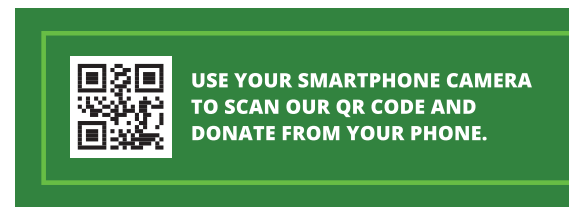
You have the power to change the life of a senior today. Your gift of support is indispensable to the **thousands of local families relying on us** during the holiday season and beyond for their health and well-being. Please make your gift of an amount that is right for you\* securely online and spread the word to a friend who shares your passion to help extend senior health and independence for seniors like Eugene and Helen. Visit [www.1pvi.org](http://www.1pvi.org) and [www.1pvi.org/donate](http://www.1pvi.org/donate).

*\*\$500 funds one month of PVI Meals on Wheels for two at-risk seniors or one annual Senior Center fitness membership.*

With hope and gratitude for PVI's next 75 years,

**Peter Olson**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Georgie Gleim**  
Board President



**Helen**

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

**800 MIDDLE AVENUE • MENLO PARK, CA 94025 (650)326-2025 • WWW.1PVI.ORG**

# Portola Valley

## Our Future Together

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Judith Hasko



Dale Pfau



Mary Hufty

**Find out more at [www.ourfuturetogether.net](http://www.ourfuturetogether.net)**

Ad paid for by Our Future Together PAC, supporting Judith Hasko, Dale Pfau, and Mary Hufty for Town Council 2022.  
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# WE'RE ALL IN ON TEACHER HOUSING AND WE ALL SAY NO ON MEASURE V

No matter who you ask, everyone seems to agree: Measure V in Menlo Park is a very bad idea. Local leaders and trusted organizations know that now is the time to be finding more opportunities for teacher housing, not actively shutting them down. See who's opposing Measure V for yourself:



"Housing costs in Menlo Park and the Bay Area have never been higher. Teachers, school staff and working families make sacrifices for our communities day in and day out, and they deserve reliable housing opportunities. That's why we must defeat the dangerous Measure V in Menlo Park. It blocks affordable teacher housing at a time when we need it most. Please join me in voting No."

— **Anna Eshoo**  
U.S. Congresswoman



**Josh Becker**  
California State Senator



**Marc Berman**  
California State Assemblymember



**Kevin Mullin**  
California State Assemblymember



**Don Horsley**  
President, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors



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Chair, Menlo Park Planning Commission



**Cynthia Harris**  
Vice Chair, Menlo Park Planning Commission



**Linh Dan Do**  
Menlo Park Planning Commission



Partial list of endorsers. Titles for identification purposes only.



We oppose Measure "V" for the following specific reasons...

1. Election requirements are a barrier to new housing and thereby can increase the cost and uncertainty of housing proposals...
2. The Measure does nothing to moderate or otherwise affect the demand for housing...
3. The State and pro-housing groups have acted to not only eliminate barriers to housing construction but also to limit local discretionary decision making. The proposed Measure risks such future nullification.

Ad paid for by No on Measure V — Menlo Park Neighbors for Affordable Homes,  
Sponsored by Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County  
Committee major funding from:  
Karen Grove  
John A. Sobrato  
John Matthew Sobrato

## The Almanac

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2022

### Editorial: Vote No on Menlo Park's Measure V

Measure V is decidedly not "pro-teachers, pro-housing."

The Ravenswood district is struggling with significant teacher turnover, and in a staff survey this year, the shortage of nearby affordable housing is a major factor. This project could go a long way toward attracting and retaining teachers to a school district of modest means serving a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students...

Let's do the right thing and ensure teachers can stay in the community in which they work. Vote No on Measure V.

[www.ProtectTeacherHousing.org](http://www.ProtectTeacherHousing.org)

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Angela Swartz

## All set for Halloween

Kids line up for the costume contest at Atherton's Halloween party on Oct. 28. Families gathered to celebrate the holiday for the first time since construction of the new civic center began in 2018, and snacked on hamburgers, hot dogs and treats from a Mister Softee ice cream truck. About 155 people attended the event, according to the Atherton Police Department.

## Menlo Park's Measure V is most expensive local race

Opponents raise \$400K in contributions to defeat ballot initiative's single-family rezoning restrictions

By Cameron Rebosio

The No on Measure V campaign once again outraised and outspent Yes on V — raising more than five times what the Menlo Park ballot measure's proponents have raised and making it the highest-funded local race.

Measure V is a citizen-sponsored initiative on the November ballot that aims to restrict the Menlo Park City Council's ability to rezone single-family lots to higher density. If it passes, the city will have to put any rezoning of "R1" lots to a citywide vote in a regularly scheduled election.

With the No on V campaign garnering large donations from several organizations and individuals, the race has quickly become the most costly in the area.

No on V has raised \$372,000 in monetary contributions, \$57,000 of which was reported in the most recent filing period from Sept. 25 to Oct. 22. Two donations came from the Bay Area Council Political

Action Committee totaling \$27,500, while the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Silicon Valley's largest charitable organization, contributed \$25,000. The notable donors to No on V include the campaign committee Marc Berman for Assembly 2022 with \$1,000; Beth Am clergy member Jonathan Prosnit, \$500; and Kathleen Daly, owner of Zoe's Cafe, \$400.

Only one non-monetary donation was reported. Menlo Together, a local advocacy group, contributed \$9,600 by hiring Rev. Penny Nixon as a consultant to organize faith communities in support of housing activism, specifically to oppose Measure V. The contribution of services was made as a non-monetary donation from the Menlo Together organization to the No on V campaign.

No on V reported spending nearly \$81,000 since Sept. 25 and a total of almost \$204,000 this campaign season. Over \$72,000 of the campaign's expenditures were made to Cleansweep Campaigns, a Democratic full-service consulting firm.

Yes on V reported raising nearly \$16,000 since Sept. 25 and about \$65,000 in total. All of the contributors to Yes on V are individuals. Notable donations include Ronald Matsui, quantitative wealth manager, who has contributed a total of \$4,500 this year; Jill Olson, \$2,000; and John Reiter, \$1,000; Chenen Liang, an engineering manager, \$1,000; Lin Yuan, vice president of engineering at Newfront, \$1,000; and Anthony Draeger, vice president of Draeger's Markets, donated \$500.

Nicole Chessari, co-founder of Menlo Balance, the group that put Measure V on the ballot, has contributed \$6,300 to the campaign this year in non-monetary donations and has been reimbursed nearly \$10,000 since Sept. 25 for purchases related to the campaign.

Yes on V reported spending nearly \$24,000 this filing period and almost \$53,000 total for the campaign. Over \$1,000 was paid to Nielsen Merksamer, a law firm, and over \$1,000 was paid to S.E. Owens & Company, an accounting firm. ■

## PV teachers urge district to not add time to their workdays

By Angela Swartz

Portola Valley Elementary School District teachers stuck paper plates, with handwritten lists of their responsibilities, to a wall in the Corte Madera School Annex during an Oct. 27 governing board meeting. They were there to plead district officials to not to add an extra 30 minutes to their already busy workdays.

Nearly a dozen teachers spoke during the public comment period of the meeting, many sharing that they felt disrespected that district officials were considering adding the extra time to the end of the teaching day as part of a new teachers union contract, which has been under discussion during nine bargaining sessions over 10 months. The additional half hour per day on campus amounts to 12 days of uncompensated work per year, said Portola Valley Teachers Association President Tim Sato during the meeting. Teachers currently get out of school at 3:15 p.m.

Teachers union negotiators said that they met with district representatives on Oct. 26 and, for the second time, rejected what they consider to be "an unfair tentative agreement, which was rushed out to educators in the last days of the 2022 school year and would not have supported student success."

"I really urge you to consider how full our plates are and what we really need," Corte Madera School resource specialist Nicole Wright told the board. "We need to have work-life balance. I need to be able to go home and squeeze my own small children. ... I need to be able to stay healthy so I can be here because my students really need continuity of care."

Superintendent Roberta Zarea said in an Oct. 28 statement that while the district appreciates receiving feedback from staff and the public, she and her colleagues are "disappointed that some of the remarks (from teachers) were not factual and misrepresented the situation." She noted that

the new teachers union leads, who took over in June, have brought forward increasingly costly compensation demands, while rejecting the district's proposal to add 30 minutes to their current seven-hour work day and a half hour duty-free lunch.

Under new legislation, districts are required to provide extended learning opportunities for students, Zarea said. The proposal not only addresses this need, but also promotes student safety and supervision before and after the instructional day, she said. The additional time also increases opportunities for staff collaboration around curriculum and instruction. She said the proposed salary increase over the next two years includes compensation for this increased time.

"We recognize that the past couple of years has been particularly challenging for all of us in the education sector," Zarea said. "The district strongly supports its teachers and we believe PVSD is a great place to work. This is reflected in the long tenure of the majority of our teachers and the bonus offered in recognition of their efforts in addressing challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Sato responded to Zarea's comments on Oct. 31, saying the district's most recent demand to add 30 minutes to the contract day "flies in the face of their claimed support of teachers."

"Instead of recognizing and supporting its teachers, the district would be creating more restrictive working conditions with no clear benefit to students," he said. "As the district acknowledges, teachers already work well beyond their contract day. Adding additional mandatory hours will impact commute times, increase child care/eldercare costs, and reduce time teachers have available for medical and dental appointments."

Sato said the district is not immune to the regional teacher

# Atherton draft housing element still needs work, ADU figures are unrealistic, state says

By Angela Swartz

Atherton is joining Woodside in receiving extensive feedback from the state on its proposed housing element.

In a 16-page letter sent to the town on Monday, Oct. 31, the state Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) notes that the town is overestimating how many Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and duplexes it will help produce over the next eight years. It also cast doubt on the idea that housing will be built on school properties the town included during the last housing element cycle. The state, as it did for Woodside's plan, asks Atherton for more details and analysis across the entire plan.

"The draft element addresses many statutory requirements; however, revisions will need to be necessary to comply with state housing element law," the letter states.

Atherton officials intend to prove that "production of 35 units per year is achievable."

"The town received preliminary comments from HCD a couple of weeks ago," said City Manager George Rodericks in an email. "This formal letter echoes and expands on those comments. It is clear that there is still a lot of work to do as we move toward a housing element that the state will certify. A certified housing element is in the best interest of the town and to reach that, we need the active engagement of the community working toward solutions."

Mayor Rick DeGolia said in an email that the HCD letter requires a great deal more analysis than the town's planning consultants previously provided.

"We will definitely provide all of the analysis that is required," he said, noting that he needs to review the policy assumptions and positions that HCD is asserting and that will require a careful read of the letter.

But local housing advocates say the town isn't doing enough to meet its state mandated housing goals though.

Atherton's plan includes 440 new housing units, which adds a buffer above and beyond the 348 units the town is required to plan for as part of the 2023-31 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). It is a significant jump from the requirement to plan for 93 units during the last eight-year cycle.

The draft was submitted to the state on Aug. 2. HCD had 90 days to offer feedback. A compliant draft of the housing element has to be approved by the town by Jan. 31, 2023. Cities and towns that don't adopt a compliant housing element by that deadline could face legal repercussions and stiff fines, state officials have said.

Without a compliant element, the town could face the so-called builder's remedy in the city, which allows for residential projects to move forward even if they do not comply with local development standards. This occurred in Santa Monica, during which time 16 projects and

4,562 units were proposed, according to the Santa Monica Daily Press.

In order to meet the January deadline, the town would need to submit a compliant draft by the end of November to give HCD 60 days to review the next draft.

## ADUs, SB 9 units

The town element banks on more ADUs. Some 280 of the 440 proposed units are ADUs.

Town officials believe that if HCD uses 2019 to 2022 data versus 2018 to 2021, it will provide a more realistic estimate of how many ADUs the town can realistically plan for, Rodericks said.

By using this other data set, the town's average ADU production "will be considerably higher," Rodericks said.

"We fundamentally believe that production of 35 units per year is achievable," he said.

The HCD letter assumes that Atherton can only qualify 18 ADUs a year because HCD uses a default calculation which is the average number of permitted ADUs over the past four years, DeGolia said. However, the laws changed in 2020 and Atherton created a huge incentive, which is that 100% of ADU square footage no longer counts against the maximum allowed square footage on a property, so we saw a significant increase in permitted ADUs.

"We have the evidence to show that residents will build at least 35 ADUs a year which should overcome the far more limited default calculations that HCD uses," he said.

To support SB 9 lot split assumptions, the analysis must include experience, trends and market conditions that allow lot splits and missing middle uses, the letter states.

"The analysis must list the potential SB 9 sites and demonstrate the likelihood of redevelopment, including whether existing uses constitute as an impediment for additional residential use," it states. "The analysis should describe how the town determined eligible properties, whether the assumed lots will have turnover, if the properties are easy to subdivide, and the condition of the existing structures."

The element must analyze and demonstrate realistic opportunities for multifamily and analyze the conditional use permit requirement in town for multifamily as a potential constraint on housing supply and affordability, according to the state.

See ADU, page 19

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## PAC doing most of the spending in Portola Valley Town Council race

By Angela Swartz

With less than a week until Election Day and with a political action committee contributing the most to support candidates for Portola Valley Town Council — through lawn signs, postcards and mailers — candidates aren't spending or raising much individually, according to the latest round of campaign finance reports.

The most recent filings were due on Oct. 27 for a period that covers Sept. 25 through Oct. 22.

The five candidates — Mayor Craig Hughes, Planning Commission members Judith Hasko and Craig Taylor, retired physician Mary Hufty and Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair Dale Pfau — are competing for three seats on the Portola Valley Town Council.

### PAC spending

Our Future Together Political Action Committee (PAC) formed to unseat current council members, didn't report raising any money during the period. It has collected about \$40,000 in total contributions in 2022, according to its Oct. 27 filing.

