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Paid for by Friends of Foothill-De Anza CCD for Yes on Measures G & H – FPPC# 1424567. Committee major funding provided by the Foothill-De Anza Community Colleges Foundation and Hon. Franklin P. Johnson, Jr.
Report: Income inequality is at ‘historic high’

Insufficient housing stock affects employment, traffic, out-migration rates

by Gennady Sheyner

Despite a hot economy and a slight dip in home prices, 2019 was a year of reckoning for Silicon Valley's high-tech giants, with a growing number of residents and city leaders demanding greater contributions to combat the area’s deep housing shortage, according to a new report from Joint Venture Silicon Valley. The Silicon Valley Index, an annual overview of the region’s economic and demographic indicators, highlights some of the region’s most notable trends of 2019, including the continued expansion of commercial development and a minor decline in home sale prices after seven years of rapid gains. While the report celebrates the region’s “upward spiral,” as evidenced by a $17 billion increase in the regional gross domestic product, a slate of new hotels popping up around the region and 30,000 new jobs, it also details the dark side of the surging economy, including traffic gridlock and housing prices that continue to drive people away.

“Against a flourishing economic backdrop, conditions are harsh for the broad peripheries of the population as inequality reaches new dimensions and wage gains are lost to the rising costs of living,” the report’s introduction states. “Despite recent progress, the region still has the nation’s highest housing prices, and our transportation challenges continue to mount.”

Russell Hancock, president and CEO of Joint Venture Silicon Valley, reflected on this dichotomy in his introductory letter for the report, which noted that the Bay Area has added $821,000 jobs since the recession of 2008. This, he noted, is the equivalent of dropping another city the size of San Francisco into the region.

After weeks under the threat of coronavirus, mother and daughter return home

‘It feels really, really free,’ says Palo Alto Esther Tebeka, who was quarantined on March Air Reserve Base

by Sue Dremann

A Palo Alto mother and daughter arrived back home Tuesday after spending weeks at the epicenter of the novel coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan, China, and then in quarantine on a U.S. military base in southern California.

Esther Tiferes Tebeka and her 15-year-old daughter, Chaya, were released from their two-week quarantine Tuesday morning, having been cleared by federal and county authorities of any possible infection with the deadly virus, which has killed 1,107 people and sickened more than 45,000 worldwide. The majority of the cases have been in China.

Haim Tebeka, Tebeka’s husband, who drove them back to the Bay Area. The three then reunited with the two younger Tebeka children on Wednesday afternoon outside the South Peninsula Hebrew Day School in Sunnyvale. The children had been staying with a family friend while Haim Tebeka remained in southern California near his wife and eldest daughter.

Carrying a colorful, handmade “welcome home” sign, Rivka, 13, tearfully embraced her mother and her older sister, whom she hadn’t seen for six weeks. Tebeka and Chaya had flown to China on Jan. 1 to visit relatives and tour the country.

Brushing back her own tears, Tebeka said it’s been hard for her children to be without their mother for such a long time and to be without their father for 14 days.

(continued on page 7)

DEVELOPMENT

Castilleja tries to appease critics

School says project will not bring new cars to campus

by Gennady Sheyner

Seeking a truce with critics of its contentious expansion proposal, Castilleja School this week submitted a revised plan to the city of Palo Alto that reduces the size of a proposed garage and retains two homes that had been previously slated for demolition.

The revised application, submitted on Monday, shrinks the footprint of the garage by about 22%, from about 45,000 square feet to about 35,000 square feet. The smaller size means that the underground garage would no longer encroach into the below-grade setback along Embarcadero Road, obviating the need for a variance from the city. It also means that the Old Palo Alto neighborhood school will no longer need to demolish two residences at Emerson Street, including the Lockey house at 1263 Emerson St., which was built in 1912.

With the new plan, the private girls’ school at 1310 Bryant St. is trying to address some of the key issues that opponents to the expansion have raised over the past two years, as the project advanced through the city’s planning process. While some neighbors have lauded Castilleja’s plan to modernize its facilities, others have suggested that the proposed changes — most notably, the new
COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN ... Palo Alto’s planning commissioners received mixed signals on Wednesday as they considered the latest overhaul for the city’s rules on wireless communication facilities. On one side were the telecom companies, whose representatives claimed that the latest rule changes are too onerous and legally dubious. “We don’t think this code is enforceable,” said attorney Paul Albritton, who represents Verizon. He referred to the changes that the City Council endorsed last December, which prohibit wireless equipment within 600 feet of public schools and within 20 feet of any building. The new rules also give preference to commercial districts by requiring telecoms to seek an “exception” for installing equipment in residential areas. “This is just far beyond what can be required for placing facilities in the public right of way,” Albritton said. He also argued that there is no legal justification for creating a setback near schools. While several other like-minded representatives for Verizon and AT&T urged the commission to hit the “pause” button and reconsider the city’s requirements, some residents argued that Palo Alto should go further. Barron Park resident Tina Chow suggested that the city adopt a setback requirement of 1,500 feet for wireless equipment near schools. Jeanne Fleming, leader of the group United Neighbors, which has opposed recent applications for wireless facilities, argued that the Architectural Review Board should be asked to review all requests for exceptions (current rules allow for — but do not require — the board to consider these requests). “Our goal is to ensure that the aesthetics and safety of our neighborhood is not compromised in the process,” Fleming said. The commission also failed to reach common ground, with Commissioner Bert Hechtman arguing that some of the proposed ordinance’s new rules are too onerous. This includes a requirement that applicants provide plans for all alternatives that were considered and rejected before the preferred site was chosen. In some cases, he argued, this would require applicants to provide analyses for more than a dozen sites that aren’t seriously considered. Commissioner Doria Summa, meanwhile, argued that the ordinance should reflect the residents’ wishes and consider building setbacks beyond the 20 feet adopted by the council. Recognizing the complexity of the issue, the commission voted to continue the debate to a future date, with Summa casting the sole dissenting vote.

A CENTURY OF SERVICE ... With the League of Women Voters celebrating its centennial this year, leaders of the Palo Alto branch stepped off City Hall on Monday for a special recognition by the City Council. The organization, best known for raising voter awareness, strengthening voting rights and holding election forums, is trying to get 100% voter participation in Palo Alto for the upcoming primary, said Isolette Eichler-Haas, president of the Palo Alto chapter. To that end, the group is holding a “Vote-a-paloozal” event on Saturday, Feb. 22 at the Rinconada Library, the city’s main voting center. “You have a chance to go to the library with some suffragettes and cast your ballot if you’d like that day,” Forbes said. The event will go from 2 to 4 p.m. and will include food trucks and an appearance by Julie Lythcott-Haims, author of “How to Raise an Adult” and “Real American: A Memior.”

JOURNEY’S END ... After walking 22 miles per day for 28 days, Palo Alto firefighter John Preston concluded his journey from Palo Alto to San Diego in style on Feb. 9, when he arrived at the USS Midway aircraft carrier to a rousing ovation. The 625-mile journey that started on Jan. 13 aimed to raise awareness about mental health issues among first responders and veterans. Preston chose to walk 22 miles daily and carry 22 kilograms (the equivalent of about 50 pounds) to recognize the 22 veterans who die by suicide each day. Police officers, firefighters (including Palo Alto Fire Chief Geoffrey Blackshire) and mayors joined segments of his trek down the state coastline to 22andyou.net, the website where Preston logged his journey. The department on Monday celebrated his trek by posting on Instagram videos of his triumphant entrance on the USS Midway. The caption also comes with a message from Preston; “It’s okay to ask for help.”
Coronavirus

(continued from page 5)

“I just feel this must be much more stressful for my daughter. She usually doesn’t cry,” Tebeka said.

Tebeka’s 11-year-old son, Menachem, jumped into her arms. “Your hair has gotten so long!” she said. “It’s been six weeks!”

Tebeka said her visit to her parents in Wuhan became harrowing after the outbreak of the virus, which had jumped from an animal to humans and proliferated rapidly. By Jan. 20, Chinese government officials locked down the city. Essentials such as groceries became scarce as residents emptied store shelves.

She started to worry that “before dying from hunger we could die from something else, God forbid.”

It was the first time in China’s history that an entire city was locked down, she said. Wuhan is the most populous city in central China, with a population variously reported as between 8.5 million and 11 million residents.

The rising panic she saw on social media was as concerning as the virus itself.

With help from the U.S. Consulate, Tebeka and her daughter were finally able to evacuate to the United States on a converted cargo plane on Jan. 28. The passengers were placed in quarantine to make sure they hadn’t contracted the virus, which causes fever, coughing and shortness of breath and, in some cases, leads to pneumonia.

A tired and tearful Tebeka said on Tuesday that she had had trouble sleeping, first during their ordeal and then from the excitement of leaving quarantine. Tebeka said she and her daughter were among the first people in quarantine to leave.

Dzens of others threw their protective masks in the air in celebration as they boarded buses to take them to the Ontario and Los Angeles International airports.

“I feels really, really free. We were not in jail, but psychologically, knowing you can’t move around freely” was hard, she said. “I feel very relieved to see my husband.”

Chaya fell asleep as they drove north.

“She wanted to be home. She was so done,” Tebeka said. “It was very hard for her — a lot tougher than for me. We are grown-ups. I just feel this must be much more stressful for my daughter. She usually doesn’t cry,” Tebeka said.

Tebeka expects their experience will have long-term effects but is grateful for the helping hands that supported her along the way.

“I’m grateful that God watched over us. The U.S. government was so generous, and the Chabad Orthodox Jewish community, they have been there for us. That made it possible to go through this easier,” said Tebeka, whose family are Orthodox Jews.

“You appreciate life more. This experience taught me we should not take anything for granted in this life. Even the air we breathe is a gift,” Tebeka said.

Staff Writer Sue Dremann
The candidates on the issues

by Kate Bradshaw

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<th>Housing</th>
<th>Homelessness</th>
<th>Senate Bill 50</th>
<th>PG&amp;E</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Josh Becker** | Tech companies and employers with over 1,000 workers should fund a unit of housing for every job created.

Starts talking about a public health problem. Would give companies and the Downtown Streets Team model. Wants to put some mental health funding toward supportive housing for the homeless.

Opposed.

Favors co-op structure, with PG&E being a poles-and-wires company but not working in power distribution. PG&E has improved the adequacy of the grid. They’ve improved. There’s been a lot of work. They’re not big and they’re failing.” |

Supports better coordination of schedules and fare systems at the region’s 27 transit agencies. Wants Sacramento to fund $11B for Caltrain grade separations. Supports Dumbarton rail.

Wants to repurpose excess property taxes intended for county boards of education to build teacher housing or create an equity fund that could help districts with lower per-pupil spending. |

| **Mike Brownrigg** | Supports housing growth in cities by offering them state infrastructure funds, supporting school districts that want to build teacher housing, consulting the experts about what they would take for redevelopment, and offering a funding pool to help nonprofits buy existing affordable housing to cut gentrification.

For working families, like families in RVs, find them housing ASAP. Start with “safe parking” programs. For homeless with mental health or addiction problems, also provide “parking” programs. Favors funding pool for cities to try a range of approaches and see what works best.

Opposed; says it’s bad policy and politics.

PG&E should be a state-owned or community-owned utility. The 10% net profit margin that PG&E shareholders are promised should be reinvested in the power grid. The argument for private ownership is that it’s better managed and better governed; 10 years of data say that isn’t working.