The PAC spent about \$10,200 to pay off debts and on

independent expenditures. The bulk of its spending, around \$7,000, went to mailers, signs and postcards for the three candidates it endorsed: Hasko, Hufty and Pfau.

It paid the Sutton Law Firm, which specializes in political and election law, and resident and PAC member Ellen Vernazza about \$3,200 for expenses from a previous filing period. The PAC still has outstanding reimbursements for office supplies and postage to Vernazza.

Our Future Together recently ran ads in the Palo Alto Daily Post last week, though it's unclear if expenses for those ads were paid out before this filing period ended, Oct. 21, or will be included in the next filing period. The Almanac has reached out to Our Future Together for comment.

### Candidate spending and fundraising

The biggest spender was Dale Pfau, who spent about \$5,200 on campaign paraphernalia, literature and mailings. He received about a \$1,400 refund from Embarcadero Media, The Almanac's parent company, for canceled ads, according to his filing.

Pfau raised about \$1,800. He loaned his campaign \$1,000. Bob Allen of the Nathhorst Triangle neighborhood contributed \$242 and Ulrich Aldag gave \$500.

Hasko loaned herself about \$2,860. She spent \$3,070 on yard signs and mailers, according to her filing.

Hughes did not raise any funds. He spent about \$1,900, including reimbursing himself for campaign expenses (yard signs, mailers and a Mailchimp fee). He spent about \$1,060 on campaign mailers, according to his filing.

Taylor didn't raise or spend any funds during this period. He's raised \$1,400 from Portola Valley residents since the beginning of the year, according to his filing. Taylor does owe himself \$420 for campaign paraphernalia.

Hufty's campaign finance document for this filing period came in on Wednesday, Nov. 2. She said her filings came in late because the state delayed sending out her FPPC number until Nov. 1.

Hufty raised \$100 and spent about \$3,000 on campaign signs, postcards and mailers. ■

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

## Measure V signs stolen in Menlo Park

By Cameron Rebosio

Measure V signs are being taken from front yards all over Menlo Park by residents on both sides of the issue.

Signs have been stolen from residents on both sides of the issue, including Council Member Betsy Nash. Nash said that both her No on V sign and her sign for her own campaign were stolen from her yard, as well as other surrounding homes. However, she says that this happens every campaign season.

"We move on," Nash said.

The other side has had to deal with the issue as well, as signs for the Yes on V campaign were taken from the entrance to Suburban Park.

According to Nicole Chessari, co-founder of Measure V, the woman taking the signs was asked what she was doing. She replied that she was "cleaning up the neighborhood," and that she was "tired of seeing (Yes on V) signs."

The woman was captured on video taking the signs and driving away, and Chessari has submitted a police report for petty theft.

"It may not seem like a big deal to some people, but \$10 for a sign

when that's the entirety of some people's donations (matters)," Chessari said. "I would not be doing my job as one of the people running the campaign if I did not protect people's donations, whether it's \$10 or \$2."

Chessari said that a construction paper sign made by children to support Yes on V was also torn down.

Resident Karen Dearing also had her No on V sign moved from her front yard, but it was replaced with a sign she had not requested supporting Peter Ohtaki for City Council. Her No on V sign was shoved back into her bushes.

While Dearing wasn't home at the time, her neighbor got the incident on video, but she is not pressing charges.

"It definitely felt extraordinarily inappropriate," Dearing said. "It seems quite brazen."

Ohtaki said that one of his volunteers thought that they were adding the sign to the construction site beside the home, and that his campaign does not believe in moving people's signs. He apologized to Dearing on NextDoor and reiterated his apologies in an interview with The Almanac.

Ohtaki added that he had also had multiple campaign signs stolen.

Both the No and Yes on Measure V campaigns have said they are not involved with any theft or disturbance of people's signs. ■

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# Flu getting an early, rapid start in Santa Clara County

By Sue Dremann

Cases of influenza are getting an early start this year and appear to be affecting more people than in the previous three years during the same time period, according to local, state and federal data.

Although the percentage of cases is still low in Santa Clara County in relation to the regional baseline of 2.4%, influenza-like illness represented 0.98% of hospital emergency room visits so far since Oct. 2, more than double the rate during the same time last year, according to data from the Santa Clara County Public Health Department.

In the previous three flu seasons, the percentage of emergency room visits due to influenza-like illness in early October was 0.45% for flu season in 2021-22; 0.33% in 2020-21; and 0.49% in 2019-2020. It should be noted that those cases are not necessarily confirmed influenza cases, however.

Of 74 confirmed cases between Oct. 2 and the week ending Oct. 15, 39 were caused by the strain influenza A and 35 were from influenza B, according to the county's data.

There are no reported intensive

care cases nor deaths, according to the county's influenza dashboard, which was last updated on Oct. 17. The case data was collected from Stanford Health Care, Sutter Health/Palo Alto Medical Foundation, O'Connor Hospital, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center and St. Louise Regional Hospital.

Wastewater surveillance monitoring in the Palo Alto sewerhed is also showing a rise of influenza A, according to Stanford University's Sewerhed Coronavirus Alert Network, which also tracks the presence of influenza and other major communicable virus genetic material in wastewater.

Local health departments are advising people to get their shots this year — and to get them earlier.

"Every winter, people end up in the hospital sick with the flu, and for many, this is preventable," Santa Clara County Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said in a statement. "Getting the flu shot every year is the best way to avoid getting influenza, prevent more severe flu symptoms, and protect the people you love."

"Flu vaccination is part of a comprehensive public health strategy not only to reduce the

burden of flu but also to preserve health care resources for care of patients with COVID-19," the San Mateo County health department said in a statement. "It takes a couple of weeks after vaccination for the body to build an immunity, so it's best not to delay getting a shot."

Both counties recommend the flu vaccine to people ages 6 months and older. The vaccine is strongly advised for older adults, pregnant women, children and people with underlying health conditions.

Although flu is present, statewide the virus's activity is still low, with the Bay Area having "minimal" positive cases and Southern California having the most, or a moderate number of cases, according to the most recent California Department of Public Health report. Two people have died in California; one was between the ages of 50 and 64 and the other was over 65 years old.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a report on Oct. 14 noting that flu activity is happening earlier throughout most of the country, and it is highest in the southeast and south-central regions. Its FluView

report shows the percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for flu nationally has reached 3.3%. In the southeast, that percentage has reached about 10%. In the south-central part of the country, 5% of specimens tested positive for flu. The southwest section of the country and Hawaii and Guam are both at 4%, the CDC noted.

The CDC recommended that people should be vaccinated ideally by the end of October, but they could still receive the shot as long as flu viruses might circulate.

"For people who live in a community where flu activity has already begun, there's still time to be vaccinated. Most of the time flu activity peaks between December and February, although significant activity can last as late as May," the CDC noted.

"While the timing and severity of the upcoming flu season cannot be predicted, the United States has experienced little flu for the past two seasons. Reduced population immunity, particularly among young children who may never have had flu exposure or been vaccinated, could bring about a robust return of flu," the CDC said.

The agency is particularly concerned about drops in flu vaccine coverage in the past two years among higher-risk groups, including children and pregnant people. Influenza-like illness visits to hospitals at this time are highest among children ages 4 and younger, followed by people who are 5 to 24 years old, the CDC said. Flu activity often first increases in children and then spreads to older age groups.

The CDC has also reported three new pediatric deaths for the prior 2021-22 flu season, bringing the season total to 43 pediatric deaths.

"This report further underscores the importance of vaccination among children. During most years, about 80% of pediatric flu deaths happen in children who have not been fully vaccinated," the CDC said.

More than 105 million doses of flu vaccine have been distributed in the U.S., according to the CDC.

The public can find places to get flu vaccines at San Mateo County Health's website, [smchealth.org/flu](http://smchealth.org/flu) or at [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov). ■

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

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**TEST SCORES**

*continued from page 1*

has been significant. However, our students have also shown tremendous resiliency throughout the pandemic,” said Nancy Magee, county superintendent of schools, in a press release.

The assessment looks at student performance across district, grade and student groups. Specific student groups are examined closely to determine where additional support may be needed.

Comparing across the student groups, Asian students showed a slight increase in performance, while math and ELA scores among students with disabilities remained roughly at 2019 levels. Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino students saw significant declines in performance, with

the number meeting ELA standards decreasing about 3-5% and the number meeting math standards dropping roughly 6.5% in both groups.

**Ravenswood City School District**

The Ravenswood City School District, which has more socio-economically disadvantaged students (86%) than neighboring districts, saw test scores lag behind other districts. Nearly 59% are emergent bilingual learners while 14% have individual education program plans for special education students, known as IEPs.

Students performed better in 2019, with 18% meeting state standards for English language arts and just under 12% meeting standards for math. In 2018, scores were higher still,

with 24% of students meeting English language arts standards and 15% meeting math standards.

Trustee Ana Maria Pulido said during a Sept. 8 board meeting on the data that she knows the information is sobering, but it’s needed to assess, address and improve.

Trustee Jenny Varghese Bloom noted that East Palo Alto was the worst hit city in the county during the pandemic. East Palo Alto has accounted for 11,753 of the total 171,912 COVID-19 cases the county has seen over the course of the pandemic, according to county data.

“We can not quantify the trauma and we cannot quantify what kids felt for parents not having work or parents going to work every day because they were essential workers,” she

said. “We can not quantify how many of these kids were taking care of siblings or watching TV all day because no one was there to take care of them.”

Board Vice President Tamara Sobomehin said she is not a fan of standardizing testing because it doesn’t match what is being taught in classrooms.

“This is a data point and I do understand that and appreciate it, but I don’t want to become alarmed because of these numbers,” she said. “I appreciate that our district is looking at assessment in a more holistic way.”

The district has said that it considers state testing scores to tell an important but incomplete story.

“Although it illuminates big performance trends, it does not tell the whole story of the health of a student,” district staff wrote in a Sept. 8 board presentation.

The staff report said the district responded by restructuring teacher evaluations; maintained and expanded school-level programming; extended the school day and the school year and addressed compensation disparities districtwide.

Specifically for data assessment and curriculum changes, the district is:

- Creating a strong data and assessment system like iReady for all grades (an online assessment and instruction system that helps teachers provide students a path to proficiency and growth in reading and math)
- Leveraging the use of “street data” (parent surveys, shadowing students, student work and more)
- Systematic progress monitoring across the district
- Reviewing and adopting curriculum that meets the needs of students

The district noted that both research and anecdotal evidence from Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School suggest that, in middle school and beyond, bilingual/multilingual students perform more strongly than students who only speak one language. In Ravenswood, this means that although students at the elementary schools may have lower state assessment scores in elementary school, they have increased learning growth as middle schoolers.

**Districts that saw losses**

Test scores were overall down in the Menlo Park City School District last spring. Some 81% of students met or exceeded English language arts standards in 2022, compared to 84% in 2019. Some 77% of students met or exceeded math

standards, down from 83% in 2019.

The district noted that there was a COVID-19 surge when tests were administered in May, an unusual circumstance that led to more student absences and few students taking the tests.

The test was unlike any previous state tests since — because of the pandemic, parts of the assessment were dramatically shortened by 50% to decrease testing time in order to increase instruction time with the teacher.

“The district’s performance overall may look slightly different when measured against pre-COVID data,” district staff said in an Oct. 13 report.

The district noted it also uses local assessments and mini-assessments throughout the year.

“Many of our local measures are much more reflective of MPCSD’s teaching and learning than the state tests,” staff said.

Looking at individual district schools, Laurel School actually saw gains in its test scores since 2019, while Oak Knoll School saw 6% losses in English language arts scores and a 5% dip in math scores. Hillview Middle School saw a 9% dip in math scores and a 5% drop in English language arts scores.

The district noted that socio-economically disadvantaged students’ test scores continue to improve. They saw a 22% increase from 2017 testing to 2022 in ELA and a 12% increase during the same timeframe in math.

The two-school Woodside Elementary School District’s test scores dropped significantly from 2019 to 2022. Nearly 74% of students met or exceeded math standards in 2022, compared to nearly 85% in 2019 and 82% met or exceeded English language arts standards in 2022, compared to almost 88% in 2019.

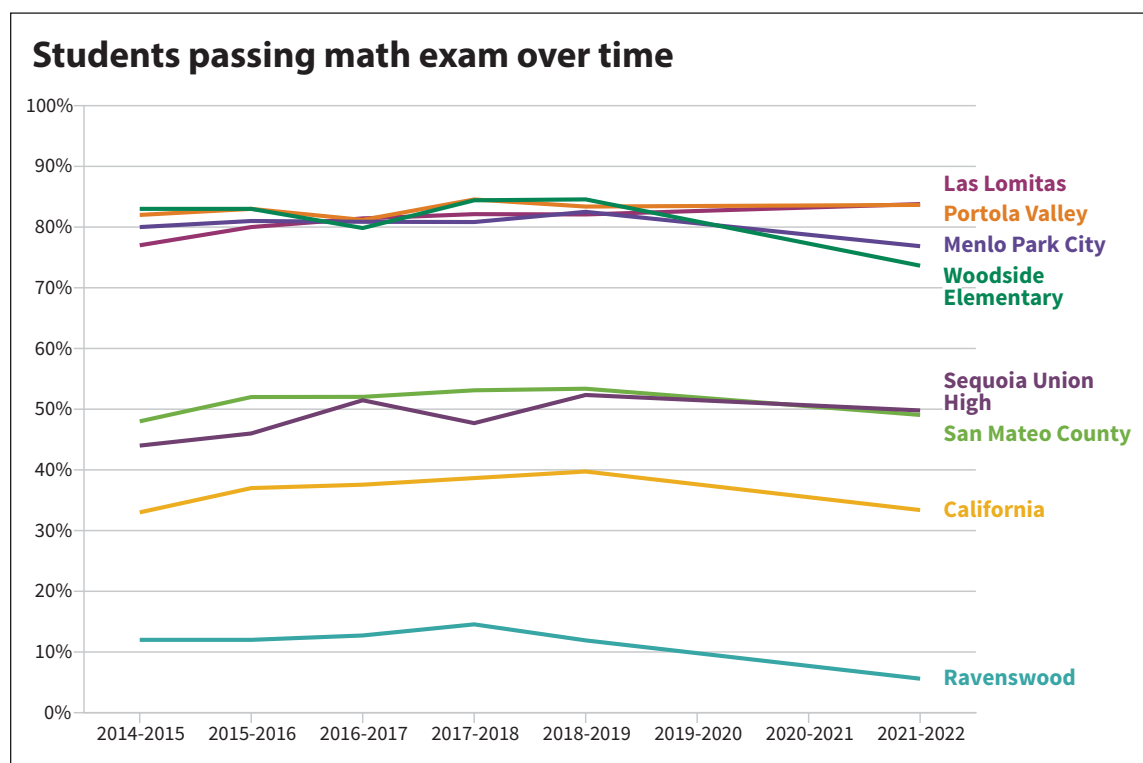
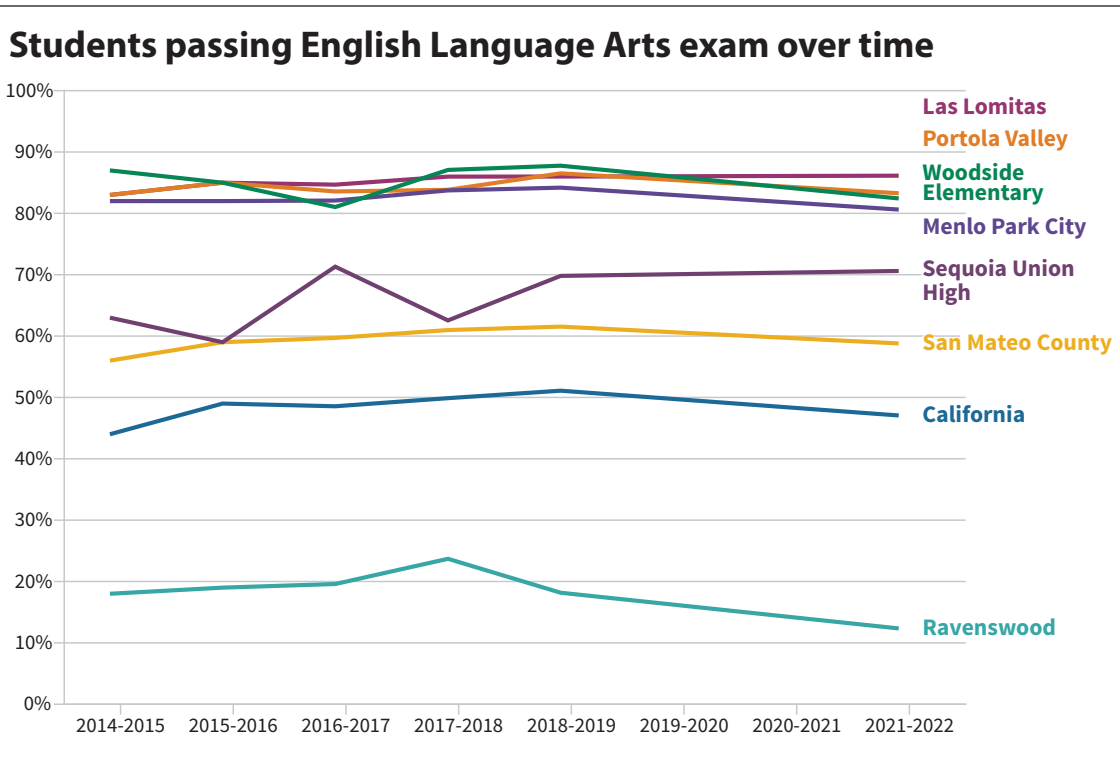
**Outlier Las Lomitas Elementary School District sees gains**

The Las Lomitas Elementary School District actually saw gains from 2019 to 2022.

Some 86% Las Lomitas students met or exceeded English language arts standards, the same number as in 2019. Math scores increased from 82% in 2019 to 84% in 2022.

“It was really nice to see that 2% growth over 2018 in math because we think about the 2019 to 2022 and the lack of instruction, or lack of access for students, and we still

See **TEST SCORES**, page 10



Graphics by Zoe Morgan. Source: California Department of Education.

Test scores for the 2021-22 school year dipped in many Peninsula school districts, consistent with a post-pandemic decline in academic performance in English language arts and math.

**TEST SCORES**

*continued from page 9*

improved, which is something really to be really, really proud of,” said Superintendent Beth Polito during a Sept. 7 district governing board meeting. “The effort of the teachers, the parents, the community, the students, I think it really paid off.”

**Mixed results**

The Portola Valley School District administered the tests in 2021 because it wanted to use them as a point of reference for monitoring student progress over time, and to inform instruction and provide support for students in the 2021-22 school year, according to Superintendent Roberta Zarea.

Some 83% of PVSD students met or exceeded English language arts standards — an increase of 2% from 2021, and 84% of students met or



Veronica Weber

Michelle Keeley, left, leads her fourth grade students in a math lesson conducted entirely in Spanish at Los Robles Magnet Academy in 2019, where all classrooms are bilingual and students learn to read, write and speak in Spanish and English.

exceeded math standards, a 5% increase from 2021. These numbers are still not where they were in 2019 when nearly 87% met or exceeded ELA standards. Math scores did improve from 83% in 2019.

The Sequoia Union High

School District did not see significantly different results before and after the pandemic. Of the district’s roughly 10,000 students, 71% met or exceeded ELA standards, a slight increase from 2019’s results. Just under 50% met or exceeded math

standards, a slight decrease from 2019.

**Achievement gaps within districts**

Students identified as economically disadvantaged and English learners performed worse than other students, showing a significant achievement gap in performance this year.

In the Los Lomitas district, for example, 45% of economically disadvantaged students met English language arts standards, compared to the nearly 89% of students who are not economically disadvantaged. This was a dip from nearly 61% among economically disadvantaged students meeting these standards in 2019.

“While our virtual programs were robust and expertly implemented by our teachers it was still very different and likely had a large impact on a critical

year of literacy instruction,” Polito said in an email. “Over the last two years we have focused our attention on each and every student who did not meet standard and was adversely affected by our COVID years. Our learning recovery program is developmentally appropriate, robust and taking full advantage of extended day programs.”

About 58% of English learners met math standards, an improvement from 2019, when 52% of English learners met math standards in the Las Lomitas district.

Economically disadvantaged students saw gains in both subject areas from 2019 in the Menlo Park district.

English learners’ math scores dropped 9% since 2019, but improved by 4% in English language arts. Students with disabilities saw a 7% drop in scores in both subjects.

“When looking at our students with disabilities, we recognize the past two years of the pandemic continues to have an impact on their learning,” said Katherine Strach, coordinator of data, assessment and English learner services for the Menlo Park district, during a presentation to MPCSD governing board’s earlier this month. She noted that at Encinal School, for example, students with disabilities and English learners make up fewer than 30 students, so caution should be used when interpreting the results of these groups.

Despite outpacing the state and county overall, the Sequoia district had significant achievement gaps across different demographic groups. Looking at math results for 2022, success among Asian and white students exceeded that of county averages, with 87% and 67% meeting or exceeding standards, respectively. However, Hispanic/Latino students are on par with the county, while only 11% of Black students in SUHSD met or exceeded math standards, compared to 17% countywide.

The district has created a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) to “measure our progress in closing the racial gap and improve the performance of students across each of these subgroups,” according to a district statement. The goals of this plan include improving attendance and engagement for all students, addressing equity issues in instructional and employment practices, and implementing new multi-tiered systems of support across the district. ■

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

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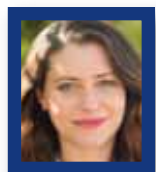
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**Lauren Miller Rogen**  
Co-Founder  
HFC,  
A national non-profit whose mission is to care for families impacted by Alzheimer’s



**Dr. Doris Molina-Henry**  
Assistant Professor of Research Neurology  
Keck School of Medicine of USC  
Alzheimer’s Therapeutic Research Institute



**Dr. Charles Windon**  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology  
University of California San Francisco  
Memory and Aging Center



**Dr. Sarah Kremen**  
Director of the Neurobehavior Program at the Jona Goldrich Center for Alzheimer’s and Memory Disorders  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center



**Dr. Leila Parand**  
Assistant Clinical Professor of Neurology  
David Geffen School of Medicine at University of California, Los Angeles



**Dr. Sharon Sha**  
Clinical Associate Professor of Neurology and Neurological Sciences  
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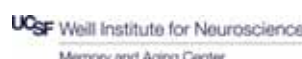
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# Campaign finance roundup

By Cameron Rebosio,  
Angela Swartz and Malea Martin

With just a week until Election Day, candidates and local ballot measures' backers and opponents in Midpeninsula races have filed another round of campaign finance reports, the last prior to Election Day.

The most recent filings were due on Oct. 27 for a period that covers Sept. 25 through Oct. 22.

## Atherton City Council

Mayor Rick DeGolia, Vice Mayor Bill Widmer, Stacy Miles Holland, who is chair of the Environmental Programs Committee and former candidate Greg Conlon are seeking three open seats on the Atherton City Council.

DeGolia raised \$5,892 and reported spending \$590. Council member Elizabeth Lewis contributed \$500 to his campaign. Belmont Vice Mayor Julia Mates gave \$250.

He spent funds on stamps, campaign literature and mailings, along with a voter list.

Town volunteer Greg Conlon had the second largest haul, \$5,700. The Lincoln Club of Northern California, a PAC that works to elect Republicans, has endorsed Conlon. The group gave him \$1,000. Jeffrey A. Morris of the Menlo Park investment company Jeffery A. Morris Group donated \$1,000. Conlon loaned his campaign \$1,000.

He reported spending about \$3,700 on campaign mailers, signs and paraphilia, and postage.

Widmer raised \$1,098 and spent \$1,639. His biggest donor Kevin White, an executive from San Francisco, gave \$500.

He spent over \$1,500 on campaign literature and mailings.

Miles Holland trailed behind, raising \$700 from individual Atherton, Palo Alto and San Mateo residents. She spent about \$2,100 on email services, campaign mailers and other services.

## Woodside Town Council: District 2

In the race for the open seat for Woodside Town Council's District 2, Council member Brian Dombkowski was the only candidate to raise and spend more than \$2,000, according to election filings.

Dombkowski loaned himself \$3,000 during this period. He spent about \$1,700 on an ad thanking those who sponsored and endorsed him, campaign mailers and postage.

Candidates Elizabeth Kaske, a parent and business executive, and Steve Lubin, an architect and

former Planning Commissioner, both filed documents on Sept. 28 attesting that they have raised or spent less than \$2,000 during the period. This excuses them from filing campaign finance reports.

## Menlo Park City Council District 4

Peter Ohtaki is outraising Betsy Nash in the race for Menlo Park's District 4 City Council seat.

Ohtaki has raised over \$8,000 total for his campaign and a little over \$5,000 during this period. Ohtaki received \$1,000 from the Lincoln Club of Northern California PAC, a PAC to elect Republicans, \$900 from the California Real Estate PAC, \$250 from the San Mateo Building Trades Joint Council PAC and \$250 from the California Apartment Association PAC.

He reported spending nearly \$11,000 since Sept. 25 and \$12,500 total, with nearly \$10,000 going to voter outreach.

Nash raised \$2,400 this filing period and just over \$7,000 total. She received \$250 from Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian.

Nash spent nearly \$5,000 total and \$2,500 this filing period on fliers and campaign paraphernalia.

## Ravenswood City School District governing board

Incumbent board President Mele Latu, Vice President Tamara Sobomehin, teacher Laura Nuñez and newcomer Manuel R. López, an aerospace engineer, are seeking three seats on the Ravenswood City School District governing board. Latu, Sobomehin and Nuñez have formed a slate called "Ready Set Ravenswood" to combine their diverse experience.

The trio's committee raised over \$7,900, including a \$4,800 loan from Carolyn Bowsher, board chair of the Ravenswood Education Foundation. Michelle Bovers, a Woodside resident and CEO of the Give Forward Foundation, gave the second largest donation of \$999. Give Forward was acquired by GoFundMe. San Mateo Community College District Trustee John Pimentel contributed \$500.

Candidate Manuel R. López has raised or spent less than \$2,000 during the period, which excuses him from filing a campaign finance report.