State should invest heavily — $50 billion to $100 billion — in transit to broaden where people can live. Supports large employers expanding into areas where jobs are not so concentrated.

The state should create a fund that encourages school districts to build teacher housing and offer certain guarantees to reduce the risk districts would take on to do so. |

| **Alex Glew** | Cities, counties and the state have failed to plan at a regional level. Job growth should go to other areas with more land and capacity for growth, and if municipalities can’t support additional infrastructure, they should decline new job growth.

Don’t let people become homeless.

Don’t end up on street. Provide mentally if homeless with support.

Opposed, in all forms. “It basically creates central planning at the state level.” Creating higher density doesn’t address traffic or the problems that come with too many people in an area without enough geography or infrastructure in place.

PG&E should have more competition and have to fight with other utilities. Trees that PG&E is supposed to be trimming should be trimmed, and if they are not, it should be held accountable.

Supports “lanes and trains”: more highways and rail infrastructure investment.

Good teachers should be paid more; the few bad teachers should be let go. Invest more in programs proven to help kids learn. Does not favor generic drug production or Medicare for undocumented people. |

| **Sally Lieber** | Save the housing people are already living in, create funding for nonprofits to buy existing affordable housing.

Offer at-risk households legal services, along with the new renter protections passed last year.

State should study surplus public properties for affordable housing.

“Housing first” approach to homelessness hasn’t yielded enough housing for people to get off streets.

Waiting for final version but didn’t think there were enough affordable housing provisions. Favors enforcing each city’s Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) as a requirement by linking compliance to transportation funding or fine noncompliant cities.

Wants “most stringent conditions” put on PG&E. “They’ve proven themselves unpunishable time after time.” Wants publicly owned power that is locally generated and locally stored. PG&E should be required to use better technology to observe power lines and predict where failures might happen.

Supports housing growth.

Supports “housing first” approach to homelessness, dedicating surplus state land for housing. Favors approach that lets the homeless stay in housing for longer so they start saving. Believes regional coordination plus state funding and technical assistance are needed to support people in RVs.

Favors streamlining the permitting and project-review processes at the city level to expedite the development process.

Supports reforming the California Environmental Quality Act to limit when people can sue projects over development proposals as part of the environmental review process.

Because of her son, homelessness is a major campaign priority. Has proposed expanding conservatorship and transitional jail diversion programs. People shouldn’t be on the streets unless they’re ill and should be hospitalized if necessary. Cities shouldn’t be solely responsible for homelessness.

Opposed. Every local jurisdiction has a purpose for zoning and should be able to say where housing or height restrictions should remain. Initiatives make sense, doesn’t want to make requirements.

Says the state can’t legally take over PG&E; it’s too big and too many people own it.

Favors large, supports the Downtown Streets “safe parking” programs.

Adoptions and mental health problems can start young, in children, and they need to be addressed. Favors making zoning easy to change and letting supply and demand play out. People should have the right to build backyard granary flats and rent them out. People should be allowed to build cheaper housing or mini-houses. Doesn’t favor subsidized housing.

No answer. (A scheduling conflict prevented his endorsement interview.)

Seems like the obvious thing that a free market would do.

Break up PG&E.

Free market should address that. Need houses near jobs; more workers could use co-working spaces near where they live or work from home.

Education shouldn’t be free. Families should pay tuition for their children’s schooling. |

| **Olivia Shelly** | Supports the housing growth in Burlingame by rezoning property to expedite the development process.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health care</th>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Carbon tax?</th>
<th>AB 5 (gig-work law)</th>
<th>State doing enough re: pension liability?</th>
<th>Reduce cannabis tax?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Favors expanding health services for undocumented residents, who contribute $3 billion to economy, on par with what care would cost. Wants to increase reimbursement rates for county health physicians and improve outreach to ensure people know about services. Supports local biotech innovation.</td>
<td>Wants to make new buildings fossil-fuel-free, supports EV and hybrid incentives, and supports innovations like carbon-neutral cement.</td>
<td>Yes, and some revisions to “tighten up” cap and trade policies.</td>
<td>Believes it’s well-intended; supports benefits and protections for gig workers but acknowledges potential unintended consequences.</td>
<td>The governor has done a good job, but the state is trying to make up for lost time because of a lack of realistic return expectations. State should keep using surplus funds to pay down pension liabilities.</td>
<td>Probably. We need to keep tweaking it until it works, and if there’s a huge black market, it’s not working.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favors state producing generic drugs. Wants to make sure county hospitals and community health care systems are well funded.</td>
<td>Calls for zero carbon energy by 2030. Plan to reduce fossil fuel use, increase carbon free energy and storage, sequester carbon. Calls for experts to develop a plan to produce/ store 10 GW of carbon-free energy in 7 years.</td>
<td>Yes, with a dividend that flows back to individuals.</td>
<td>Thinks AB 5 was well-intentioned but passed in too big of a rush. Supports the premise that full-time employees should have full benefits. But some professions like media, hairstyling or trucking with less traditional structures don’t want that.</td>
<td>No. Leaders knew this would become a problem 15 years ago. The debt needs to get paid but the current generation shouldn’t need to pay the whole debt off in 10 years. State should use reserves, surplus to pay it down and prioritize the education pensions (CalSTRS).</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wants a market-based health care system where everyone gets a $5,000 health care spending account, and prices for medical services are explicit and upfront. People will choose to reduce costs.</td>
<td>Favors converting to cleaner energy using heat exchangers. Thinks electricity building requirements are a good idea, but it requires a plan; industrial capacity should be in place first.</td>
<td>Yes, with a dividend program that goes to back to lower-income individuals.</td>
<td>No. People should be able to maximize their time and financial compensation and to choose how they work. Don’t want employers abusing the situation.</td>
<td>No. The state needs to switch to a fixed contribution plan, similar to a 401K, so that the system isn’t putting all the risk on the taxpayer. “That’s not good, and it’s not fair, and it’s not working.”</td>
<td>Yes. “We’re basically supporting organized crime and the black market.” State needs to step up enforcement of taxes and reduce taxes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favors Medicare for all in state, including undocumented residents. “If you eat in a restaurant, or buy food at the grocery store, you’re buying something that has been handled by a person who’s undocumented, and I want them to have health care services.”</td>
<td>We’re in an existential crisis with climate collapse. Supports a ban on fracking.</td>
<td>Yes, Supports oil-extraction tax as well and other incentives, strategies and mandates to move to electric power.</td>
<td>Would have voted for it. Supports addressing people caught in gig economy and not having supports that come from employment. It will probably be fine-tuned in the legislature.</td>
<td>No. Served in the State Assembly during the biggest shortfall of “any state in U.S. history. It scared me about what can happen in a downturn.”</td>
<td>“Not something I’ve thought about.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Expanding access to health care to everyone that’s affordable and quality is a high priority for me.” Supports reproductive health care. Interested in sitting on Senate health committee.</td>
<td>Favors reach codes to restrict natural gas in new buildings and expanding recycled water systems. Does not support nuclear energy. Focused on protecting water supply and increasing county’s resiliency to sea level rise.</td>
<td>Yes. Supported initial bill but says it’s had unintended consequences. Favors revisions to give court reporters, freelance writers and some other workers greater ability to participate in gig economy.</td>
<td>The state needs to invest more. Employees, cities and school districts are paying significantly more than before. Governor’s budget proposal should not require cities and school districts to backfill what state was paying before. School districts need to stay solvent and not have to divert all their money for pension liabilities.</td>
<td>From a public health perspective, supports doing more to bring the cannabis trade into the legal realm and monitor its safety. Wants some revisions to keep it out of hands of minors, make it available to adults.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Favors state manufacturing generic drugs to reduce costs. Supports expanding Med-Cal for all undocumented residents, aging and otherwise. “We need to take care of everybody that hurts.”</td>
<td>Supports natural gas ban in new buildings; undecided on nuclear power.</td>
<td>Would have to see where it would go, what tax would do for climate change.</td>
<td>Supported it for the workers. State should have listened better to workers. Is an independent contractor herself; real estate industry was exempt. Supports law’s protections and is open to making changes to it.</td>
<td>“We signed up for it and we’ll get out of it.” Supports using budget surplus to pay down school pension liabilities.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Private groups like churches or nonprofits, not government, should provide health and social supports. Wants to end subsidized health care. “One of stupidest things I’ve ever heard is the idea claiming that health care should be a right.”</td>
<td>The climate is going to change; water levels are going to change. “As far as the human-caused impact of carbon dioxide, I think that’s being totally overblown.” More concerned with people trashing the ocean.</td>
<td>“I think there should be more concern about the oxygen and not the carbon.”</td>
<td>No answer.</td>
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<td>No answer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The candidates on the issues by Kate Bradshaw</td>
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While he celebrated the area’s engineering savvy, strong universities and robust technology sector, Hancock also asked: “So why does it feel so tenuous?”

The answer, he wrote, is insufficient housing stock. The region has only added about 173,000 housing units since 2008, a jobs-housing mismatch of nearly 5 to 1.

“…because of the nation’s high est housing prices, an unsatisfied workforce and a transportation system sagging under the weight of 100,000 commuters every day,” Hancock wrote. “Add to this the nation’s most sharply pronounced income gaps and you have a formula for despair.”

It doesn’t help, he added, that the region’s driving industries are “face a backlash the likes of which we’ve never seen.”

“As technology plays a deeper and more pervasive role in nearly every aspect of our lives, that role has come under question and the region feels like it’s under siege,” Hancock wrote.

The report details income inequality in Silicon Valley, with stark numbers, with 13% of the households having more than $1 million in assets and holding more than 75% of the region’s wealth. At the same time, 37% of the Valley’s residents are scraping by with less than $25,000 in savings.

When it comes to housing costs, Silicon Valley and San Francisco remain the two most expensive metro regions in the nation, but Silicon Valley’s median home sale prices actually declined by 6%, or about $75,000, in 2019. The report posits that this may reflect “a cooling over the market” and possibly a shift of turnover of higher-end properties.

Building permit activity for residential construction slowed in 2019, according to the Index, despite efforts by state and local legislators to address the housing affordability crisis. Most of the permits were issued for homes affordable only by high-income individuals.

Apartment rents, meanwhile, remain sky-high compared to the rest of the nation. According to the Index, the median apartment rental rate per square foot in 2019 was $3.76 in San Francisco and $3.32 in San Jose. This is well above the median of $2.67 in California and $2.28 in the United States.

The report notes that 23% of Silicon Valley households who rented were “severely burdened” by housing costs, which means they spent more than 50% of their gross income on housing.

The report also notes that there is a relatively large amount of affordable housing in the region’s development pipeline. There were 3,258 “affordable housing” units (those for residents earning up to 80% of the area median income) approved in fiscal year 2018-2019 more than in any other year of the past two decades. By contrast, there were just 699 units of affordable housing approved in 2017 and 614 in 2018.

And while the affordable housing units made up just 17% of the total number of newly approved units, that is the highest percentage since 2010, when 23% of the new units were deemed affordable (in 2017 and 2018, the share was 7% and 8%, respectively).

The report points out that the shares of multigenerational and multifamily households remain high and that more than a third of all adults live with a parent.

“Homelessness and housing insecurity remain critical issues,” the report states. “Further compounding the issue is the reality that many of Silicon Valley’s residential units are vacant, underutilized, inadequate or otherwise deficient.”