## Woodside Elementary School District

According to the San Mateo County Elections Office, all five candidates running for the

See **CAMPAIGN FINANCE**, page 16



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Lower Campus  
477 Fremont Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94024  
11:30am - 1:30pm

**November 12, 2022**  
Middle Campus  
327 Fremont Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94024  
9:00am - 11:00am

**November 5, 2022**  
Upper Campus  
26800 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022  
9:45am - 12:00pm

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*Register online at [www.pinewood.edu](http://www.pinewood.edu)*

# Public Notices

## 995 Fictitious Name Statement

**SOUTH BAY WATER FILTERS**  
S B WATER FILTERS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292221  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) South Bay Water Filters, 2.) S B Water Filters, located at 1685 Mission Rd., South San Francisco, CA 94080, San Mateo County; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1377, San Martin, CA 95046.  
Registered owner(s):  
MICHAEL JOSEPH MCLENNAN  
1685 Mission Rd.  
South San Francisco, CA 94080  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 20, 2022.  
(ALM Oct. 14, 21, 28; Nov. 4, 2022)

**GOLD SHIELD SECURITY SERVICES**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292156  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Gold Shield Security Services, located at 1990 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
RONNIE LOUIS LINCH  
1990 Santa Cruz Ave.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on September 14, 2022.  
(ALM Oct. 14, 21, 28; Nov. 4, 2022)

**MAGNOLIA PROPERTIES**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292407  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Magnolia Properties, located at 131 & 141 South Magnolia Avenue, Millbrae, CA 94030, San Mateo County; Mailing Address: 262 Michelle Court, South San Francisco, CA 94080.  
Registered owner(s):  
PACIFIC WEST RESOURCES, INC.  
2820 Hillside Drive  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
State of Incorporation: CA  
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 October 11, 2022.  
(ALM Oct. 21, 28; Nov. 4, 11, 2022)

**8A'S COFFEE**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292373  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
8A'S Coffee, located at 1760 Bay Rd. Apt. 21, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
SANDRA YANETH OCHOA  
1760 Bay Rd. Apt. 21  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
This business is conducted by: An Individual.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/01/2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 4, 2022.  
(ALM Oct. 21, 28; Nov. 4, 11, 2022)

**ROBINSON & COMPANY REALTORS**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292471  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Robinson & Company Realtors, located at

3603 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
ROBINSON FINANCIAL CORPORATION  
3603 Alameda De Las Pulgas  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation  
State of Incorporation: California.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 7/1/1980.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 17, 2022.  
(ALM Oct. 28; Nov. 4, 11, 18, 2022)

**TACOS EL GRULLENSE C&D #4**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292378  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Tacos El Grullense C&D #4, located at 575 Ralston Ave., Belmont, CA 94002, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
TACOS EL GRULLENSE C&D #4 INC.  
10 Danford Court  
Redwood City, CA 94062  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
State of Incorporation: CA  
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 October 5, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

**TACOS EL GRULLENSE C&D**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292386  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Tacos El Grullense C&D, located at 60 31st Ave, San Mateo, CA 94403, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
TACOS EL GRULLENSE C&D INC.  
10 Danford Court  
Redwood City, CA 94062  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
State of Incorporation: CA  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/14/2018.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 6, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

**TACOS EL GRULLENSE #1**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292381  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Tacos El Grullense #1, located at 1243 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
TEG-CKD INC.  
10 Danford Ct.  
Redwood City, CA 94062  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
State of Incorporation: CA  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/19/2017.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 5, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

**HINENI: JEWISH AND NATURE BASED GRIEF SUPPORT**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292568  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Hineni: Jewish and Nature Based Grief Support, located at 801 North Humboldt Street, Suite 405, San Mateo, CA 94401, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
JON AVRAM SOMMER  
801 North Humboldt Street, Suite 405  
San Mateo, CA 94401  
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 October 26, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

**GULFSTREAM DRILLING 1978**  
GULFSTREAM DRILLING 1979  
LEEDEY DRILLING VENTURES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292527  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Gulfstream Drilling 1978, 2.) Gulfstream Drilling 1979, 3.) Leedy Drilling Ventures, located at 7 Lloyd Drive, Atherton, CA 94027, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
WILLIAM JAMES MASSEY, JR.  
7 Lloyd Drive  
Atherton, CA 94027  
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 October 25, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

**WOODSIDE MAIL OFFICE**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292506  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
Woodside Mail Office, located at 2995 Woodside Road Suite 400, Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
WOODSIDE VENTURES CORP  
2995 Woodside Road Suite 400  
Woodside, CA 94062  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation  
State of Incorporation: CA.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/24/2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 24, 2022.  
(ALM Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME**  
The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.  
File No. M-292147  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):  
WOODSIDE MAIL OFFICE  
2995 Woodside Road, Suite 400  
Woodside, CA 94062  
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:  
09/13/2022.  
UNDER FILE NO. M-292147  
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):  
MAIL OFFICE OF AMERICA, INC.  
2995 Woodside Road, Suite 400  
Woodside, CA 94062  
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY a corporation, State of Incorporation: CA  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on October 27, 2022.  
(PAW Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

**ABC CHAUFFEURED LIMOUSINES-SEDANS**  
ABC LIMOUSINES-SEDANS-VANS-WORLDWIDE  
TRANSPORT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-292593  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) ABC Chauffeured Limousines-Sedans, 2.) ABC Limousines-Sedans-Vans-Worldwide Transport, located at 15 S Bayshore Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94401, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
D E M Enterprises Inc.  
15 S Bayshore Blvd  
San Mateo, CA 94401  
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/28/2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 28, 2022.



Courtesy Teresa's Antiques

Revenue from everything sold at Teresa's Antiques in Menlo Park will be donated to three local charities, owner Teresa Beltramo said.

## Instead of retiring, Teresa's Antiques owner pivots to give 100% to charity

By Cameron Rebosio

Teresa Beltramo has run an antique shop for more than five decades, and now she's taking the next step — giving every dollar she brings in to charity.

Menlo Park's Teresa's Antiques is located on Santa Cruz Avenue, the same location of her very first shop in the 1970s. Back then it was called Ambiance Antiques, and the shop moved to the San Francisco Design District. Beltramo left the antique business to care for her husband, John Beltramo, and returned after his death to open the downtown shop that exists today.

She said she considered retiring and focusing on volunteer work, but couldn't find anything that suited her needs. Instead, she decided to donate the entire cost of each item sold to local charities.

The solution, proposed by her son Alex Beltramo, is that for the duration of the business's lease all of the proceeds would go to charity. The store is supporting three local charities, LifeMoves, the Riekes Center for Human Enhancement and the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Fund, and then the entire value of the item, except sales tax, will be donated by the store to the charity of the buyer's choice.

Teresa's Antiques' lease ends in March, and the family is uncertain whether they will extend it.

The store is a passion of Teresa Beltramo's, and she says that the benefits to the community don't just come from the charity, but the antiques themselves.

"(Antique furniture) saves the environment rather than buying new," she said. "So we feel we're helping the environment and

that's important."

She added that antique furniture is made to last, and adds a warmth and character to a household.

The furniture in Teresa's Antiques came from her own home, when her family moved to a cottage in Menlo Park. The Beltramo family also took the furniture from two condos they rented and have added that to the inventory.

The family bought most of their antiques on family trips to France, a tradition that started on a family vacation to Italy. The family would take home 40-foot containers full of antiques from France.

"What I like is the authenticity, I make sure they're authentic," Beltramo said. "I want to choose the ones that have good scale, good design, authentic and that have warmth and charm. Not too straight, not sterile. Not too flowery or too formal."

Alex Beltramo describes the purchasing of items as a family event, as his mother would run through a warehouse and tag items and the rest of the family would follow filling out paperwork. He describes the experience as a "treasure hunt," and says that since they moved so fast, it was an exciting surprise when they would open the containers after getting home.

Both Alex and Teresa Beltramo expressed hope that in addition to the charitable donations, the program could also bring business downtown and help the Menlo Park and antique communities. Teresa's antiques will be contributing the cost of items to charity through March. ■

Email Staff Writer Cameron Rebosio at crebosio@almanacnews.com.

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## 722 FOURTEENTH AVENUE, MENLO PARK

Nestled in the popular North Fair Oaks neighborhood, this quaint 4 bed/1 bath Cape Cod style residence is believed to be one of the original farmhouses that pre-date the area's development.

With lath and plaster walls throughout, as well as many meticulously maintained original period details, the home is flooded with light and boasts generous room proportions.

The living room is framed by a wood burning fireplace, stately woodwork, and built-in shelving, while the cheery country-style eat-in kitchen provides access to the backyard.

The primary bedroom features a walk-in closet and proximity to the home's remodeled bathroom, while a second downstairs bedroom has flexible usage as a den or home office.

Two additional bedrooms are upstairs with charming dormer windows.

The backyard is spacious and sunny, while an oversized two-car detached garage offers space for a workshop.

Primely positioned, the home is moments away from shopping and daily conveniences at Marsh Manor, as well as major employers.

Living Area: 1,510 Square Feet\* | Lot Size: 5,350 Square Feet\*

\*Per County records, unverified

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DRE 00952657

**James Steele**  
650.796.2523  
james.steele@compass.com  
DRE 01872027

Or, all of us at [CarolNicoleandJames@Compass.com](mailto:CarolNicoleandJames@Compass.com)

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## Alexander Sexton Freund

February 5, 1983 – September 1, 2022

Alexander Sexton Freund, beloved son of Linda Gray Sexton of Annapolis, Maryland and John G Freund, of Atherton, California, died after a brave battle with a long illness on the first of September, 2022. He was only thirty-nine and made his home in Atherton and Menlo Park for thirty-five of those years.

In addition to his parents, he leaves behind many treasured family members: one of the most important relationships in his life would always be the one he shared with Nicholas Gray Freund, his brother, with whom he bonded in an abiding love, his stepmother, Linda Grais, and stepfather, Brad Clink, as well as his two aunts Joyce Sexton and Deborah Freund, in addition to myriad nephews, nieces and cousins.

Zan also touched his closest friends in a major way, both those he met at Connecticut College, from which he graduated *cum laude* in Government in 2006, and many from Menlo School in Atherton, with whom he kept in close touch from high school until his death this year.

After four years at “Conn,” Alexander joined up with high school buddies David Nemetz, Dave Finocchio, and Brian Goldberg to co-found Bleacher Report, which became the largest independent website devoted to sports. Personable and gregarious, Zan was especially good with people and was responsible for building the company’s “community.” Bleacher was eventually acquired by the Turner Broadcasting division of Time/Warner and today attracts hundreds of millions of unique visitors a month.

As a teen, he could often be found in hang-outs like The Dutch Goose and the “O” (The Oasis), scarfing down hamburgers and, along with his friends, trying to score the occasional beer. Anyone who came under his influence was attracted by his quick wit and his kindness. With gentle warmth he drew people to his side, and soon his large group of close friends adopted a new appellation for itself: “The Zan Clan.”

He was passionate about a wide variety of subjects and had a deep love of the guitar, playing it for hours in his bedroom. He often created new melodies: any kind of music drew him in, either instrumental or vocal—but the group Phish was his favorite, and he often followed them around the U.S. to attend their concerts.

Reading, too, gripped him and he often immersed himself in his favorite writer, Stephen King, reading and rereading all of his work. Every novel by King eventually wound up on his atypically organized bookcase; Alexander loved King’s short stories, those in which King often eschewed the “horror” aspect of some of his work and went for deeper emotions. He loved to debate the value of this writer’s work with his mother, who was also an author, and he often drifted through the house quite happily, book in his hands, draped in the cozy folds of his comforter, which he called his “puff,” dragging it along behind him.

Shooting hoops with both his father and Nicholas, as well as the Zan Clan, made him especially happy. Zan was a wizard at

foul shots, and had to give basketball handicaps to his father throughout his life. To his mother’s horror, his favorite T.V. show as he was growing up was “Beavis and Butt-Head.”

His step-parents were pivotal in his life, as well: true to her generous nature, his stepmother took time out on her wedding day to help the perpetually disorganized Zan find matching socks, and taught Nicholas how to iron his dress shirt. His stepfather took

Zan and a close friend camping at Big Sur and Alexander discovered that he liked hiking, as well as his Mom’s baked beans alongside his perennial favorite—hot dogs.

The political scene fascinated him, and he had deep and enduring knowledge of every party and candidate—especially those whose philosophies went beyond the traditional. He was always able to defeat his opposition, who would often cry, “O.K., Zan! You win!”

He loved the tribe of the family’s three Dalmatians, and he always had a sweet spot for his cat Doppler, an Abyssinian who followed him from room to room and slept at the foot of his bed. Zan was convinced by his mother that the three dogs who eventually passed on from their home were waiting eagerly to greet him at the Rainbow Bridge. At the time, he almost believed her—but then did with certainty later in his life, when he discovered and held tight to a deep spirituality.

His religious background contained a richly unique combination of both Judaism and a touch of the Protestant faith his mother grew up with before she converted to her husband’s religion. Sabbath dinner became part of the Freund family’s rituals and Linda taught both boys the blessings for the candles, while John took on those for the handmade loaf of challah

Linda had baked, and the wine.

Alexander and Nick both survived Hebrew school, and became bar mitzvah: on a sunny Saturday morning in 1996, Zan’s melodious chant of the day’s Torah portion in his pitch perfect voice warmed his father’s, mother’s and grandfather’s hearts. But as was his wont, when the rabbi later asked Alexander whether he was looking forward to continuing his Jewish education, Zan retorted boldly that he’d had enough.

His life was enriched by a unique combination of both his father’s Jewish heritage, as well as the Protestant rituals of his mother’s background. Christmas stockings and an exceedingly tall tree, which his family decorated just before the all-important day, were de rigueur. The family shared the holiday with relatives and Zan basked in Grandpa Al’s pleasure over the gifts he received from his grandsons.

Zan will be missed intensely by his grieving family and close friends. Forever.

Alexander’s ashes will be interred at both the Los Gatos Memorial Cemetery and the Forest Hills Cemetery in Boston. Donations in his memory may be made to NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness), <https://donate.nami.org/>, or the ASPCA, [aspcadonate.org](https://aspcadonate.org/).



### CAMPAIGN FINANCE

continued from page 11

Woodside Elementary School District filed a 470 form, meaning they are not spending or raising over \$2,000 dollars for their campaigns. Because of this, they are not obligated to file campaign donations or expenditures.

### Woodside Fire Protection District

Incumbent candidate Matt Miller has raised a total of \$3,000 this calendar year, \$500 of which came in during the most recent filing period from Sept. 25 to Oct. 22. The recent \$500 donation came from the San Mateo County Firefighters Local 2400 Political Activities Committee. The other \$2,500 came from a donation Miller made to his own campaign on Sept. 2.

Miller has spent just more than \$1,400 on his campaign so far on yard signs and advertising.

Lloyd “Rusty” Day has raised \$500 total this calendar year, though according to the San Mateo County public portal for campaign finance disclosures, Day did not file any documents for the most recent filing period. The \$500 was a donation Day made to his own campaign. He spent \$50 on state registration fees.

### Board of Supervisors District 3

In the race for District 3 of the Board of Supervisors, Laura Parmer-Lohan has outraised her opponent, Ray Mueller, but he maintains the lead in total fundraising.

Mueller has picked up just over \$14,000 this filing period for a total of over \$416,000 this campaign season. He received \$1,000 from the Plumbers, Steamfitters & Refrigeration Fitters Local 393 Political Action Fund, \$1,000 from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 617, \$1,000 from the San Francisco Laborers Local 261 PAC and \$250 from John McGirr, who works in the city of Menlo Park.

His campaign has spent over \$55,000 this filing period, mostly on advertising and campaign paraphernalia, bringing his campaign’s total expenditures this year to over \$287,000.

Parmer-Lohan has raised over \$19,000 this filing period for a total of over \$334,000 this campaign season. She received \$1,000 from the Equality California PAC, a PAC dedicated to LGBTQ rights, \$100 from Pamela Foley, San Jose City Council member and \$100 from Tom Nolan, City Manager of San Francisco.

Parmer-Lohan’s campaign has spent over \$41,000 since Sept. 25, mostly on campaign literature and consulting, bringing her yearly total to over \$320,000. ■

PAID OBITUARY

**TEACHERS**

*continued from page 5*

shortage that is “hobbling” districts across the state and the country, and that Portola Valley’s veteran staff have helped shield the district from the worst of the shortage’s effects. But finding and retaining staff will be hard without competitive salaries and benefits.

“PVSD’s compensation has fallen far behind neighboring districts and we now struggle to find applicants. PVSD’s contribution to health and welfare has been stagnant for nearly a decade,” Sato said. “The teachers we have want to stay in PVSD, but economic realities will begin to push younger teachers elsewhere and we will continue to face challenges replacing veteran teachers when they retire. Students are not served well by a revolving door of educators and we should be working to ensure consistent, high-quality teaching for our students.”

The district’s last contract agreement with the teachers union was in 2019. The deal, which expired June 30, included a 2.4% annual salary increase for completing professional development.

The contract established a \$1,500 bonus for teachers who receive a positive annual evaluation. John Davenport, the former president of the teachers union said at the time that it was the best deal they were going to get.

“Although I am not jumping up and down, this is something I could endorse,” he said.

**Other teachers’ comments**

Corte Madera School social studies teacher Lemma Barazi said after being forced to move out of her apartment, she had to live with 14 other people to save money. She said she also has a second job to make ends meet.

“We’re (teachers) here because we do love it,” Barazi said. “I’m willing to stay here if there’s more cooperation. ... I don’t know how long I can last.”

Art teacher Brigid Horgan said she felt disrespected by the district.

“I work my tail off; I don’t have time to add to my plate,” said Horgan, who commutes from San Francisco so she can keep her rent-controlled apartment. “I will be burnt out if I have to stay here longer.”

Longtime fourth grade teacher Jenny Lebsack said that the district used to be a sought-after place to teach, but because of increased cost



*Courtesy Tim Sato*

Portola Valley Elementary School District teachers attend an Oct. 27 governing board meeting.

of living in the area, educators do not want to work in a district they can’t afford to live in. Being able to teach in the Portola Valley district used to be considered “the golden ticket,” she said.

**What’s on the table now**

The district’s latest proposal includes moving to a new salary structure to provide all teachers with pay comparable to that offered by neighboring districts. Base salaries in the district start at \$64,108. Teachers can earn up to \$132,969. The Menlo Park City School District starts at \$70,832 and tops out at \$140,477. Zarea noted that MPCSD teachers work three extra days per year and 15

extra minutes per day, which is one of the reasons for their higher base salary.

Some Portola Valley teachers would receive up to a 50.7% increase over the prior year, but no teacher would receive less than a 7.9% increase for 2022-23. The average increase would be 20%, retroactive July 1. The estimated average base salary for 2022-23 is \$129,514 under the district’s new proposal, according to the district.

Teachers would also see a 3% increase for the 2023-24 school year. There would also be increased contributions to teachers’ insurance coverage, according to the district. ■

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

**Ronald Vernon Schmidt**

*March 31, 1944 – September 22, 2022*

Ronald Vernon Schmidt, 78, passed away on 9/22/22, at his home. Ron was born on 3/31/1944 in San Francisco. He graduated from South San Francisco High School and continued his education at U.C. Berkeley where he received his PhD in Electrical Engineering in 1970. After completing his PhD, he went on to do post doctoral work at University College, London before joining Bell Labs in Holmdel, New Jersey. Seven years later he migrated West where he worked at Xerox PARC before cofounding SynOptics Communications. He was first and foremost an engineer at heart. He was a visionary leader and a pioneer in the field of intelligent LAN hubs over shielded twisted pair telephone wire. Although he was a man of few words, his words were impactful. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the National Academy of Engineering and a Fellow of IEEE.



Upon his retirement he pursued his passion for model trains and as with his career work, he set high standards for the hobby.

He is survived by Lila, his wife of 53 years, his daughter Sara, son-in-law, Don Simpson and two grandchildren, Lila and Reed.

There will be a remembrance on January 21, 2023, at the Portola Valley Town Center at 2 p.m.

Donations may be made to the Colorado Railroad Museum, P.O. Box 10 Golden, CO. 80402

PAID OBITUARY

**Jean Allan Willis**

*April 8, 1932 – September 18, 2022*

On September 18, 2022, Jean Allan Willis, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, former business executive and accomplished craftswoman, passed away in her home in Atherton at the age of 90.



Jean Lee Allan was born in Omaha Nebraska in 1932, attended Dundee elementary school, Rosemary Hall School for Girls, Wellesley College,

and graduated from Stanford University in 1953. She was quite tall and striking, and made a strong impression on many who met her. While attending Wellesley, she passed her future husband, David Willis, in a stairwell. He spent the next several days calling everyone he knew at the college to find out who she was. They were married in 1954 at Grace Cathedral in Omaha.

After living in Houston for several years while David worked for Shell Oil, they moved to Atherton, CA, where they raised their three boys, Beau, Nelt, and Parker. In the early years of 1960’s Silicon Valley their house was a crossroads of entrepreneurs, visiting students, mathematicians and engineers. She was an early adopter of Julia Child’s culinary revolution, putting the entire family to work in the kitchen and creating a passion for cooking that extends across generations. The family traveled extensively, and she loved the summers spent in the Santa Cruz mountains and backpacking trips in the High Sierras.

Jean was a capable and charismatic leader and often ended up in charge of volunteer projects, whether as treasurer and vice president of the Junior League of Palo Alto, supporting the International Student Center at Stanford, or as President of the Menlo School Mothers Club.

Jean’s passion for meticulous workmanship was expressed through her many projects. Her father, James Allan, was a well known commercial architect in the midwest and taught her drafting and basic architecture in his offices in Omaha. She designed and supervised the construction of two houses, including her home in Atherton. For almost forty years she was a regular student at the Palo Alto High School adult vocational upholstery program, and upholstered and re-upholstered dozens of sofas, armchairs and pillows in the family homes, all of them precisely and beautifully executed. Many of her dozens of sewing projects are now beloved heirlooms that her grandchildren wear with style and pride, as the 1970s are once again cool.

In her mid fifties, Jean entered the workforce as an executive assistant at Trust Consultants, Inc, a pension management firm based in San Mateo. Always a quick study, after a few years she had advanced to the position of Chief Operating Officer, leading the operational side of the business. When the company was later acquired by Marsh and McLennan Companies, Jean was appointed Senior Vice President in the firm, twelve years after she began her business career as a secretary.

She read everything. Throughout her life, her conversation sparkled with a dry, knowing wit and an extensive and artfully deployed vocabulary.

We miss her very much.

Jean is survived by her sister, three sons and their wives, eight grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

PAID OBITUARY

## Marilyn Schwartz Brown

July 15, 1928 – October 11, 2022

Marilyn S. Brown moved through life with grace, a loving spirit and open heart. Everyone Marilyn met would remember her radiant smile and a twinkle in her eye that brought light and warmth to the world. She passed away at her home in Portola Valley on October 11, aged 94 from complications of Covid and dementia.

While Marilyn's long and wonderful life began in San Francisco, she held fond memories of her early years spent in the Pacific Northwest, with her parents, Leonard and Marion Schwartz, and her younger brother, Frank. At age 12, the family moved to Southern California, where Marilyn later attended Anoakia Girls School. There she thrived academically as well as socially, and aimed to reach her goal of following in her father's footsteps and attend Stanford University. Her youth was full of good friendships, and love and support from her family.

Marilyn went on to work hard and find success at Stanford, and received her degree in economics. In addition to her busy social life, Marilyn became very active in various student organizations at Stanford, and was elected as Secretary-Treasurer of her senior class. That year she met her future husband, Everett "Pete" Layman, Jr. After graduating in 1950, they soon married and settled in Palo Alto. Marilyn was a devoted mother and loved these years raising their three children, Erik, Karen and Janis. She enjoyed their summer trips to Lake Tahoe, and was actively engaged in supporting her children's education, applying her leadership skills to serving as PTA president at their grammar, middle and high schools.

In 1975, newly single after her marriage to Pete ended, Marilyn carried on with determination, and developed her career as a bookkeeper and office manager for Alhouse Realty in Palo Alto. Soon after she met Allan Brown, a previous acquaintance at Stanford. They married and began a life together that would prove to be full of interesting travels and adventure, that included flying in a four-seat plane to see the polar bears in Canada, a river trip on Alaska's north slope, a safari in Kenya, and an exciting exploration of the Iberian Peninsula. They had a shared passion for Stanford football and basketball games, and annual week-long hiking trips in the High Sierra with a circle of friends. The couple built a beautiful home

in Portola Valley with a spectacular view of Windy Hill. There Marilyn enjoyed hosting her Stanford class reunion parties, as well as welcoming her beloved children and grandchildren, especially for festive meals during the holidays.

Later in life, Marilyn focused on spending time with her adoring family including their dear little dog Toby,



playing tennis, weekly lunches with her brother Frank, and her work for environmental causes. Hiking and competitive tennis kept Marilyn young and active, and she continued playing until almost 90 years old, typically the oldest doubles competitor at the Foothills Tennis Club. Marilyn developed a passion for nature and wilderness, and became an ardent environmentalist. She was a longtime member of the board of

trustees of the Sierra Club Foundation, and worked diligently in fund raising for the Yosemite Conservancy for ten years. The family was so proud of her efforts to support the completion of the Mariposa Grove Restoration Project, which will protect this beautiful grove of Giant Sequoias for generations to come.

Marilyn found her spiritual home in an area near Bridgeport, California, set in a lush valley at the foot of the majestic Sierra mountains. There, she found a quiet and peaceful place where she could "take nature in." Marilyn was delighted when her family all gathered in Bridgeport for a special celebration of her 90th birthday.

Marilyn will be missed most for her loving and kind personality, her unwavering support for family and friends, and unbridled enthusiasm for life. She is survived by her husband, Allan Brown and their dog Toby; her three children, Erik (Sunny) Layman, Karen McDonald, Janis (Sandy) Freschi; her grandchildren Erika and Sophie Layman, and Peter and Brooke Freschi; and her three stepsons Davin, Steven and Bowen Brown, and their families.

Marilyn's family is most grateful to her caregiving team, especially Rosel Quiwa and Junna Alfonso, for their wonderful work and attentive care.

Pathways Hospice also provided abundant much-needed support during Marilyn's final months.

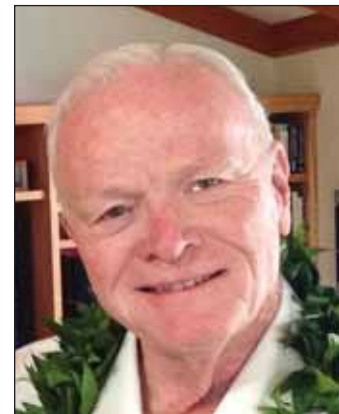
In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Marilyn's name to the Yosemite Conservancy.

<https://yosemite.org/giving/gifts-in-memory-honor/>

## Richard Henry Horn, M.D.

March 18, 1930 – October 22, 2022

Richard ("Dick") Henry Horn, 92, passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on October 22, 2022. His wife and love of his life Jeanie (née Fox) predeceased him on April 11, 2015.



Dick was born in Santa Monica, California on March 18, 1930 to Lawrence Samuel Horn and Jean Anderson Horn. His Santa Monica childhood centered around sports,

encouraged by his father Larry, who coached football and track and field at Santa Monica City College and still holds the Midland College (now Midland University) football record (in 1920) for single game and career scoring. Dick attended Santa Monica High School ("Samohi"), where as quarterback he led his football team to the Southern California C.I.F. championship in 1947. He was the Samohi Student Body President his senior year.

Dick entered Stanford University in 1948. He met Jeanie his sophomore year at Stanford when she was a freshman and they were both working in the Roble Hall dining hall. The previous year, the Stanford football team had attended a reception at the home of Jeanie's parents (John and Helen Fox) at Punahou School in Honolulu, where John was President. Dick noticed a photo of Jeanie sitting on their piano and discreetly inquired who that beautiful girl was. Little did he know that that beautiful girl would soon be his wife, to whom he was married for 60 years.

Dick was a defensive back on the Stanford football team, which played in the Rose Bowl in 1952. In 1991, he was named to the Stanford All-Century team and in 2009 he was inducted into the Stanford Athletics Hall of Fame. His high school and college football experiences, and the camaraderie he shared with his teammates, were some of his fondest memories. He cherished and nurtured friendships with many of his teammates for decades.

After graduating in 1952, Dick entered the Air Force, where he was stationed in Merced, California. He and Jeanie married in the Stanford Church in May 1954 and settled in Menlo Park. He played football for the Baltimore Colts in 1954 and 1958, and attended Stanford Medical School from 1955 to 1959. He joined the Menlo Medical Clinic in 1963 and spent his career there as a pediatrician. His patients remember him for his "Donald Duck voice" and many of them continued to see him after they'd graduated from college! Dick's partners remember chuckling over the image of grown kids sitting on tiny children's chairs in the pediatric waiting room.