While residential development is rolling out slowly, commercial growth boomed in 2019, with 8.5 million square feet of commercial space completed in Silicon Valley in 2019 — an 18-year high. And more commercial construction is on the way, with LinkedIn, Google, Microsoft, Adobe and Nvidia all moving forward with the construction of office space as 2019 came to an end.

“Although asking (commercial) rents in Silicon Valley are relatively high compared to other growing tech regions across the nation, the region’s major tech companies have continued to expand their presence with an increasing real estate footprint,” the Index states.

The link between growing tech campuses and the region’s housing and transportation problems has become a major threat for local governments throughout the region. Several cities, including Mountain View and East Palo Alto, have recently instituted business taxes to help address these issues. Palo Alto is preparing to place a business tax on its November ballot, with revenues targeting transportation improvements.

Several candidates for Senate District 13, which includes large portions of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, also have called for policies that would require tech companies to do more to address the region’s housing crisis. Josh Becker has proposed requiring tech firms to build a housing unit for every job they create, while Michael Brownrigg suggested creating a “credit” market for new housing, with residential builders selling credits for new units to commercial developers.

The Index also highlighted the changes in Silicon Valley’s population, which is becoming increasingly diverse. Growth has slowed, with more residents migrating out of the region than coming in for the third straight year. According to the Index, Santa Clara County ranked fourth among California’s 58 counties for net domestic out-migration between July 2018 and July 2019, trailing only Los Angeles, Butte and Orange counties.

Silicon Valley’s share of foreign-born residents has continued to slowly rise, reaching 38% in 2018, according to the Index. This is fueled by employed residents and those working in technical occupations. According to the Index, more of the region’s tech talent in 2018 was from India and China than from California and the rest of the United States combined.

The region’s housing shortage also has compounded its traffic problems. Despite efforts by municipalities to discourage driving, the Index notes that the average number of miles driven by Silicon Valley commuters has remained steady over the past three years at about 22 miles per day. Solo commuting remains the most common way to get to work, with 73% of employees driving alone, and public transit use per capita has been on the decline since 2015 on almost all systems (Caltrain’s ridership declined in 2019 for the first time since 2010).

According to the report, 6.6% of Silicon Valley employees (more than 101,000 people) spent more than three hours commuting to and from work on a daily basis last year.

“The number of vehicle hours wasted due to traffic congestion in Silicon Valley and the Bay Area has tripled between 2009 and 2019,” the report states.

“Increases in the number of commuters and the utilization of certain commute paths have led to an unprecedented level of traffic delays in Silicon Valley, with 81,000 hours lost to congestion every day — amounting to an estimated loss in regional productivity of as much as $3.4 billion annually,” the report states. “View the report at jointventure.org. Staff Writer Gennady Sheyn can be emailed at gsheyn@pawweekly.com.”
City Council (Feb. 10)
Auditor: The council agreed to put together a request for proposal to bring on a firm that would provide auditing services. Yes: Unanimous
Intersection: The council approved lane changes at the intersection of San Antonio and East Charleston roads. Yes: Unanimous

Board of Education (Feb. 11)
Community college tax measures: The board waived its two-meeting rule and approved a resolution in support of Foothill-De Anza Community College District’s measures G and H, a facilities bond and parcel tax. Yes: Unanimous

Planning and Transportation Commission (Feb. 12)
Housing: The commission accepted a report detailing the city’s progress on its Housing Element goals. Yes: Alcheck, Hechtman, Lauing, Roofparvar, Summa, Templeton; Absent: Riggs
Wireless: The commission discussed proposed changes to the ordinance on wireless communication facilities and directed staff to return with more information about various issues, including the role of the Architectural Review Board in reviewing proposals for new equipment and the level of analysis that applicants would have to conduct for alternatives to their preferred locations. Yes: Hechtman, Lauing, Roofparvar, Templeton; No: Summa; Absent: Alcheck, Riggs

Historic Resources Board (Feb. 13)
Vice Chair: The board elected Deborah Shepherd as its vice chair. Yes: Unanimous
Updates: The board heard an update about the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Annual Audit and discussed potential topics of its upcoming retreat. Action: None

LET’S DISCUSS: Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at PaloAltoOnline.com/square

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County eyes Palo Alto for affordable housing

A small, Santa Clara County-owned property in south Palo Alto may soon be redeveloped to create an increasingly valuable and rare commodity: affordable housing for adults with disabilities.

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to direct staff to develop options for the site at 525 E. Charleston Road, near Middlefield Road. The approximately 0.75-acre site is one of three parcels that the county owns. Two of them are being leased to Gatepath-Abilities United, a nonprofit that provides services to children and adults with developmental disabilities and that leases the properties for $1 per year. The third county-owned parcel is being leased to Challenger School.

Under a proposal that the county is considering, the smaller of the two sites that Gatepath-Abilities United currently leases would be the location of a new housing development geared toward residents with “extremely low” or “very low” incomes and developmental disabilities. That property is scheduled to revert to the county’s control in October 2022, when the lease with Gatepath-Abilities United expires.

A report from the office of Supervisor Joe Simitian, who represents Palo Alto on the board, noted that the number of adults in Santa Clara County with developmental disabilities has grown by 47% in the past decade and is projected to continue growing.

—Gennady Sheyner

With market closed, city beefs up fines

Palo Alto is preparing to sharply ramp up fines against the owner of College Terrace Centre, the blocklong development at 2100 El Camino Real, for its failure to maintain an operating grocery store, as required by the city’s zoning code.

The City Council agreed on Monday to revise its administrative penalty schedule to add a $2,000 fine for every day that the market is without a grocer. The action will allow the city to penalize those on a protracted zoning violation by the development’s owner, Jason Oberman, and his company, AGB-PACT Owner LP.

The council’s move to add a penalty to its schedule comes about a month after the development’s latest grocer, Khoury’s Market, ceased its operations.

Jason Oberman, who bought the property in June 2018, has challenged the city’s ability to collect the fines. He scored a partial victory last March, when an administrative judge ruled that the city cannot collect the full amount of about $345,000 that it was planning to charge Oberman because the $2,000-per-day fine was not included in the city’s penalty schedule.

Oberman, who attended the Monday meeting, told the council that his group is “saddened” about the market’s closure and assured council members and residents that his company has already engaged with a leasing team to help find a replacement that could succeed.

Until that happens, the city is planning to charge Oberman’s group the full $2,000-per-day amount, as agreed upon in the restrictive covenant. Because the penalty is subject to an adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index, the actual penalty amount will now be $2,157 per day, according to the new ordinance.

—Gennady Sheyner

Improvements coming to hazardous crossing

The most dangerous intersection in south Palo Alto is about to see some emergency work adding new turning lanes and a realigned crosswalk that will make it easier for drivers to see pedestrians.

The City Council unanimously approved on Monday night a plan to reconfigure the lanes on the often-congested intersection of San Antonio and East Charleston roads. According to the city’s 2017 Traffic Operations and Safety Report, that intersection saw more than twice as many collisions between January 2012 and December 2016. 25 reported collisions between January 2012 and December 2016.

The project would still require 22 employees.

The third relates to land use. The city has requested.

At a news briefing Tuesday afternoon, Lorraine Brown, Castilleja’s director of communications, said the school has already made numerous compromises with neighbors as it refined its modernization plan. By revising the garage design, she asserted, the school is demonstrating that it is listening to neighbors’ concerns and altering the project accordingly.

Brown said she believes this change “can have a most significant impact toward leading us toward a shared solution.” It responds to residents concerns about traffic problems and about the need to preserve homes and trees. While the plan shows that the project would still require 22 trees to be removed, that is nine fewer than under the prior plan, according to the school.

And now that the homes at 1235 and 1263 Emerson St. won’t be demolished, Castilleja plans to use them to house school employees.

What we really hope is this plan takes a step in moving Palo Alto toward having a Castilleja that meets the needs of future generations of young women and also meeting the needs of our immediate neighbors,” Brown said.

The revisions are unlikely, however, to quash all of the neighborhood concerns, which range from complaints about Castilleja’s enrollment figures to traffic congestion around the sales house — and the surge in traffic that comes with them. Some neighbors have called for Castilleja to build a second campus elsewhere, while others have opposed the school’s plans to increase its enrollment from the current level of 430 students to about 540, as the school hopes to do.

Some of the mistrust dates back to 2013, when Castilleja was fined $265,000 by the city for vastly exceeding the 415-student limit in its permit. Since then, the school has been required to reduce its enrollment by about five students per year.

At a news briefing Tuesday afternoon, Nancy Kauffman, head of school at Castilleja, said the school has done everything that the city has requested.

“We are in compliance with what the city has been asking us to do,” Kauffman said. “When we come forward about over-enrollment, the city put together a plan to come into compliance and we’ve been following that.”

That argument has not swayed some of the school’s neighbors. The blocks around Castilleja continue to display competing yard signs, some voicing support for the expansion and others stating their opposition. As the plans have slowly moved ahead, project opponents have spoken against the project at public hearings. At one point last year, the school took out a restraining order against a neighbor who admitted to removing several pro-Castilleja lawn signs.

Because the new plans were just submitted, Castilleja staff have not yet received any feedback from those neighbors who previously voiced opposition to the project. But Brown said the school has delivered letters to the neighbors to notify them about the revisions and to invite them to offer feedback.

But even if the revisions do not address all the criticisms, they aim to mitigate some of the most significant expected impacts of the modernization project. The draft Environmental Impact Report that the city released last summer identified three “significant and unavoidable impacts.” Two of these relate to traffic generated by the proposed garage. The third relates to land use.

The analysis found that the project would “create land use incompatibility or physically divide an established community.”

Kathy Layendecker, Castilleja’s associate head of school, said the school’s new garage plans aim to minimize the impact on traffic by both reducing the number of cars in it and increasing the number of points at which students would be dropped off and picked up. A prior plan envisioned a single drop-off point inside the underground garage, so all cars would have to drive through it. The new plans create three additional drop-off points at street level, thus distributing car trips to different sides of the campus.

That said, the garage design in the new proposal is much like the one in the prior one in that it envisions a single entrance on Bryant and a single exit on Emerson, but has two drop-off points. Some neighbors say this could lead to collisions between cars and bicyclists on Bryant, a city-designated “bike boulevard.”

Layendecker said the school’s traffic engineers have analyzed the new proposal and concluded that it would result in no net new trips. The city’s consultants have yet to verify that conclusion.

Even if the revised plans succeed in reducing neighborhood opposition, the project still has a long way to go before it gets a green light. The city’s planning staff is currently reviewing the application, after which time it would go to the Architectural Review Board, the Planning and Transportation Commission and the City Council.

“We are an institution that’s over 100 years old,” Kauffman said. “We want be here for another 100 years, at least. We are looking to have a plan approved that allows the school to be forward-thinking about the future and that actually improves the neighborhood.”

—Gennady Sheyner

Photo: Sinead Chang

News Digest
The City is PALO ALTO
The Leader is COMPASS

Volume shown in millions of dollars. Source: TrendGraphix, January 1 through December 31, 2019. Displaying the top 5 brokerages in Palo Alto based on closed sales volume.
Compass Winter Campaign

Carol Carnevale & Nicole Aron
650.465.5958, 650.740.7954
DRE # 00946687, 00952657

Palo Alto $25,000,000
Beautifully remodeled 4/5 bedrooms & 4.5 baths, + guest house. Rare lot of 28,125 sq. ft.