Dick and Jeanie raised four children in Menlo Park and Palo Alto. He loved the mountains and was an avid skier and tennis player. In 1971, they built an adobe brick home which, over the years, became a gathering place and hostel for friends, extended family, and numerous Stanford students and graduates. Many of their friends remember the "aloha spirit" with which Dick and Jeanie welcomed these folks. A close friend recently remarked "That home meant so much to so many people." Dick and Jeanie also enjoyed many years of tailgating parties at Stanford football games and social tennis on the court at their home.

Dick is survived by his children John, Lisa, Bruce and Kristin (Alexander), and his grandchildren Mia, John Cameron, Chloe Alexander, and Luke Horn.

His memorial service will be held on Friday, December 16, 2022 at 11:00a.m. at the Menlo Church, 950 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Donations may be made to the Stanford Buck/Cardinal Club and the Samohi Viking Fund ([samohivikingfund@gmail.com](mailto:samohivikingfund@gmail.com)).

PAID OBITUARY

PAID OBITUARY

**ADU**

continued from page 6

**Errors in state data**

Town officials say that HCD's demographic records need to be updated since they provide an inaccurate idea of how many units the town should be required to build for. Atherton officials say that the state has therefore assigned housing quotas that aren't realistic. City Council members have brought up this concern during public meetings.

"During our conversations with HCD they noted that if there were errors in their annual report calculations that the town could submit corrections," Rodericks said. "We intend to do so."

San Mateo County contributed data on cities and towns to the state.

In July, Council member Bob Polito called the numbers "mind-boggling." For example, he said he found the projected 2,700 employees in town seemed dramatically high. Vice Mayor Bill Widmer agreed.

**Housing advocates react to the letter**

Keith Diggs, a housing elements advocacy manager for YIMBY Law, a group that helps enforce state housing laws, said the town's "defensive" cover letter to the state "says everything you need to know." Atherton is all-in on being "different" and "exclusive," he said, pulling language from Atherton's draft element's cover letter.

"They (Atherton) complain about the secondary issue of eschewing HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) grants for affordable housing, when the real issue is that they make it illegal to build the kind of missing-middle housing that's necessary to end the housing crisis," Diggs said in an email. "I just don't buy their myth that there's 'little vacant developable land' in Atherton. There's



Magali Gauthier

A sign on a table reads "How can Atherton reach its housing goals?" at a community meeting to discuss the state's housing requirements in Jennings Pavilion at Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton on April 26.

plenty of vacant land; the town is choosing not to let its residents build on their vacant land."

DeGolia and others have pointed to the high cost of land in town, about \$8 million per acre, as a barrier for building affordable housing in town.

Jeremy Levine, a policy manager for the housing advocacy group the Housing Leadership Council, said in an email that similar to Woodside, the feasibility of affordable housing in Atherton is almost entirely a question of political will. There are two strategies for building affordable housing in Atherton, he said:

- Allowing higher-density market-rate multifamily development and require a component (typically 15%) to be affordable to lower-income households. The high rate of return of market rate housing in Atherton can more than offset an inclusionary component in a project of 20 units or more, he said.

- Allowing higher-density affordable multifamily development with extra incentives for 100% affordable housing developers, which must include some combination of land dedication or subsidy, and favorable development standards.

Atherton may not have much land to dedicate, but the town could raise revenue for subsidies a number of ways. Policy tools such as an affordable housing overlay

can allow higher densities and other relaxed development standards exclusively for affordable housing developers, which makes it possible for nonprofit developers to compete with market-rate developers for the same land. Other incentives can include fee waivers, expedited permit processing, and more.

"I think some Atherton leaders genuinely believe that ADUs are the only realistic way to build affordable housing in Atherton because of high land costs," he said. "However, land is a relatively small proportion of total development costs, and there are many tools Atherton can use to make affordable homes pencil (out)."

Levine said Atherton's one-acre minimum lot size creates a de facto "mansion only" policy, which the housing element does nothing to address.

"The invisible wall to affordable housing erected by Atherton's exclusionary zoning exists entirely at the discretion of the town, and it is the town's responsibility as a part of the California community to tear its self-imposed barriers down," he said. "When there are more units in a project, the cost of land per unit becomes pretty small compared to other costs. For single-family development, the cost of land is typically a far larger share of the total cost of development than for multifamily."

**Other feedback**

The state letter notes that Atherton's plan identifies multiple sites, including the public facilities and school districts, Menlo School, Menlo College and the Cal Water Bear Gulch Reservoir, for development. It must include additional discussion on each of these sites identified to accommodate the RHNA in its plan, state officials say.

"We also believe that there are significant opportunities for staff housing at the schools and HCD rejects that because Atherton used school housing in the last housing element and it didn't get built," Mayor DeGolia said. "Nevertheless, times have changed and school staff housing is now critical, so we think that we can show that it will get built."

While the element includes a general summary of the public participation process, the element should also demonstrate efforts were made to involve all economic

segments of the community in the development of the element, according to the letter.

The element could describe the efforts to circulate the housing element among low- and moderate-income households and organizations that represent them and to involve them in the element throughout the process. In addition, the element should summarize the public comments and describe how they were considered and incorporated, the letter states.

The plan fails to address the state requirement to establish the number of housing units, by income level, that can be constructed, rehabilitated and conserved over a five-year time frame, officials say.

The City Council met on Wednesday, Nov. 2, after The Almanac's Wednesday afternoon press deadline, to provide direction to staff on how to respond to HCD's comments.

Read the full letter to Atherton at [tinyurl.com/Athertonfeedback](http://tinyurl.com/Athertonfeedback). ■

*Maria Gilsdorf*

February 24, 1926 – September 11, 2022

Maria Gilsdorf, a longtime resident of Menlo Park, passed away on September 11, 2022. Born in Corozal, Puerto Rico in 1926, Maria was the youngest of three children to Adela Rodriguez and Mariano Cabranes.



Maria attended University of Puerto Rico and received a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry. In addition, Maria received a Masters in Health Education from the University of Puerto Rico and a Masters in Hospital Administration from Washington University in St. Louis. She also began graduate studies towards a Ph.D in Hospital and Medical Care Administration from University of Pittsburgh.

Following Maria's studies, she held various roles in Hospital Administration, Consulting and Research and Health Education. In Puerto Rico she was Administrator of the Arecibo Hospital and later worked for the Puerto Rico Department of Health as well as San Juan Medical Center.

Maria met her husband, David, while he was consulting in Puerto Rico. David and Maria were married in 1966 and shortly after moved from Pittsburgh to Menlo Park. After arriving in Menlo Park, Maria was a Health Analyst at SRI working on medical planning including evaluation of emergency medical services, trends in care facilities and more.

Maria loved spending time with her friends, talking over coffee and walking the family dog. She adored her family, especially her grandchildren, and was always an enthusiastic supporter of all they pursued. Maria was active in our community, involved in local schools, advocating for bike lanes to ensure safe routes to school, and teaching and tutoring students in Spanish. She was a loving wife, mother, daughter and sister. Maria was a devoted member of Nativity Church.

Maria was preceded in death by her husband, Dave, whom she had been married to for 51 years before Dave's passing in 2017. She is survived by daughter and son-in-law, Lucy Gilsdorf-String and Donald String; daughter and son-in-law, Maritere and Charles Preuss; and her four grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions in memory of Maria Gilsdorf to the Dementia Society of America by mail to PO Box 600, Doylestown, PA 18901, or online [www.DementiaSociety.org/donate](http://www.DementiaSociety.org/donate).

PAID OBITUARY

**THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES**

**ATHERTON**

**303 Atherton Avenue** **\$16,900,000**  
Sat 1:30-4:30 7BD/8.5BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

**LOS ALTOS**

**1600 Corte Via** **\$2,990,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2.5BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

**713 Sunshine Drive** **\$3,488,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

**LOS ALTOS HILLS**

**27340 Julietta Lane** **\$4,988,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3.5BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

**MENLO PARK**

**1868 Valparaiso Avenue** **\$5,988,000**  
Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/4.5BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

**MENLO PARK**

**522 Bay Road** **\$4,750,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 5BD/5.5BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-785-5822

**MOUNTAIN VIEW**

**400 Del Medio Avenue (Condo)** **\$1,095,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 2BD/2BA  
JLee Realty 650-857-1000

**PALO ALTO**

**1030 Palo Alto Avenue** **\$7,995,000**  
Sat 1:30-4:30 4BD/3.5BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

**485 Ferne Avenue** **\$3,488,000**  
Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/2BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

**PORTOLA VALLEY**

**100 Alamos Drive** **\$5,988,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000



## WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the District Board of the West Bay Sanitary District will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday evening, December 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Room located at 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park or attend by Zoom or telephone to encourage social distancing. Please refer to:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82499115233?pwd=TmlCMjVYbWk4U29zdG11QUhCaWZiZz09>  
 Meeting ID: 824 9911 5233 Passcode: 604893

The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to consider a proposed increase in some of the customer rates for year 2023 effective January 1, 2023 for the collection of waste and recyclable materials in the West Bay Sanitary District for 2023.

**The need for this increase was discussed by the District Board at the September 28, 2022 Board meeting. The staff report for this matter is available at the District Office located at 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park or online at [www.westbaysanitary.org](http://www.westbaysanitary.org).**

**PROPOSED NEW RATES:**

Approximately fifty-six percent (56%) of residential service containers are a 32 gallon size. The new rate for 2023 for a 32 gallon container would increase from \$55.25 per month to \$56.00 per month, a \$.75 per month increase. The new rate for the 20 gallon container would increase from \$48.75 per month to \$50.00 per month, a \$1.25 per month increase. 20 gallon containers will be grandfathered to current users but are no longer available to new customers or to customers wishing to migrate down to a 20 gallon container. As further detailed in the Rate Study, the purpose of these increases is to align the Solid Waste Rates with the actual proportionate cost of providing the service to customers in each Customer Service Level.

The District's proposed rates are designed to transition the "per can" rate to an actual "cost of service" rate. For comparison purposes, the maximum typical residential rates for 32 gallon containers for SBWMA Cities including Burlingame, Belmont, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, and San Mateo, range from a low of \$26.21 (Foster City) to a high of \$59.40 (Hillsborough), based upon 2022 rates.

The following table shows the current rates and the proposed monthly rates for West Bay Sanitary District Franchised Customers to be effective beginning January 1, 2023.

Proposed Maximum Solid Waste Rats for 2023						
	MONTHLY RATES			QUARTERLY RATES		
Customer Service Level	Current Monthly Rate	Proposed Monthly Rate	Monthly Increase (Decrease)	Current Quarterly Rate	Proposed Quarterly Rate	Quarterly Increase
<b>Residential:</b>						
20 gallon can	\$48.75	\$50.00	\$1.25	\$146.25	\$150.00	\$3.75
32 gallon can	\$55.25	\$56.00	\$0.75	\$165.75	\$168.00	\$2.25
64 gallon can	\$72.00	\$72.75	\$0.75	\$216.00	\$218.25	\$2.25
96 gallon can	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$0.00	\$315.00	\$315.00	\$0.00
<b>*Commercial: (Per Pick Up)</b>						
	Current	Proposed	Increase per pick up			
1 yard bin	\$176.27	\$176.27	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
2 yard bin	\$334.54	\$334.54	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
3 yard bin	\$372.53	\$372.53	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
4 yard bin	\$496.70	\$496.70	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
6 yard bin	\$615.76	\$615.76	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
32 gallon can	\$55.25	\$56.00	\$0.75	n/a	n/a	n/a
64 gallon can	\$72.00	\$72.75	\$0.75	n/a	n/a	n/a
96 gallon can	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a

\*Commercial bin rates reflect collection charge for one pick up per week; to calculate charge for more than one collection per week, multiply rate by number of collections per week. For example, 1-Cubic Yard Bin (at proposed rate) collected 3 times per week = \$528.81 (\$176.27 x 3 collections/wk)

At this hearing, the Board of Directors will consider public comment as well as written protests by ratepayers regarding the proposed increase in monthly collection rates. If you would like additional information on the proposed rates, please call the District at 650-321-0384.

Any person interested, including all solid waste/recycling collection customers of the West Bay Sanitary District, may appear at the public hearing and be heard on any matter related to the proposed increase in monthly rates or attend by Zoom or telephone to encourage social distancing. Again, please refer to:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82499115233?pwd=TmlCMjVYbWk4U29zdG11QUhCaWZiZz09>  
 Meeting ID: 824 9911 5233 Passcode: 604893

West Bay Sanitary District  
 Board of Directors  
 San Mateo County, California

/s/ Sergio Ramirez  
 General Manager  
 Dated: October 12, 2022

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Menlo Park Police receives \$70,000 for traffic safety**

Menlo Park's Police Department has been granted \$70,000 to increase road safety in Menlo Park.

The grant will go to increased patrols on the road and other programs designed to increase traffic safety, such as DUI check-points and community presentations on traffic safety issues. The grant program will run through Sept. 2023.

**Reikes Center to hold Community Open House**

The Reikes Center for Human Enhancement is holding a Community Open House on Nov. 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Guests can tour the Reikes Center and partake in activities from every department, which will be offered every 30 minutes. The event will also include music, games, raffles, a photo booth and food for guests.

The event is free and residents who RSVP in advance will receive five free raffle tickets. ■

—Cameron Rebosio

### CRIME BRIEFS

**EPA man suspected of sexually assaulting child**

An East Palo Alto man suspected of sexually assaulting a child inside a locked car multiple times over three years was arrested on Oct. 26, authorities said.

The man, age 54, was taken into custody by detectives from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, according to a press release.

Authorities began investigating him earlier this month after a report of an assault on a child, and said the alleged assaults took place in a car at different locations around San Mateo County from January 2015 through January 2018.

The man allegedly locked the vehicle's doors so the victim couldn't escape, according to a release from the sheriff's office.

The suspect was arrested in East Palo Alto and booked into the Maguire Correctional Facility on suspicion of lewd acts with a minor under 14 years old and kidnapping with intent to commit a lewd act.

Anyone with information about the alleged assaults is asked to contact Detective C. Barker at 650-363-4050, [cbarker@smcgov.org](mailto:cbarker@smcgov.org); or Detective R. Cousenes at 650-363-4066, [rcousenes@smcgov.org](mailto:rcousenes@smcgov.org).

Anonymous tips may be left at the San Mateo County Sheriff's anonymous tip line at 800-547-2700.

**County jail inmate found dead**

A 34-year-old incarcerated man died at Maguire Correctional Facility on Oct. 27.

Correctional officers at the facility found Matthew Britton unresponsive during a safety and security check, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

The county medical staff pronounced the individual deceased at the scene, officials said.

Britton was found around 5:40 p.m. The coroner's office is investigating his death, but the sheriff's office said that the individual "likely died of natural causes."

**Suspect in Rolex robbery arrested**

Deputies in San Mateo County have arrested a suspect in connection with a September armed robbery.

A 27-year-old Oakland man was arrested on suspicion of robbery, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

On Sept. 8, deputies responded to the 2000 block of Sharon Road in unincorporated San Mateo County on a report that two suspects used firearms to steal a Rolex watch and other personal items from the victim.

Investigators were able to identify one of the suspects and learned he was out on bail for a similar case in Contra Costa County. Deputies said the man was also suspected in similar crimes in Santa Clara and Fresno counties.

He was arrested on Sept. 30 in connection with the San Mateo County robbery, and was later arrested in connection with robberies in Santa Clara County and in Fresno, deputies said.

On Oct. 20 the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, Fresno Police Department and the Oakland Police Department assisted the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office in executing a search warrant at the man's residence in the 5800 block of Adeline Street in Oakland.

—Bay City News Service

# Menlo Park's Halloween Hoopla brings revelers back to downtown



BY ANDREA GEMMET

PHOTOS BY NATALIA NAZAROVA

Menlo Park's favorite DIY Halloween parade was back this year, as costumed kids took over downtown on Saturday, Oct. 29, getting into character, posing for photos and trick-or-treating at local businesses.

Young musicians from the Hillview and La Entrada middle school bands led the parade up Santa Cruz Avenue.

The Halloween Hoopla, which also features entertainment and activities at Fremont Park, went on a two-year hiatus during the pandemic. While the city's summer concert series also returned this year, the Halloween event is the biggest city-sponsored event to resume so far, with more to follow. ■



Clockwise from top left: Twins Nina and Mia Gutarin, 3, take a candy from Andy League in front of Cheeky Monkey Toys; Miriam Fushman, 3, trick-or-treats during the Halloween Hoopla; The Hillview Middle School and La Entrada Middle School bands march down Santa Cruz Avenue during the Halloween Hoopla Parade; Hooded onesies were a popular costume choice among the student musicians; Londym Cantren, 4, dressed as a unicorn, left, and Carroll-Duckles, 19 months, center, dressed as Captain Hook, wait for the Halloween Hoopla Parade to begin.



## LACROSSE

*continued from page 1*

She played lacrosse at Syracuse University, graduating in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in health and exercise science.

Hogan doesn't plan on trying out for the Olympics in 2024, although she really hasn't tapered her training yet.

"My mom would love that, but seems more out of reach," she said. "My focus is on other things, like traveling and getting to use my free weekends for once."

Hogan said she is pleased that there is more gender parity in the sport, but there's still room for it to improve.

She helped grow lacrosse programming at Sacred Heart, offering it to middle schoolers.

"We want to bring it to as many young girls as we can; we've really been able to get a lot of sticks in a lot of hands," she said.

Her advice for aspiring lacrosse players?

"Follow their passion and put in the work in but still have fun doing it," she said. "Some kids specialize early; my hope for them is to enjoy the whole process. Your sport doesn't define you." ■

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

# Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

## The Almanac's election endorsements

Over the last month, The Almanac has weighed in on key local races on the Nov. 8 ballot with endorsements by our three-member editorial board. With Election Day just around the corner, here's a recap of our recommendations for the best candidates for the job, along with Menlo Park's Measure V.

### Menlo Park City Council

The Almanac backs incumbent **Betsy Nash** to represent District 4, which includes downtown, Allied Arts and a southern segment of El Camino Real.

### Portola Valley Town Council

Five candidates are vying for three seats on the Town Council. The Almanac endorses Mayor **Craig Hughes**, the only incumbent in the race, and Planning Commission members **Judith Hasko** and **Craig Taylor**.

### EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

### Woodside Town Council

In Woodside, two seats are uncontested this election season, but the seat for the town's newly redrawn District 2 has three candidates competing. We recommend incumbent **Brian Dombkowski** to represent the district that includes parts of Emerald Hills east of Interstate Highway 280 and borders Huddart Park.

### San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

We believe Menlo Park City Council member **Ray Mueller** has a clear vision and actionable plans for representing the diverse needs of residents of District 3, which encompasses a large swath of the land, from rural coastside

communities to Peninsula cities including Atherton, Portola Valley, Woodside and west Menlo Park.

### Menlo Park's Measure V

The Almanac recommends that Menlo Park voters vote **no on Measure V**, which would strip the Menlo Park City Council's power to make zoning changes to properties located in areas designated for single-family homes. Such zoning changes instead would be required to come to a citywide vote in a regular election.

Editorials for these races ran in the Oct. 7, Oct. 14 and Oct. 21 issues of The Almanac. Read the full editorials, voter guide stories on all the candidates and races, and more, by going to [almanacnews.com](http://almanacnews.com) and clicking on the Election 2022 banner. An archive of endorsements can be found at [almanacnews.com/news/section/editorials](http://almanacnews.com/news/section/editorials). ■

### LETTERS

Our readers write

### Keep trees trimmed as winter approaches

Winter is coming and each day the sun is getting lower and lower in the sky. To me the sun represents joy, expectation of good, gratitude security, hope — all is well, enthusiasm, limitedness, freedom of movement, warmth, comfort, happiness and productivity. Aren't these all qualities most of us appreciate and could expand on?

What can we do to feel and express these qualities more abundantly, especially in the fall and winter months? We could use the extra money we spend daily to heat our homes, our bodies, our water, and dry our clothes via gas

or electricity, for trimming, thinning, opening up and shortening our trees on our property. Two neighbors did this a few months ago. What a joyous change, mentally and physically! It would be wonderful if more neighbors did the same.

Keeping our trees cleaned out and short so we still get the sun on the shortest day of the year, blesses everyone, emotionally, physically and financially. When tree limbs are kept on one's own property, there is less opportunity for them to fall on someone else's property.

Even if we depend on solar voltaic cells for electricity, we all must keep our trees trimmed. Why pour our hard earned money and natural resources down the drain when we don't need to?

*Jackie Leonard-Dimmick  
Walnut Avenue, Atherton*

All you want is the best  
pediatrician in the universe.



 **Stanford**  
MEDICINE  
Children's Health

Virtual visits or in-person  
visits at Peninsula Pediatric  
Medical Group  
[genpeds.stanfordchildrens.org](http://genpeds.stanfordchildrens.org)

## THE ALMANAC ONLINE VOTER GUIDE

As you prepare to fill out your ballot for the Nov. 8 election, The Almanac has compiled its voter guide online with links to news stories, candidate profiles and editorials to help you make an informed decision on local races.

We'll keep adding links leading up to Election Day. You can find it at

**[AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com)**



## Employment

The Almanac offers  
employment advertising.

To learn more or get a quote,  
please call **650.223.6597** or email  
**[digitalads@pawekly.com](mailto:digitalads@pawekly.com)**.

# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Healing in harmony

### Stanford medicine faculty, students and staff share their musical talents in new orchestra, chorus

By Karla Kane

Gary Steinberg was a serious trumpet player in high school, where his orchestral band was the best in the state. He minored in music at Yale University, spent three months after graduation intensively studying music at an institute in Switzerland, and kept up playing through the middle of his medical residency at Stanford University.

As family and career obligations increased, though, he focused on other things, including serving as the longtime chair of Stanford's department of neurosurgery and leading the Stanford Stroke Center. But recently, after decades, he picked the trumpet back up, making music a part of his daily life again despite his very busy schedule. And he's not alone. Steinberg is now a member of the Stanford Medicine Orchestra, which, alongside the Stanford Medicine Chorus, gives around 80 Stanford Medicine faculty, staff, students and affiliates the opportunity to make music together each week. The groups will perform an inaugural concert at Bing Concert Hall on Nov. 9.

"Both the orchestra and the chorus are efforts that were put together because mem-

— "or as I like to say, a way to hold on to their humanity," Genovese said, particularly during the COVID era.

"The pandemic was a perfect example of what health care workers face that the rest of us don't experience," she said, of not only dealing with increased workloads and the illness and death of patients, but also the very real fear of increased risk to themselves and their families.

Stanford Medicine Orchestra and Stanford Medicine Chorus have roots in the musical endeavors some Medicine & The Muse participants undertook during the COVID-19 lockdown periods, including the "Stuck@Home" online concert series, which involved more than 100 Stanford Medicine affiliates performing remotely over the course of a year. Once in-person events returned, a thank-you and celebration concert was performed last October. Following that enthusiasm, the Stanford Medicine Chorus and Orchestra were created in May, conducted by Choi and Terrance Yan, respectively.

"It's really a way to continue the community and the healing that music brought during COVID," Genovese said.

Choi is a doctoral student in neurosciences who's been involved in music since a young age.

"It is something that I find a lot of joy in and something that gives me a lot of grounding," he said. For Choi, his passions for science and music make natural partners.

"Music has given me a lot of motivation to study neuroscience, actually," he said, noting that an early interest in how the human brain can transform sound waves into abstract notions of

rhythm, melody, and chords inspired him in his academic career path. Conversely, he said his experience in neuroscience has also improved his understanding of how music is perceived, making him a stronger musician and leader. "I think that has helped me appreciate the beauty of music, and think about what might be effective ways of learning music and helping people learn music as a choral director," he said.

Steinberg, too, finds common ground between his scientific and artistic worlds.

"I think there are many similarities between playing music and performing surgery or science. They're creative in different



Courtesy Stanford Live

Students, faculty and staff from the Stanford University School of Medicine and Stanford Hospitals perform with the Stanford Medicine Chorus. The choir, along with the Stanford Medicine Orchestra, will perform its inaugural concert Nov. 9.

ways and I think creativity is a common theme," Steinberg said. "All of those — surgery, science and playing music — require meticulous attention to detail, and when you do any of those activities you don't want to just do it as a job; they're all passions we have."

Chorus singer Allison Draper is the manager of spiritual care services at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, the leader of an interdisciplinary team that supports patients and their families. Also a musician and singer since childhood, she's found music to be an integral part of spiritual wellness — not only in her work life but also for her own self care.

"We could talk about the metaphor of being in harmony with other people, making music in groups, really listening and tuning in to what other people are doing ... but it's not just a metaphor, it's an actual bodily experience," she said. "We do feel in tune with others. It lifts our spirits and supports us."

Serving as a chaplain during the pandemic, Draper said she was sometimes the last face patients would see before dying, facilitating goodbyes with family members on Zoom when visitors were not allowed. "This was a really difficult past couple of years to be in health care," she said. When she learned about the formation of the Stanford Medicine chorus she realized that making music was something that had been missing from her life recently, especially during such a challenging — often heart-breaking — time.

"When I saw an opportunity to not just join a choral group again but join it with other people doing health care in my own community, it was a no-brainer," she said. "I needed to be part of this group."

Being part of an ensemble, with a public concert to rehearse for, helps inspire chorus

and orchestra members to keep up with their practice despite their busy lives.

"This has motivated me to stay in good shape," Steinberg said. "I usually play at night in my office before I go home. It's a nice way to relax after operating all day or going to meetings. I look forward to it every day, playing some trumpet."

With around 40 members in each ensemble (membership fluctuates), the Nov. 9 concert will include works by Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Bizet, Purcell, Vaughn Williams, Finzi and a Mozart finale featuring both ensembles performing together. Genovese said she was thankful for the support of Stanford Live for permitting the use of Bing Concert Hall for the event.

"It's acoustic magic, particularly if you're a singer," she said of the venue. All ensemble participants and leaders are volunteers, and the proceeds from the \$20 tickets go to covering the venue costs for the performance.

For Draper, an ordained Zen Buddhist priest, part of what makes playing live music in a group so restorative is that it is a physical act that connects one to the present. "It's healing because it involves other people and it's exactly in this moment," she said. At the concert, audience members will become a part of that moment.

"In Buddhism we say, 'giver, receiver and gift are one,'" she noted. "This is a gift of our cumulative work and it doesn't become a gift unless there are those there to receive it."

The Stanford Medicine Orchestra and Stanford Medicine Chorus perform Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 7:30 p.m. at Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Tickets are \$20. For more information, go to [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu). ■

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Courtesy Stanford Live

The Stanford Medicine Orchestra and the Stanford Medicine Chorus are part of Stanford's Medicine & The Muse program, which aims to connect members of the School of Medicine and hospital staffers with the arts and humanities.

bers of Stanford's medical community really wanted to make music with one another," said chorus conductor Minseung Choi. "They want to have this opportunity for musical expression with one another as a community."

"Art is its own kind of medicine," said Jacqueline Genovese, the executive director of Stanford's Medicine & The Muse program. "It goes right to the heart, in terms of connection with people."