Palo Alto $6,800,000
Sold! Close-in convenience and secluded privacy, with exceptional views! 6BD/6.5BA on one of the largest lots in Palo Alto. Sold with multiple offers.

Sherry Bucolo & Christy Giuliaclci
650.207.9996
650.580.5999
DRE # 06013242, 01506761

Palo Alto $12,000,000
Sold! East Coast inspired estate set on a rare 1/2 acre lot. Magnificent grounds feature pool, guest house and open-air concept pool house. Rare offering in the heart of Crescent Park.

John Forsyth James
650.218.4337
DRE #01138400

PALO ALTO $9,025,000
Sold! Crescent Park Historic Home 4 bedroom & 3.5 baths on 19,142 sq.ft. lot. Pool, Pool House, & Herb Gardens. Represented buyer.

Dana McCue
650.248.3950
dana.mccue@compass.com
DRE # 0149772

Los Altos $8,600,000
Coming Soon! New Modern Napa style farmhouse completed in 2020. Built with the latest materials, amenities & innovation, 6,418 SF home on a 16,299 SF lot. 7 bedrooms, 5 Full baths, 2 half baths.

Mandy Montoya & Monica Corman
650.823.8212
650.465.9971
DRE # 01911643, 01111473

Menlo Park $5,895,000
Coming Soon! STUNNING, EXPANSIVE, light filled, modern contemporary new custom construction in sought after Sharon Heights. West Menlo Park. Roughly 4,264 sq. ft. of home on an oversize 12,858 sq. ft. lot makes this new home a rare find.

Dana McCue
650.248.3950
dana.mccue@compass.com
DRE # 0149772

Menlo Park $6,895,000
Set on a quiet cul-de-sac on one of the most desirable streets in West Menlo Park, this fabulous 5 bedroom home has it all.

Feliz Thadhani
650.505.8665
vic.thadhani@compass.com
DRE # 02072511

Menlo Park CALL FOR PRICE

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Coming Soon! Quintessential Leland Manor Home! 5 bedrooms 3 baths with approx 3000 sq ft situated on over 11,000 sq ft lot.

Palo Alto CALL FOR PRICE

Sold! Beautifully maintained 2,696 sf home on a 12,496 +/- sf lot in Green Gables area. Updated kitchen. Master suite w/ vaulted ceilings. Represented buyer.

Palo Alto $4,600,000

Sold! New home blending classic Mediterranean outside with chic contemporary design inside. All built with extraordinary construction methods rarely found in Palo Alto.

Palo Alto $4,900,000

Sold! Sophisticated elegance in prime Community Center location. Sold in 10 days with multiple offers. Contact us to find out how our Compass Concierge program makes it easy and hassle-free to sell your home for TOP dollar.

Palo Alto CALL FOR PRICE

Completely updated 2,820 s.f. 4 bed/3.5 ba move-in ready home on rare 10,800 s.f lot. In addition, there is a 610 s.f structure for potential guest house, ADU.

Palo Alto $4,398,000

Sold! Spacious 5 bd 3.5 ba home completely remodeled in 2012, includes a separate guest cottage. Large modern chef’s kitchen, sun filled living room, large back yard. Near all 3 schools.

Palo Alto CALL FOR PRICE

Sold! Luxurious 4-bedroom, 3.5 bath home in Los Altos Hills that boasts a stunning view of the bay and surrounding hillside. This spacious 3,346 square foot home is nestled within a lush 43,364 square foot lot off a serene street.

Los Altos Hills CALL FOR PRICE

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SAN CARLOS  CALL FOR PRICE

Comming Soon! Fabulous 4 bed plus office, 3.5 bath, 4,555 +/- sf home, spectacular 12,414 +/- sf lot, quiet cul-de-sac, level backyard, outstanding neighborhood.

MENLO PARK  CALL FOR PRICE

Comming Soon! Prime west Menlo Park 3 bed, 2.5 bath on 10,500 sf lot, perfect for remodel or build new.

PALO ALTO  CALL FOR PRICE

Comming Soon! Palo Alto Community Center Neighborhood. Close to downtown. 3 bed, 2 bath (2046 sf) on 7500 sf lot.

LOS ALTOS  $3,800,000

Comming Soon! Custom 5 BR/4 BA Craftsman home built by Koma Construction. Exquisite, high quality details and workmanship. Meticulously maintained.

PALO ALTO  $3,895,000

Coming Soon! Charming custom home of 2400+/- sq ft, three spacious bedrooms and two baths. Recently remodeled and upgraded with the finest top of the line finishes. Two car attached garage. Poly High School.

PALO ALTO  $3,750,000

Sold! 158 Rinconada. Sold with multiple offers. Call for details.

LOS ALTOS  $3,600,000

Sold! Charming home in Green Gables Neighborhood with 5-beds, 3 bath, 2,723 sf of living space

PALO ALTO  $3,888,000

Sold! Light filled, contemporary and remodeled home in desirable Palo Alto location. 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths. Magnificent Chef’s kitchen. Spacious great room with private balcony.

Compass Winter Campaign

Greg Celotti &
Candi Athens
650.740.1580,
650.504.2824
DRE # 01360103,
0197320

Alan Dunckel
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compass.com
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Charlene Chang
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DRE # 0135394

Harry Chang
415.699.9092
DRE # 02025481

Kathleen Wilson
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DRE # 00902501

Umang Sanchorawala
650.960.5363
usanchor@compass.com
DRE # 0471341

Adela Gildo-
Mazzon
650.714.0537
amazzon@compass.com
DRE # 01371327

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Shari Ornstein
650.814.6682
shari.ornstein@compass.com
DRE # 01028693

MENLO PARK CALL FOR PRICE
Masterfully renovated, sophisticated 4 bed home on a magnificently landscaped 19,800 +/- sq. ft. parcel at end of cul-de-sac has coveted schools.

Supriya Gavande
650.556.3890
supriya.gavande@compass.com
DRE # 01856590

PALO ALTO CALL FOR PRICE
Sold! Award-Winning home in desirable Professorville neighborhood. Stunning European style, spa-like 3 bedroom suites, luxurious modern finishes, excellent layout ideal for indoor outdoor entertaining.

Sophie Tsang
650.687.7388
sophie@compass.com
DRE # 01399145

PALO ALTO CALL FOR PRICE

Leika Kejriwal
650.218.5345
DRE # 00942482

PALO ALTO CALL FOR PRICE
Coming Soon! Charming Green Gables Home! 3 bedroom, 2 bath situated on a 11,040 sq ft lot.

Carol Li
650.281.8368
cli@compass.com
DRE # 01227755

PALO ALTO CALL FOR PRICE
Sold! Stunningly remodeled 3+ bed, 2.5 bath home in the heart of Midtown with Chef’s kitchen, luxurious master suite and beautiful landscaped yards. Sold with multiple offers.

Arti Miglani
650.804.6942
DRE # 0025481

PALO ALTO CALL FOR PRICE
Sold! Downtown Living at its best! Beautiful 4 bed, 2.5 bath home with open floor plan, high ceilings, chef’s kitchen and attached 2-car garage. Sold with multiple offers.

Denise Simons
650.269.0210
denise.simons@compass.com
DRE # 01376733

PALO ALTO CALL FOR PRICE
$3,300,000

Umang Sanchorawala
650.960.5363
DRE # 01471341

PALO ALTO $3,400,000

Sold! Mid-Century Modern home backing to the Bo Park, with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath and 14056 sq ft out of the flood zone. Sold with an all cash offer and closed within 10 days.

Sophie Tsang
650.687.7388
sophie@compass.com
DRE # 01399145

PALO ALTO CALL FOR PRICE
$3,195,000

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denise.simons@compass.com
DRE # 01376733

PALO ALTO CALL FOR PRICE

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DRE # 0025481

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DRE # 00942482

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cli@compass.com
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DRE # 01471341

PALO ALTO $3,400,000

Sold! Mid-Century Modern home backing to the Bo Park, with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath and 14056 sq ft out of the flood zone. Sold with an all cash offer and closed within 10 days.
ATHERTON CALL FOR PRICE

Sold! The property located in west Atherton, spacious living room open floor plan. European interior design and views to landscaped garden. Perfect for entertaining. Represented buyer.

Palo Alto $3,000,000

Sold! Sophisticated 2-level, 2 bedroom/2.5 bath condominium overlooking the greenbelt.

Palo Alto $3,095,000

Sold! This updated home is located on a desirable quiet street in White Oaks. It features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with an inviting backyard perfect for entertaining family and friends.

Palo Alto $2,999,000

Coming Soon! Elegantly remodeled & expanded home near Midtown, 4 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, around 1,636 SF on +/-/6,160 SF lot.

Palo Alto CALL FOR PRICE


REDWOOD CITY $3,100,000

Elegant and modern, this recently built 2-story 6 bedroom/4.5 bathroom home perches on a quiet street walkable to Redwood City’s shopping, dining and culture.

REDWOOD CITY $2,938,000

This updated home is located on a desirable quiet street overlooking the greenbelt.

SAN CARLOS CALL FOR PRICE


PALO ALTO $3,095,000

Elegant and modern, this recently built 2-story 6 bedroom/4.5 bathroom home perches on a quiet street walkable to Redwood City’s shopping, dining and culture.

PALO ALTO $2,999,000

Coming Soon! Elegantly remodeled & expanded home near Midtown, 4 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, around 1,636 SF on +/-/6,160 SF lot.

REDWOOD CITY $2,938,000

Coming Soon! Built in 2018, elegant 2 story home offers dramatic living room, great family room kitchen, 4 bedroom 4.5 bathroom with 1 suite on ground floor. Quiet street yet easy access to 84 and commute routes. Excellent neighborhood, bordering Atherton.
Adela Gildo-Mazzon
650.714.0537
amazzon@compass.com
DRE # 01371327

Los Altos $2,900,000
Sold! Charming farmhouse-style home perfectly located in Los Altos near top schools and shopping areas. 3 bedrooms and 3 full baths, an office, and a detached cottage.

Woodside $2,749,000
Woodside home w/MP schools. Turnkey 3/2 w/updated kitchen and baths, 14,8104 +/- lot on quiet cul-de-sac. Conveniently close in peaceful setting.

Greg Celotti & Candi Athens
650.740.1580, 650.504.2824
DRE # 01366103, 01973520

Palo Alto $2,895,000
Coming Soon! Beautifully remodeled 3 bed, 2 bath single level home in a prime Midtown location with a 6,610 +/- level lot plus outstanding schools!

Palo Alto $2,700,000
Coming Soon! Palo Alto Community Center. Duplex 2 one bedroom, 1 bath units on 5162 sf lot.

Palo Alto CALL FOR PRICE
Coming Soon! Charming Ladera home. Offers 4 bedroom (4th bedroom used as an office), 3 bath, with large living and dining room and a family room. Remodeled Kitchen and bathroom. A MUST SEE!

Palo Alto CALL FOR PRICE
Sold! Beautiful prime Midtown home nestled on a quiet tree lined street! Fabulous 4 bedroom and 2 bathroom home on a lot with mature landscaping, close to excellent schools, parks, Stanford.

Arti Miglani
650.804.9942
arti@artimiglani.com
DRE # 01150085

Portola Valley $2,750,000
Coming Soon! Charming Ladera home. Offers 4 bedroom (4th bedroom used as an office), 3 bath, with large living and dining room and a family room. Remodeled Kitchen and bathroom. A MUST SEE!

Palo Alto $2,700,000
3 bed/2bath stately English country home in Green Gables on desirable street. Two story home with garden views on 6600 +/- sq ft lot.