Medicine & The Muse offers ways for faculty, staff and students from Stanford School of Medicine and Stanford Hospitals to engage with the arts and humanities

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING PROPOSED DEVELOPER FEE INCREASE

A public hearing and meeting will be held at the regular meeting of the Woodside School District Board of Trustees, scheduled for 4 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2022. The hearing concerns an increase in residential and commercial/industrial developer fees. The proposed Developer Fee increases comply with February 23, 2022, the action taken by the State Allocation Board ("SAB"). Under Government Code section 65995, SAB adjusted the maximum Level 1 Developer Fees effective February 2022.

This meeting will be held in person at 3195 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062. The meeting will also be held virtually. A link to access the virtual meeting will be posted on the district's website before the meeting. The School Facility Fee Justification Report, upon which the district will rely in determining the increase of its developer fees, will be available upon request for public review beginning ten days before the hearing. Following the public hearing, the Board of Trustees will consider a resolution to adjust the fees. Please get in touch with Cathy Stienstra at [cstienstra@woodsideschool.us](mailto:cstienstra@woodsideschool.us) for access to the Report.

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## Arts in brief

A favorite musical and new works take the stage,  
Googlers play Music for Minors benefit

By Karla Kane

The fall arts season is in full swing, with performance options for this week including a classic Disney musical, a slate of promising new shows under development, and a family-friendly orchestra concert benefiting local arts education. For many more events and happenings, check out [almanacnews.com/calendar](http://almanacnews.com/calendar).

Palo Alto Players this month tells a "tale as old as time" with its production of Disney's "**Beauty and the Beast**," based on the animated film and featuring the original Alan Menken/Howard Ashman songs from the movie (including "Be Our Guest" and the title song) as well as additional numbers by Menken and lyricist Tim Rice. The fairytale involves a bookish beauty who longs for adventure; a cursed prince; a castle full of enchanted servants-turned-housewares; a villainous village hunk; and an unlikely romance.

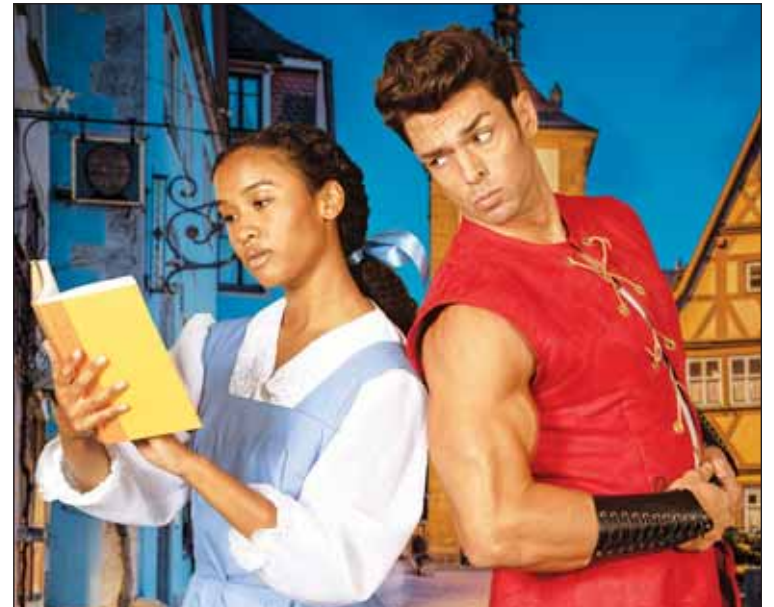
Palo Alto Players' Artistic Director Patrick Klein directs, with Sam Mills starring as Belle and Michael D. Reed as the titular Beast, among the cast of 24 actors. "It's an enchanting and timeless story that most of us have grown up with; it never fails to endear, and offers boundless opportunities for creativity," Klein said in a press release.

The family-friendly show (for ages 5 and up) runs Nov. 4-20, with performances on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Special events include an ASL-interpreted performance on Friday, Nov. 18, which is also apparently "National Princess Day." Audiences are invited to come to the show dressed up as their favorite princess.

On Saturday, Nov. 19, the Magical Bridge Foundation is sponsoring a 2 p.m. performance suitable for all ages and abilities. According to Palo Alto Players' website, the special matinee will include Magical Bridge Kindness Ambassadors and Palo Alto Players ushers offering assistance as needed; an activity area in the lobby for those needing a break during the show; limited seating to allow for space and movement needs; no shushing; refreshments provided; and an end-of-show singalong.

Performances are held at Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$10-\$60. More information is available at [paplayers.org](http://paplayers.org).

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's annual **New Works Festival**, now in its 19th year, is always one of



Courtesy Scott Lasky

Sam Mills as Belle and Frankie Mulcahy as Gaston in Palo Alto Players' production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast."

the local theater scene's highlights — a chance to catch future masterpieces while they're still in the workshop stages and to learn about the fledgling productions directly from the artists creating them. After two years of pandemic-induced virtual events, the festival returns to an in-person format Nov. 6-13, showcasing a musical and two plays.

Rather than its usual home base in Palo Alto, the festival will be held at Montalvo Arts Center, 15400 Montalvo Road, Saratoga, in partnership with Montalvo's Lucas Artists Residency Program, which provides accommodation for festival artists to live and work.

This year's New Works lineup includes readings of the musical "Hart Island," by Danny Haengil Larsen and Michelle Elliott, which takes place at the site of a burial ground on an island in New York City's East River where unmarked graves house the remains of the poor and the unknown. The musical tells the story of the touching relationship that develops between an immigrant searching for her child and an inmate working on the burial crew.

Christopher Chen's "The Motion" is a play centered on the questions of "How do we value a meaningful life?" and "What does it mean to be human?" which is posed as a scholarly debate on animal rights that takes some surprising turns.

In "Words We Believe," written by Rehana Lew Mirza, a California teenager is seeking answers regarding the mysterious disappearance of her best friend.

"These plays are exhilarating in their explorations of the human condition and their examining

of the things that divide us and those that connect us to one another," TheatreWorks' Artistic Associate and Director of New Works Giovanna Sardelli said in a press release.

"Hart Island" will be presented Nov. 6, 10 and 13 at 7 p.m.. "The Motion" will be presented Nov. 6 and 13 at 3 p.m. "Words We Believe" will be presented Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 13 at noon. Festival passes are \$48 and single tickets are \$20. More information is available at [theatreworks.org](http://theatreworks.org).

The Googler Orchestra, a symphony orchestra made up of Alphabet employees, interns and associates that formed in 2016, will perform a family-friendly concert to benefit the nonprofit Music for Minors on Sunday, Nov. 6, at 4 p.m. at Gunn High School's Spangenberg Theater, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto.

The 90-minute concert, which is recommended for audiences ages 5 and up, will feature a performance of "The Orchestra Games," which introduces children to the instruments of the orchestra in the style of the Olympic Games, complete with competing "teams" (the various orchestra sections), narrated by vocalist Brian Hinman. Selections from "Carmen" will also be performed.

Music for Minors is an organization that brings music education to local elementary students. Proceeds from the event will go toward funding scholarships for under-resourced schools. Tickets are \$10-\$25. More information is available at [googlerorchestra.com](http://googlerorchestra.com) and [mfmm.org](http://mfmm.org). ■

Email Contributing Writer Karla Kane at [karlajkane@gmail.com](mailto:karlajkane@gmail.com).



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# Food & Drink

## Cider House Blues

All of the Peninsula's hard cider makers have shuttered recently. Why?

By Kate Bradshaw

There are about 25 breweries in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, and, as of last month, zero hard cider makers.

Sunnyvale's Red Branch Cider Company, San Carlos' Redwood Coast Cider and South San Francisco's South City Cider have all shuttered recently. While many businesses have faced a maelstrom of factors spelling hard times, a unique confluence of bad luck and challenging policies have hit these three cider-makers hard, leaving the Peninsula bereft of any local makers of the apple-based alcoholic beverage.

### Red Branch

Michael Faul was one of the region's earliest cider makers, launching Sunnyvale's Red Branch Cider Company in 2001, which offers traditional and seasonal ciders with a honey twist.

It was a wide range of factors that drove the once-successful cidery, which shared space with Rabbit's Foot Meadery, to close on the Peninsula and work toward relocating operations to Sutter Creek, a tiny town in Amador County. But the biggest one was the pandemic, Faul explained in an email. Going into the pandemic, cider operations had been successfully growing, and even after the first year, he says, "it looked like we might be able to ride it out."

Because of the taproom's location in Santa Clara County — subject to some of the most restrictive COVID-19 policies in the U.S. — they weren't permitted to open their doors until late 2021, and even then, they could operate only outdoors, and weren't able to set up an outdoor taproom. Without revenue, and even with

the help of a federal economic injury disaster loan, he had to let employees go. When restrictions were finally lifted earlier this year, he advertised six jobs, but they have yet to be filled, he says.

The pandemic also disrupted access to orchards and juice, he adds. The largest cider producers weren't able to get juice and concentrates from overseas, so they took over contracts with U.S. juice companies and orchards, "essentially locking the smaller players out of the market," he says.

Another major factor affecting cider makers over the past few years has been the rising popularity of hard seltzer, he said. "Just go to any Safeway and see how many cider brands are on the shelf, and then count the number of seltzer occupies was all ciders," he says.

Ultimately, though, the decision to close and relocate operations was about more than finances. He lost four family members during the pandemic, including his mother-in-law, and he says it's too much to ask his wife to continue the business short-handed. "Life is too short," he says.

He's open to selling the cider brand to someone who can keep it in Sunnyvale.

The new facility in Sutter Creek is expected to be operational by February and they're in the process of adding about 6 acres of Arkansas Black apples to an existing orchard there to produce a single varietal vintage cider. The new operation will offer specialty small-batch products available online and onsite.

### South City Cider

Husband-wife team Alex and Jenn Root Martell, founders of South City Ciderworks, ceased production of their ciders in September after a partnership deal that had been in the works for more than a year with 47 Hills Brewing Company fell through in August.

In Root Martell's podcast "Courage and other C Words" she talks about the challenges and obstacles faced as a woman entrepreneur working in the cider industry and the emotional toll of having to shutter operations.

Their family now lives in Maine and Root Martell says she's trying to figure out what

to do next. "I'm not sure the industry needs someone like me right now. We're all just barely making it with piling debt and a competitive market," she said in a recent podcast episode.

In the meantime, she plans to continue her podcast, interviewing female businesswomen, entrepreneurs and leaders in cidemaking and other alcohol businesses.

### Redwood Coast Cider

About 13 years ago, Jesse Ferraris and Gabe Lucas, two best friends, started homebrewing cider in their garage. The cider they produced had a different flavor profile than the ultra-sweet varieties that were on the market at the time, according to Christina Krzasczak, wife to Ferraris and a co-owner of the business.

After they got their first warehouse location in San Carlos, it took about a year before they opened, mainly because of the steep learning curve they faced. Then they opened a separate, auxiliary taproom in San Mateo in October 2019. When the pandemic hit, despite all the uncertainty, Krzasczak says she felt a sense of purpose in working to keep her family's cidery alive.

"I was just able to put my head down and work. It was a very clear path: I need to sell cider," she says. She drove all over the Peninsula four or five days a week, filling and selling growlers of cider to anyone she could.

When the cidery was allowed to open for takeout operations, they pivoted to a to-go model, having customers pick up growlers to drink at home and serving cider from the taproom's doorways on the weekends. There was also an interim period of a few months when they were allowed to operate outdoors only, but because guests were not permitted to order at the bar, they had to double their staff count — and



Courtesy Siobhan Siddoway

A flight of hard ciders offered at Red Branch Cider Company.

costs — from one bartender to two people, someone to pour drinks and someone to take orders and deliver them to tables.

But once restaurants were allowed to open more fully, she says, the delivery model stopped working. "People don't really want to sit at home and drink by themselves if they have the option not to," she says.

While it's generally been a hard time for the craft beverage industry, it's been a uniquely challenging time for cider. The beverage is in a unique position, because it's governed more like wine even though people tend to associate cider with beer, Krzasczak says.

"We're in this weird gray area," she says. "I always felt like we're the forgotten part of the industry."

Hard cider today not only competes with other cider brands, but a whole range of other beverages, including hard seltzers, hard kombucha and mixed cocktail drinks for one, or maybe two taps at a bar and limited shelf space in stores.

Locally, she adds, there's also immense pressure because of the high cost of real estate. "I think in general, the Bay Area's just not a particularly hospitable

place for small businesses right now," she says.

For Redwood Coast Cider, it was ultimately the planned redevelopment of the site where their San Mateo taproom is located and a rent increase at their San Carlos manufacturing facility and taproom that forced their decision to shut down operations, she says.

It's a choice that was made especially difficult because, despite all of the challenges they've faced, Redwood Coast Cider had developed a remarkably close-knit community of customers.

"That's the toughest pill to swallow ... When I cry over this, it's because I'm going to miss everybody," she says.

Krzasczak is forging ahead with a new chapter for her family, moving from Half Moon Bay back to her childhood hometown of La Honda and continuing to work as a freelance graphic designer.

### OceanCiders

There is a ray of hope for Peninsula hard cider fans. Meredith Kasyan of Moss Beach is working to open a new cider bar, OceanCiders, in Half Moon Bay. It's going to involve a custom trailer with outdoor seating, parked next to Half Moon Bay Kayak Co. in Pillar Point Harbor, she explained in a recent interview. She's planning to offer upwards of 30 to 40 cider flavors, including hot ciders and non-alcoholic ones, along with snacks like soft-baked pretzels with a cider cheese dip and s'mores.

"I think it's going to be a long time before we have another cider producer on the Peninsula," Krzasczak says. "But ... I'm personally really excited to still have somewhere to go drink cider on the Peninsula, even if it's not my own cider." ■



Magali Gauthier

Redwood Coast Cider has closed its taprooms; its last day was Oct. 1.

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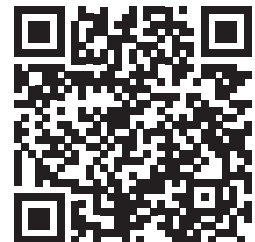
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