Siobhan O’Sullivan
650-776-5445
sos@osullivanteam.com
DRE # 01298824

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Lori Buecheler  
650.387.2716  
lori@compass.com  
DRE # 01859485

**LOS ALTOS $2,670,000**

Sold! Located on one of the most desirable tree-lined streets, this 3 bedroom home is surrounded by mature trees in a very private setting with award-winning Los Altos schools. Represented buyer.

**Palo Alto $2,600,000**


Supriya Gavande  
650.556.3890  
supriya.gavande@compass.com  
DRE # 01952900

**Palo Alto CALL FOR PRICE**

Sold! Desirable Midtown location. Beautiful ranch style home with modern farmhouse interior finishes. Offers luxurious 5 bedroom and 3 baths, including spacious guest suite with private living room and dining.

**Saratoga $2,611,000**

Sold! Spacious 6 bedroom home in Saratoga with top Cupertino schools. Represented buyer.

**Palo Alto CALL FOR PRICE**

Sold! California bungalow on a tree-lined street in prestigious Old Palo Alto. Spacious living room with wood burning fireplace and numerous windows providing abundant natural light.

Tasneem Fatima  
650.799.0404  
tasneem.fatima@compass.com  
DRE # 00916894

**Saratoga $2,611,000**

Sold! Blossom Valley retreat, close to everything. Los Altos Schools, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom, around 1,537 SF on around 8,085 SF lot.

**Mountain View CALL FOR PRICE**

Entering the home from the landscaped fenced in front yard you are greeted with soaring ceilings and open living space. Kitchen and family room take up the back of the open living area along with beautiful view.

Greg Celotti & Candii Athens  
650.740.1580  
650.504.2824  
DRE # 01360003, 0197320

**Redwood City $1,498,000**

Beautifully remodeled 2 bed plus office, 2.5 bath, 2,410 +/- sf home in gated setting with a wonderful backyard and excellent Roy Cloud School!

**Palo Alto CALL FOR PRICE**

Julie Tsai Law  
650.799.8888  
 julie@julietsailaw.com  
DRE # 01393682

Anna Park  
650.387.6159  
anna.park@compass.com  
DRE # 01473188

Anna Park  
650.387.6159  
anna.park@compass.com  
DRE # 01473188

**Palo Alto CALL FOR PRICE**

Nancy Mott & Jennifer Buentrostro  
650.255.2325, 650.224.9539  
DRE # 01029628, 01733750

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Derk Brill
650.814.0478
derk.brill@compass.com
DRE # 01256035

**MENLO PARK $2,385,000**

Sold! Charming 40’s era bungalow updated to today’s standards. 3Bed/2Bath on a bright, sunny lot with outstanding Menlo Park schools.

Ted Paulin
650.766.6325
ted.paulin@compass.com
DRE # 01435455

**MENLO PARK $2,300,000**

Sold! Move into this West Menlo Park 4 bed & 2 bath 1600 sqft. home on a 7024 lot. Hardwood, renovated kitchen and baths, fenced yard & a newer roof. 2-story 3 bed/4 bath feels larger than its 2,390 square feet.

Michele Harkov
650.773.1332
michele.harkov@compass.com
DRE # 01838785

**MENLO PARK $2,200,000**


Jean-Luc Laminette
650.833.9336
jllaminette@compass.com
DRE # 01844791

**SAN JOSE $2,295,000**

Coming Soon! Exceptional executive family home on prestigious Nevada Ave in walking distance to downtown Willow Glen.

Mandy Montoya &
Monica Corman
650.823.8212,
650.465.5971
DRE # 01911643, 0111473

**PALO ALTO $2,125,000**

A restful retreat right in the heart of the Mid-Peninsula. Iceberg roses line the driveway culminating in a front spacious courtyard with shade provided by a fruitless mulberry tree, this 2-story 3 bed/4 bath feels larger than its 2,390 square feet.

Denise Simons
650.269.0210
denise.simons@compass.com
DRE # 01376733

**PALO ALTO $2,150,000**

Sold! Charming 3 bed, 2 bath home in desirable Green Gables with remodeled kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, dual pane windows and central A/C.

Nancy Mott &
Jennifer Buentrostro
650.255.2325,
650.224.9539
DRE # 01028928,
01733750

**MENLO PARK $2,055,000**

A light, bright open floor plan overlooking the courtyard at The Hamilton, a superb community & lifestyle in the heart of downtown Palo Alto.

Derk Brill
650.814.0478
derk.brill@compass.com
DRE # 01256035

**MENLO PARK $2,055,000**

Sold! Smart and sophisticated, this spacious 3BR/2.5BA corner unit spans 2,140sf of living space. Conveniently location close to Stanford and commute routes.
Charming custom built home in Cupertino School District. Close to all three public schools plus Hebrew Day School. Excellent condition, spacious rooms, updated throughout. Amazingly

Over 2,067 sf of interior living space, this unit is one of the largest in the building and one of the few with a coveted expansive patio.

Fantastic Cupertino duplex. Close to all the conveniences and Apple campuses. Excellent Cupertino Schools. Each unit offers 2bd/1ba, completely updated, private yard, 1 car attached garage.

Coming Soon! Serene lagoon location, hardwood floors, updated kitchen and baths, contemporary entertainer’s delight. 4 BR, 2 baths.

Coming Soon! Enjoy this 5/bd, 3 bath home on a quiet street! 3,332 sq. ft includes, living room, dining room, family room and Game room for all of your entertaining needs, pool and large lot.

3BR/2BA contemporary with family room/4th bedroom. Excellent location and tastefully updated. Enjoy great indoor/outdoor flow for easy entertainment.

Located in West Menlo Park and in Las Lomitas School District on a quiet street. 2 bedroom, 1 bath single story home. Great floor plan with a year old remodeled kitchen.
New listing: luxurious and convenient lifestyle condo with 1756 sf, 2 bedrooms and 2 baths, Chef’s gourmet kitchen, 2 spaces parking. Open house Saturday and Sunday, 1:30-4:30p.

SUNNYVALE $1,625,000
Sold! Charming home in Washington Park, 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms.

MOUNTAIN VIEW CALL FOR PRICE
Sold! 3BR/2BA contemporary in need of some tender loving care to make it your own, but the possibilities are endless, the location is great!!

SUNNYVALE $1,625,000
Sold! Charming home in Washington Park, 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms.

LOS ALTOS $1,530,000
New Price, best value in Los Altos, price location and contemporary styling in this stunning single level unit with dramatic high ceilings, refinished hardwood floors, new interior paint and new premium carpet.

LOS ALTOS $1,530,000
New Price, best value in Los Altos, price location and contemporary styling in this stunning single level unit with dramatic high ceilings, refinished hardwood floors, new interior paint and new premium carpet.

MILLBRAE $1,590,000
Sold! Updated move-in ready HAPPY HOME! Excellent small complex. No rental restrictions. Top schools. Easy commute & access Apple, Seagate, and to public pools & parks w/a care-free CA life style.

SARATOGA $1,430,000
Sold! Wonderful one-story home, 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms.

SUNNYVALE $1,625,000
Sold! Charming home in Washington Park, 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms.

MOUNTAIN VIEW CALL FOR PRICE
Sold! 3BR/2BA contemporary in need of some tender loving care to make it your own, but the possibilities are endless, the location is great!!

SUNNYVALE $1,625,000
Sold! Charming home in Washington Park, 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms.

LOS ALTOS $1,530,000
New Price, best value in Los Altos, price location and contemporary styling in this stunning single level unit with dramatic high ceilings, refinished hardwood floors, new interior paint and new premium carpet.
Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009. All material presented herein is intended for information and accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

### Coming Soon!

**PALO ALTO** $1,400,000

**Coming Soon!** Just perfect 2/2 one story Townhome.

**PACIFICA** $1,298,000

Built in 1955, this versatile 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom West Sharp Park rancher has what you're looking for. Conveniently located in close proximity to Highway 1 and Highway 280, perfectly positioned for a quick commute to nearby San Francisco or Silicon Valley.

**PALO ALTO** $1,350,000

**Coming Soon!** Enjoy luxury living at The Hamilton in downtown Palo Alto. Light-filled and spacious 2 bd/2 ba corner unit. This luxurious community for adults 55+ offers world class amenities while being just steps to vibrant University Avenue.

**SAN JOSE** CALL FOR PRICE

**Coming Soon!** 3 bed/2ba Cambrian starter home close proximity to schools & commute routes. Updated kitchen, dual pane windows, solar panels. Great for first time buyers/ investors.

**MENLO PARK** $1,338,000

**Sold!** Fabulous home in the Willows neighborhood. 2 bedrooms and 1 bath.

**PACIFICA** $1,298,000

**Sold!** Charming 2bd, 1ba home in desirable neighborhood of San Carlos. Freshly painted interior and refreshed hardwood floors. Large lot size offers privacy and potential for future expansion.

**SAN JOSE** CALL FOR PRICE

**Sold!** Sophisticated, modern top floor unit in resort style community.  Close to downtown & SJ State campus.

**PALO ALTO** $995,000

Tree-top views at The Hamilton, a superb community & lifestyle in the heart of downtown Palo Alto. Adults 55+ enjoy amenities of a 5-star resort.

**SAN CARLOS** CALL FOR PRICE

**Sold!** Enjoy luxury living at The Hamilton in downtown San Carlos. Light-filled and spacious 2 bd/2 ba corner unit. This luxurious community for adults 55+ offers world class amenities while being just steps to vibrant University Avenue.

**PACIFICA** $1,298,000

**Sold!** Charming 2bd, 1ba home in desirable neighborhood of San Carlos. Freshly painted interior and refreshed hardwood floors. Large lot size offers privacy and potential for future expansion.

### Sold!

**PALO ALTO** $1,338,000

**Sold!** Fabulous home in the Willows neighborhood. 2 bedrooms and 1 bath.

**PACIFICA** $1,298,000

**Sold!** Charming 2bd, 1ba home in desirable neighborhood of San Carlos. Freshly painted interior and refreshed hardwood floors. Large lot size offers privacy and potential for future expansion.

### Compass Winter Campaign

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Jane B. Benson
October 6, 1944 - December 23, 2019

Jane B. Benson, 75, a native of Culver, Indiana, and a longtime Peninsula resident, died at home on December 23, 2019, of cancer. Tall in stature and warm in spirit, she was an introvert who valued connection, a feminist organizer and educator, deep thinker, and empathetic listener who maintained many longtime friendships.

After earning a BA in English, education, and psychology from Washington University in St. Louis (Phi Beta Kappa, 1966) and an MA in teaching from Yale (1967), she worked in college admissions and affirmative action recruitment in Cambridge. In 1975 she began a 25-year career at Stanford, where she worked in various student-services and administrative roles and served as a resident fellow. She earned an MSW from SF State University in 1990 and obtained her LCSW, which equipped her for an 8-year tenure as a research social worker for a Dept. of Psychiatry long-term study on the effects of social support on breast cancer survival. She subsequently worked for Kaiser Permanente, retiring in 2006.

Jane pursued her interests—reading, walking, quilt history, music, French Impressionism, self-defense, Stanford Women's Basketball, and poetry—with serious devotion. She recently observed, “Poetry helps me deal with life’s losses and celebrate the joys.” Her life was a living poem, balanced and shaped by thoughtful and joyful intention.

She is survived by her spouse Eric Doyle, her brother and sister-in-law Bob and Cynthia Benson, nephew Erik Benson, niece Kristina Mundera, for details at KathieMemorial@gmail.com.

Donations can be made in her memory to Hidden Villa.

Kathie Langsdorf Underdal
November 4, 1943 – November 12, 2019

Beloved retired Palo Alto teacher Kathie Underdal unexpectedly passed away in the twilight hours of November 12th due to medical complications. The family would like to invite all who knew Kathie to a day of stories, reflections and inspiration at Hidden Villa on March 1st.

Please contact her daughter, Kristin Kundera, for details at

Hidden Villa on March 1st.

Earl Augustus Johnson
December 9, 1935 – January 22, 2020

Earl Augustus Johnson passed away on January 22, 2020 surrounded by his loving family in his home in Clearlake, California at the age of 84. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Diane Ray Johnson, his daughters with their families: Colette and Ken Cooley with Brenna Cooley Scronce and Miles Cooley; Carolyn and Christopher Inglis with Christopher, Jerusha and Kasey Inglis; and Christina and Hansjoerg Gort with David and Jacqueline Gort; and by his brothers and their wives: Rev. Walter and Esther Johnson, and Charles and Linda Johnson. Earl is predeceased in death by his parents Dwight and Eleanor Johnson and by his brother Dwight Jr. and his wife Vivian Johnson.

Earl was born in Oakland, California on December 9, 1935, and at the age of 5 moved with his family from Piedmont to Woodside, California. He was in the first graduating class of Menlo Atherton High School in 1954, and was selected as the school’s outstanding senior athlete of the year. He met his wife Diane while working at the Mount Hermon Christian Conference Center, and they married in 1956. He went on to graduate from San Francisco State with a degree in Business. After working for the Bank of California in San Francisco, he became a broker in commercial real estate with Renault & Handley in Palo Alto.

Earl’s great passion, aside from his family, to which he was loving and loyal, was actively participating in the ministries of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, where he was the longest active member until his passing. The youth ministries were dear to his heart; he was a father figure and friend to many high schoolers over the years. He later went on to serve in prison ministries, leading bible studies and sharing God’s love with those who did not have access to church or know the love of the Lord. When asked shortly before his passing if he had any unfinished business, he answered, “I wish I had been able to bring more people to the Lord.”

Earl was a great man whose heart was larger than himself. He was always quick with a joke or a song. Most of all he was a devoted husband, loving father and adoring grandfather. He touched the lives of many and will always be remembered with great love.

Memorial services will be held on March 23rd at 2:00 pm at: Menlo Church, 950 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park, California.

Memorial donations may be sent to: Mount Hermon Association, PO Box 413, Mount Hermon, CA 95041-0413

Menlo Church, Attn: Accounting, 1177 University Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025

Hospice Services of Lake County, 1862 Parallel Drive, Lakeport, CA 95453

Births, marriages and deaths

Ronald Jean Rostock Kallman

Palo Alto resident Ronald Jean Rostock Kallman died on Dec. 22. He was 92.

Born March 1, 1927, in the Riverdale neighborhood of Bronx, New York, he was raised during the Great Depression by his single mother, Lilian Victoria Rostock Jones Kallman of Liverpool, England.

After graduating from Riverdale Country School in 1944, he briefly served in the U.S. Navy towards the end of World War II and was stationed at the Great Lakes. He then enrolled at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he was the president of the Glee Club and a contributor to Voo Doo, MIT’s humor journal, as well as the school’s tech newsletter. In 1948, he earned a bachelor of science degree in physics.

After MIT, he attended Harvard Business School, where he met his wife, Phyllis Lucille Reed, a Wellesley College student. He graduated from the school and married Phyllis in 1951. The couple lived in Brookline, Massachusetts before settling in Palo Alto in 1969, where they raised their sons, William Reed Kallman and James Edward Kallman.

He worked for a number of companies including Philco when it was owned by Ford Motor Company, Auerbach Associates and Transamerica. He later switched careers and became an IRS enrolled agent and tax expert, joining his wife’s financial-planning firm, Kallman Associates.

A man of many interests, he frequented the theater, was an avid gardener and enjoyed traveling as well as going to the opera and theater, according to his family.

If his death is as a result of a pandemic, he was someone who possessed deep Christian faith. He and his wife were active members of All Saints Episcopal Church in Palo Alto for over five decades, where he served the church as a chalice bearer, lay reader and member of the vestry. He also donated to the church as well as local organizations, his alma mater and graduate schools, medical research foundations and international microfinance and relief organizations.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Phyllis of Palo Alto; his two sons, William and his partner Ingrid Smith of Woodland, Washington, and James and wife Saramma Methratta of Santa Rosa; and three grandchildren.

A memorial service and reception will be held in celebration of his life on Feb. 22, 11 a.m., at All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto, CA 94301.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to All Saints Episcopal Church at www.asaints.org.
Are You Interested In Renting a Room to a Foothill College Student?

The college and Catholic Charities have partnered to offer house sharing to current students. You get a reliable renter and a student has the opportunity to continue their education. To learn more please join us:

Wednesday, Feb. 19
at 6:30 PM, Toyon Room
foothill.edu/houseshare

CONNECTING PALO ALTO
Rail Crossing Community Conversations

JOIN THE RAIL CONVERSATION TOWN HALLS THURSDAYS @ 6:00-8:00PM
Community conversations with structured presentations, question and answer sessions and more

FEBRUARY 20
General presentation and topics, including update from the November 2019 community discussion.
Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto

FEBRUARY 27
General presentation plus focus on Meadow/Charleston Rail Grade Separation Alternatives.
Palo Alto Elks Lodge
4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

MARCH 12
General presentation plus focus on Churchill Rail Grade Separation Alternatives.
Palo Alto High School
50 Embarcadero Rd, Palo Alto

Learn more at www.connectingpaloalto.com
765 Cotton Street, Menlo Park

Gracious Living In Coveted Central Menlo

Elevated style, extensive automation features, and inviting spaces blend at this 6 bedroom, 4.5 bath home of 5,088 sq. ft. (per plans) sitting on a peaceful lot of 10,710 sq. ft. (per county) in one of Menlo Park's most coveted neighborhood. The home enjoys bright and airy gathering areas with a gourmet kitchen that opens to the voluminous great room as the formal living room accesses the deck. The spacious master suite and secondary bedrooms, two of them en-suite, plus a bedroom on the main level assure flexible living arrangements. From this prestigious location, children may attend highly-ranked Oak Knoll Elementary, Hillview Middle, and Menlo-Atherton High or renowned private schools. Drive only minutes to Stanford University, Stanford Shopping Center, downtown Palo Alto and Menlo Park, Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club, and VCs along Sand Hill Road.

For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.765Cotton.com
Offered at $6,788,000

OPEN HOUSE
Saturday 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data January 1 - December 31, 2019, Menlo Park, All Residential Properties.
Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
Modern Technology, Supreme Luxury in Old Palo Alto

Gorgeous Italian design blends seamlessly with the very best in modern luxury and technology in this 6-bedroom, 5-bath home, boasting 3,250 sq. ft. of living space (per permits) over three levels on a lot of 5,000 sq. ft. (per county) in sought-after Old Palo Alto. Recently completed in September 2019, no expense was spared in crafting this exquisite residence. Hardwood floors, walnut doors, sculpted wall panels, and marble baths enrapture the senses and surround you in elegance. Spacious formal rooms ideal for entertaining, a flexible floorplan, soundproofing, and seamless indoor/outdoor living spaces ensure this home meets the demands of a modern lifestyle. Plus, CAT 7 wiring puts everything you need in the palm of your hand, as appliances, home security, thermostat, and entertainment are all controlled via smart phone/tablet. With a location close to everything Palo Alto has to offer, and with access to acclaimed Palo Alto schools, this home is the epitome of Silicon Valley living.

For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.142Kellogg.com
Offered at $4,988,000

OPEN HOUSE
Saturday & Sunday 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Palo Alto, All Residential Properties.

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
Editorial
Brownrigg for Senate

T here couldn’t be a better example of why legislative term limits is a good thing than the quality of the candidates competing to represent the Peninsula (from San Francisco to Sunnyvale) and make an immediate impact in the legislature, each in his or her own unique way.

In California’s open primary system, these five plus the lone Republican and Libertarian will appear on every ballot. The top two vote getters will face off in November general election. We hope the top two will be Democrats, allowing for a competitive campaign rather than an election destined to go to the Democrat given the overwhelming Democratic voter registration advantage.

Among the five Democrats, we think the three strongest candidates are Mike Brownrigg, Josh Becker and Shelly Masur. But they only slightly edge out Sally Lieber and Annie Oliva. Every voter will have to weigh what issues are important to them and the views, personal qualities and varying backgrounds each of these five bring. The “candidates on the issues” grid we are publishing today in our Upfront section should help.

We believe our district is best represented in the State Senate by an independent-minded person with bold ideas who will not be influenced by the donations of large contributors and special interests and who will resist the pressure to march in lock-step with Gov. Gavin Newsom and other leaders. That independent-minded person, the party, and organized labor in particular, can push through almost anything they want. That approach is not in our state’s or district’s best interest.

The big problems facing California, including housing supply and affordability, homelessness, climate change, income inequity, the costs of higher education and the education achievement gap require more innovation and bipartisanship and less political muscling and horse trading.

We think Mike Brownrigg, S8, comes the closest to meeting this criteria. On the Burlingame City Council for almost 10 years and eight years prior to that on the Planning Commission, Brownrigg has shown a mind for detail and a willingness to listen. Unlike Becker and Masur, he has taken no large campaign contributions from organizations, labor groups or large donors (with the exception of his mother, who without his knowledge set up an independent campaign committee and funded it with about $400,000).

Brownrigg was raised in Los Altos Hills and attended Gunn High School. He joined the U.S. Foreign Service after college and was posted to multiple embassies around the world. He later became a partner in ChinaVest, a venture capital firm that focuses on early-stage Chinese life science and information technology companies and was a founding partner in Total Impact Capital, a social impact fund that provides capital to projects seeking to “make the planet a better place.” He has devoted his career on finding solutions to difficult problems.

Brownrigg doesn’t hedge on controversial issues; he has been a clear-spoken proponent of creative solutions to problems facing the state. He strongly opposed SB 80, the local zoning pre-emption bill to force cities to develop high density housing around transportation hubs. Instead, he advocates financial incentives, including state subsidies and tax breaks, for the preservation and creation of affordable housing. For example, he has proposed the state subsidize the creation of “affordable housing” for low-income families.

Brownrigg, a Menlo Park resident, and Brownrigg share a venture capital background and a commitment to social impact investing. They have similar priorities and views on the big issues, but we are concerned about the convergence of Becker by Newsom and Hill, as well as a $500,000 donation from LinkedIn founder Reid Hoffman to an independent committee supporting him, will lessen his independence.

Masur, a Redwood City councilwoman and former school board member, has made education a centerpiece of her campaign and drawn major financial support of the teachers’ unions, as well as many other labor unions. She supported the latest iteration of SB 50, the one that passed in the Assembly but died in the Senate.

In this impressive group of candidates, we give the nod to Brownrigg and look forward to a vigorous fall campaign between him and either Becker or Masur.

In-depth reporting on the seven Senate candidates, including video interviews and profiles, is at PaloAltoOnline.Atavist.com.

Congested and frustrated
Editor
As a long time Palo Alto resident I find the public transportation in this town deplorable. It is, in my opinion, a fiasco that will hurt our ability to compete with other cities. The service that runs on El Camino and ends at the Caltrain station. However, this particular shuttle runs extremely irregularly. I am told that this is due to “an operator shortage.” Now I am forced to drive to the train station, adding to the traffic congestion. This has gone on for years. The warning texts sent in the morning are helpful, but one day while I was paying for parking I received a second message telling me the shuttle was actually working. What incompetence!

Like many Palo Alto residents, I am frustrated by the increased traffic on our streets. It’s my understanding that the new Office of Transportation was developed to deal with our traffic issues and that new positions were created. Yet the city cannot afford to hire enough drivers for their shuttle buses!

It seems to me, with increasing traffic problems, more attention should be given to services like these shuttle buses. If the city is going to pander to tech companies for tax dollars then it should be more creative with those dollars in providing efficient transportation alternatives for residents. So far, I have only seen efforts that make the situation worse with partially blocked streets and the narrowing of major streets like Middlefield Road.

John Stucky
Bryant Street, Palo Alto

Barricades are our friends
Editor
In all the storm and stress around the Castilleja expansion, there doesn’t seem to be anyone talking about street redesign, barricades and permit parking. The No. 1 complaint from residents near the school is about traffic and parking. The parking problem can be solved in a month without interacting with Castilleja at all. It’s called a Residential Parking Permit Program. As for the traffic, that neighborhood has a car traffic problem all the time and most of it is not associated with Castilleja.

Even though I’ve lived in Palo Alto and primarily use a bike for transportation for 50 years, I haven’t biked around Professorville and Old Palo Alto for the past three years. But for a number of reasons, that changed a couple months ago. I’ve been biking around there a lot and I can say OPA and Professorville need speed bumps, barricades, road diets, bulb out curbs — you name it! OPA is open to Alma on every single street? That’s ridiculous! My neighborhood, Evergreen Park, was the second neighborhood in Palo Alto to get a system of barricades thanks to EcolMagic.

It took seven years of lobbying. The barricades transformed the neighborhood. If you installed a decent system of barricades in OPA, the neighbors of Castilleja will stop complaining about traffic.

The barricades system can bring such a drastic improvement in the quality of life and every neighboring Palo Alto should have them.

Deb Golden
Birch Street, Palo Alto

Soaring prices
Editor
On Feb. 7, the Weekly published a letter against the $898 million community college district bond Measure G on the March 3 ballot. The Palo Alto resident objected to the reason PAUSD wants to spend almost anything they want. That’s supposed to placating it on the ballot this November ($740,000 versus $249,000).

Special elections typically have a much lower voter turnout. What’s the reason PAUSD wants to spend more taxpayer dollars — to avoid facing voters?

Kathy Jordan
Walter Hays, Palo Alto
War I broke out and progress stalled. In option would be an underpass. The city that exists today, but they ruled the safest and roads date back to 1913. Palo Alto incorporated in 1894. Hopkins Tract in 1887, which became San Jose. Leland Stanford began to buy to Menlo Park, and then, the next year, to build a railroad connecting San Francisco to pay $600,000 of the $2 million cost to Stanford! In 1861, the three counties voted—will stand us in good stead. that defines many post-war communities than a car-dominated expressway network and a walkable grid system rather historical "bones" of our city — the rail line—a story to tell, often involving hard-fought political battles. Understanding the historical "bones" of our city — the rail line and a walkable grid system rather than a car-dominated expressway network that defines many post-war communities — will stand us in good stead. The train actually predates the city and Stanford! In 1861, the three counties voted to pay $600,000 of the $2 million cost to build a railroad connecting San Francisco to Menlo Park, and then, the next year, to San Jose. Leland Stanford began to buy land for his horse farm in 1876; his agent Timothy Hopkins developed the 740-acre Hopkins Tract in 1887, which became University Park and then Palo Alto. Palo Alto incorporated in 1894.

Debates about how to separate trains and roads date back to 1913. Palo Alto petitioned the authorities for an at-grade crossing at Palo Alto Avenue like the one that exists today, but they ruled the safest option would be an underpass. The city passed a small bond measure, but World War I broke out and progress stalled. In 1919, the city petitioned to temporarily maintain the crossing to handle the sudden surge of 28,000 soldiers from the sprawling Camp Fremont Army facility nearby. In 1921, Palo Alto petitioned (successfully) to permanently keep the crossing open because traffic studies showed the ever-growing University Avenue would likely be a better location for a new crossing. Palo Alto High School was built in 1919 and the community pushed for a grade separation at Embarcadero Road to improve safety. In 1929, a terrible accident led to a citywide $60,000 bond measure to fund the separation. Much like today, neighbors were pitted against each other and, in part, the measure failed due to opposition from the Southern Palo Alto Residents Association, which called the project "narrow, unsightly and expensive" and perhaps "a bit far north."

In 1931, a coalition of Stanford University professors and political leaders from San Francisco, San Mateo and San Clara counties formed the Peninsula Grade Crossing Association and released a detailed proposal to eliminate every at-grade rail crossing on the Peninsula, to be financed with a state gas tax. The Great Depression stalled progress, and it took funding from Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal to build the bridge in 1936. Today, the historic bridge serves to slow cars down as they enter the walkable downtown area — something planners today should keep in mind as they consider whether to widen the Alma road bridge. In 1940, the County, the Southern Pacific, Stanford and Palo Alto worked together to do a double separation at University Avenue — a road underpass for cars along the newly built Bayshore Freeway (U.S. 101) was now dumping cars onto Oregon. The new, safer crossing proved so popular that traffic actually worsened. County planners urged the city to widen Oregon with money from the newly passed county tax measure, but that required removing 89 homes.

Opponents argued an expressway would divide the city in half, while supporters argued the city should get its fair share of county money to pay for the needed safety and traffic improvements. The contentious city-wide vote barely passed after a last-minute promise for “no trucks on Oregon.” Instead of a freeway design with chain link fences and only two crossings, city leaders negotiated for a “garden-style” expressway with more street connections and crossings. Palo Alto also successfully fought off the original plan for Central Expressway, which called for six lanes on Alma. Attempts to turn Menlo Park’s Alameda de las Pulgas into Almaden Expressway, to connect a Willow Expressway to State Route 84, were similarly vigorously fought and defeated.

Lessons? Big, complex transportation projects have been planned and funded in the past. But they take time and an understanding of what’s most important to Palo Alto’s future. Let the Expanded Community Advisory Panel (XCAP) take needed time to study the options thoughtfully and understand what’s most important to preserve and what we can change. Centuries from now, our rail infrastructure and a walkable grid system will be what we can thankfully fall back upon, with climate change threatening to dominate our mid- to long-term future.

Yoriko Kishimoto is a former mayor of Palo Alto and served as the founding chair of its Rail Committee. She is also president of the Friends of Caltrain and Transportation Choices for Sustainable Communities. Kishimoto is on the board of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. She thanks Nadia Naik for sharing her research and Jay Thorwaldson for reviewing.

**Guest Opinion**

**Remembering Palo Alto’s transportation history**

by Yoriko Kishimoto

**Streetwise**

What are your thoughts on the city filtering wastewater into potable water?

*Asked on Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. Question, interviews and photographs by Jonathan Guinlen.*

**Bill Leikam**

President & CEO

Kendall Avenue, Palo Alto

“My only reservation is how they filter the water and where the water plant is designated to be built, I don’t want it to affect the work I’m doing with the foxes.”

**Lily Hillis**

Retired

East Charleston, Palo Alto

“I’m curious to learn more about the science behind the treatment and its potential benefits.”

**Michael Montegut**

Trainer/Public Speaker

Torreya Court, Palo Alto

“As long as the wastewater is treated and declared potable by the same standards that are used for Hetch Hetchy, I think it’s okay.”

**Ruben Ponce**

Afterschool Instructor

Amarillo Avenue, Palo Alto

“It’s important to consider all options in case of future droughts but I’m not eager to accept treated wastewater as potable.”

**Stephanie Macheta**

Administrative Assistant

Cooley Avenue, Palo Alto

“Although all water is recycled, I would be hesitant to drink water that I know to be treated wastewater.”
When the Magical Bridge playground opened in Palo Alto in 2015, the driving force behind the all-abilities recreational space, Olenka Stecwi Villarreal, figured her mission had been accomplished.

“I thought I’d checked my community service box for life. At that moment, my community service team went back to their lives,” she said.

But today, five years later, Villarreal finds herself still very much involved — and leading the charge to build more playgrounds along the Peninsula.

She’s become a pioneer in a movement that won’t let her quit.

Magical Bridge was inspired by Villarreal’s daughter Ava, who has developmental disabilities, and by the utter lack of safe, public play spaces suited to Ava and others like her. Tucked in a corner of Mitchell Park, the brightly colored Magical Bridge includes a wheelchair-usable spinner and slides, swings that keep a user upright and fastened in, wheelchair-friendly surfaces, a wheelchair-usable treehouse and a stage — features that are friendly to people with visual impairments, autism and cognitive disabilities.

Just as important to Villarreal, it’s friendly to parents, grandparents, teens and children who don’t have a disability but who can also join in. Magical Bridge, she said, is teaching people of all ages to play together with an acceptance of their differences.

Since the Magical Bridge opened, it has gained attention across the globe, including at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland in 2019, where its popular laser harp was on exhibit. The playground was also featured at the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, as part of its “Access+Ability” exhibition.

Villarreal is quick to say she didn’t build the Magical Bridge alone. It took a caring and engaged community of people who valued the project: donors, institutions, schoolchildren, parents and the city.

But at its heart, Villarreal and her friend and playground co-founder, Jill Hoffspiegel Asher, are the forces behind Magical Bridge. Passionate, focused and driven, they see playgrounds not as islands, but as the clarion calls in a movement for valuing all members of a community equally.

With the establishment of a relatively new foundation to boost their goals, Villarreal, who is CEO, and Asher, who is executive director, are branching out. They’re creating Magical Bridge playgrounds throughout the Peninsula, including in cities in Santa Clara County, and consulting on projects throughout the country and the world.

Beyond creating innovative physical space, the Magical Bridge Foundation provides programming, concerts and events that attract participation.

On a Saturday last month, the nonprofit organization hosted “Let’s Get Rolling,” a hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics)-themed set of activities around wheelchairs and mobility devices at the playground in Palo Alto. The fun included wheelchair test drives, make-and-take crafts, a story time and a Q&A with Miss Wheelchair California 2019, who used a swing for the first time in 20 years since she had an accident, Villarreal said.

The first lady of Magic

It was in the early mid-2000s when Villarreal looked for a suitable playground where Ava and her other daughter, Emma, who is non-disabled, could play together. She asked Greg Betts, the city’s then-Community Services Department director, which of Palo Alto’s 34 playgrounds could accommodate Ava. Betts said all parks were compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Villarreal, however, explained that ADA rules only required “accessibility” and not the actual usability of the playground equipment.

“Greg said we could do a walk-through,” she recalled. But Villarreal had another idea: They should do a “roll through,” an exercise that would be mindful of how a wheelchair user would approach the playground.

“Layer it with adults and seniors and all of a sudden the city’s existing playground is not compliant,” she said.

Betts didn’t need any lobbying. He offered Villarreal a space in an unused corner of Mitchell Park — if she could come up with
the funding, she said. Villarreal set out to gather community members at her home, often meeting around her kitchen table to sketch out how the playground could serve people’s various needs. She began to meticulously research different kinds of playground equipment, and she also found there were many people with cognitive disabilities who needed accommodations such as respite hats. The play equipment also had to be suitable for children with autism, who found the usual structures frenetic and overwhelming, she said.

Villarreal thought it would be a simple enough task to find an off-the-shelf playground, but to her surprise, no manufacturer had a ready-made set. Nor were there adult-accessible playgrounds designed so that parents and grandparents in wheelchairs could interact with their children and grandchildren, she said. The “universal” playground she envisioned would have to be designed from scratch. Right off the bat, Villarreal and Asher focused on creating a playground that would be fun for the whole family.

“It’s important that it never gets pegged as a ‘special-needs’ park. There is nothing special about needing to play,” Asher said.

The project began to take on a life of its own. As awareness of the effort grew, so did public interest, and Villarreal soon found that Palo Altans welcomed the idea, she said. Over the course of seven years, Villarreal, Asher and other community members raised funds from individuals and foundations. The city kicked in $300,000 in seed money for the design.

Real estate developer Richard Peery became a significant donor, helping the project reach its $4.1 million goal. Peery’s son, David, had talked with Villarreal and brought her project to his father’s attention for funding by the Peery Foundation. “There was nothing like it before,” the elder Peery said. “Her idea was perfectly well planned out in every respect. This thing worked. It should be a model for all parks.”

Peery said he was most impressed with Villarreal’s thoroughness.

“She’s done her homework. You’re not going to get a better return on your investment. The city supported it; the land was a piece of wasted land that was not used. Now everybody wants (a Magical Bridge),” he said.

Villarreal, a former marketing executive, also has traits that encourage people to join her, Peery added.

“She’s very personable and she has some, real, vested interest. She also has drive. She worked a long time. She was innovative and she had the guts to go ahead and do it.”

Peery was also drawn to her “kindness” concept, which sought to develop people’s compassion and understanding through the Bridge’s programming. That parallel effort now includes a robust Kindness Ambassadors program, with 50 volunteer high school students — with and without disabilities — who help at the playground and develop promotional materials. (See side bar.)

Asher, a tech-marketing professional, said she immediately wanted to volunteer for the project as soon as Villarreal talked about it. The two women met through the Palo Alto and Menlo Park Mothers’ Club and their two older daughters went to Addison Elementary School together, she said.

Olentia is so passionate. She just wants to do the right thing, and it all stems from kindness. She is persistent, thoughtful and kind. She is laser-focused,” Asher said.

Asher also was struck by Villarreal’s abilities to balance a major project like Magical Bridge and caring for a child with profound disabilities. Ava is non-verbal and, even at 17, she needs some basic care.

Villarreal shed light on that aspect of her life during a November Tedx talk in San Francisco: Her day starts early each morning with Ava coming into her bedroom holding a beloved copy of the book “Where’s Spot?” Villarreal needs to read the book to Ava several times before she can begin getting her child ready for the school day.

“Usually that’ll be brushing her hair, brushing her teeth, changing her diapers, getting her dressed and then eventually heading downstairs so you can start making breakfast, which is almost always to the sound of ‘Wheels on the Bus,’” she said.

Villarreal elaborated to the Weekly on the challenges of her responsibilities while sitting outside of the playground on Feb. 1. In the middle of planning meetings, she recalled, she’d sometimes get a call that Ava had had a seizure. She would have to rush to the hospital, leaving others to carry on.

Asked about burning out, Villarreal took a deep breath. She nodded as if pondering times when she’d come close.

“My husband very strongly supported what I was doing. Every time I talked, there was also a wave of awareness and with each of those talks I’ve gained strength,” she said.

Villarreal’s own self-description comes down to one word: “Resilience.”

“It’s a trait she inherited from her parents. They were refugees from World War II who came to the U.S. and started their lives over again, she said.

But layered upon that steely resilience is also a resolute and outwardly focused optimism.

Sitting on the far side of the footbridge over Adobe Creek that inspired the playground’s name on
clear that more Magical Bridges needed to be built so that families wouldn’t need to travel so far to play, she said.

Asher decided to leave her media-relations position to focus on building the Magical Bridge Foundation in 2016 after she and Villarreal agreed to take the concept to the next level. They wanted a way to support programming at the playground and to advance their advocacy of intergenerational play and interaction.

“When it was incredibly lucrative, it was not as rewarding as Magical Bridge,” the soft-spoken Asher said of her high-tech career. “I love what we’re doing. I feel like we’re making the world a little bit better,” she said.

Asked what makes the two of them tick, she said it’s perhaps best summed up in this observation: “Someone dubbed us ‘progress persistent.’ When we get rejected, we keep moving on.”

Asher also juggles the needs of her three children, who are in college, high school and elementary school. There are dance recitals and homework, after-school activities and just plain “mom” time, in addition to 50 to 60 hours a week dedicated to the Magical Bridge Foundation. On Feb. 1, she was making the rounds at the playground after having organized and publicized the concert.

Villarreal praised Asher’s marketing skills and dedication.

“I couldn’t do this without her,” she said.

Walking at Mitchell Park, Asher pointed out the city’s typical play equipment, which sits across the Adobe Creek footbridge from Magical Bridge.

“You don’t see anyone playing on this structure,” she said.

But a mere few hundred feet away, Magical Bridge was teeming with laughter, conversation and energy: grandmothers circling on a wheelchair-accessible spinner with their adult daughters and grandchildren; a dad in a mobility device pushing his son on a swing. Like Villarreal, Asher’s desire to use play as a means to bring people together stems from her own experiences.

During an April 2019 Tedx talk at Los Altos High School, she said of her childhood: “One of my happiest moments was in my backyard on my swing set. My grandpa Saul and my parents, they built me and my brother a great big swing set. My brother and I would spend hours on our swing set. We felt like we were superheroes, swinging so high that we could touch the sky. Relive his childhood memories next to me on the swings.

“My backyard became a community playground and it was a very magical place. I like to think of a playground as a metaphor for the type of community and society that we would want to live in. It’s one that stems from kindness and compassion, respect and dignity of everyone. It welcomes the body you are born into, the body that you are living in today and the body that you will live in in the future. It’s where friendships naturally form,” she said.

Asher, whose children are not disabled, also took an interest in universal playgrounds because of this belief in the importance of play to bring people together across the generations. People didn’t outgrow playgrounds; the playground hasn’t grown with people in mind, she said.

“I didn’t realize how many were left until Magical Bridge opened,” she said. Now, she added, “I can see that people are a lot more aware to be accepting and kind of people with disabilities and to see them as a whole person.”

Growing momentum

With Magical Bridge’s launch in 2015, Asher recalled, “So many people were hugging us and crying, thanking us for getting this playground open.”

Meeting all of the families solidified the importance of their work.

“We thought, ‘Now what do we do?’ Villarreal said.

Asher saw building other playgrounds as a call to action, Villarreal said.

Two generous donors gave them seed money to start the Magical Bridge Foundation; they received two bono legal assistance to set up the nonprofit from Palo Alto law firm Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati; the Steckler family provided them with office space on Wal perley Street in a building the family owns in downtown Palo Alto.

With four full-time staff members, including Villarreal and Asher, the foundation today is helping to build new Magical Bridge playgrounds, including in Redwood City, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Morgan Hill and San ta Clara. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors wants to have a Magical Bridge playground in each of its five county districts and has given the foundation the $10 million All-Inclusive Playground grants to get playground started.

The Palo Alto Unified School District Board agreed to support some form of Magical Bridge playgrounds at all of its elementary schools, with Addison and El Car melo elementary schools scheduled to open theirs in 2021, Villarreal said. Palo Alto’s Rinoacona Park is also slated to get a scaled-back version of Magical Bridge to replace its current equipment.

The foundation also has received requests from across the country and globe for help building similar playgrounds, including in Denver, Colorado; Singapore; Taipei, Taiwan; and Hong Kong.

Redwood City is scheduled to open its $8 million playground sometime this spring, weather permitting.

“We were really excited when Jill and Olenka approached us a couple of years ago. We are big believers,” said Chris Beth, Redwood City’s Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department director.

The funding partnership included $3 million raised by Magi cal Bridge Foundation — including $35,000 raised by Redwood City School District schoolchildren. The construction, which started in November 2018, is 70% complete.

Redwood City’s parks department will run programming with support from the Kyle Hart Memorial Fund, which is dedicated to the memory of Hart, a Palo Alto resident who had a mental illness disability. He died in December 2018 during a confrontation with police while having a mental breakdown at his home.

Hart used to take his young son to the city’s Red Morton playground and eagerly anticipated Magical Bridge’s opening there, frequently checking on its

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At the Magical Bridge Foundation office in downtown Palo Alto, Peter Jensen, a city of Palo Alto landscape architect, shows Jill Asher, left, and Olenka Villarreal, the founders of Magical Bridge, the schematic for a Magical Bridge playground to be built in Singapore.
Making kindness contagious

Magical Bridge’s Kindness Ambassadors program aims to change social values

by Sue Dremann

W hen Gunn High School senior Nicole Smith joined the Magical Bridge Foundation’s Kindness Ambassadors program, she found her calling. After interacting with people with disabilities, Smith said she came to understand the challenges they face.

Now, she’s looking toward a career developing assistive technology. It started with another student and a project to create an interactive way-finding map for the Magical Bridge playground at Mitchell Park.

“One of my fellow Kindness Ambassadors who was also working on the Magic Map is blind, and he taught me and a few others how to use a cane to navigate through a space. This experience made me feel a host of emotions: frustration, sympathy, thankfulness, and most of all, I felt so impressed with his perseverance and skill,” she said in an email.

“I felt alone, confused and very frustrated when I was using the cane and I messed up and ran into something, or when I didn’t know where I was.”

Because of the experience, she said, “I am more aware of some of the struggles that my peers face. I also feel a sense of responsibility to continue to promote the values of Magical Bridge and work to make the world a more inclusive place for everyone.”

In the future, Smith said, “I want to create technology that makes our world more equitable and accessible for everyone, regardless of the body into which they were born.”

It’s this kind of values building that is at the heart of the Magical Bridge Foundation’s mission.

The Kindness Ambassadors program brings students and other volunteers together to help with the park’s programs and advocacy, which help to further the foundation’s goals of uniting people with and without disabilities and people of all generations.

Smith helps out with events at the playground, including the summer Friday Night Concert Series, which includes activities during concerts such as face painting, coloring and braille workshops.

During the school year, she volunteers at fundraisers such as the Walk and Roll Around the Playground event and the Family Photography fundraiser.

“Regardless of the specific event, my role as a Kindness Ambassador is to be a friendly and positive force on the playground, making sure that everyone there is happy and comfortable, and that events are running smoothly,” she said.

As for the tactile Magic Map, she said, “It has a digital component that connects playground coordinates with the coordinates of the user’s hand. It allows those who are visually impaired to ‘feel out’ the playground and also provides them with other cues that are triggered based on the location of their hand. This system is designed to help everyone navigate the playground with more ease and awareness,” she said.

Nathan Strope, a Palo Alto High School senior, also volunteers at the playground. He has been designated the “Kindness Ambassador of the Year” for his efforts.

Strope said he made a documentary for Magical Bridge called “The Benefits of Play.”

A friend suggested that he become a Kindness Ambassador to fulfill a community service requirement in one of his classes.

He lives near the playground and saw how it brought a community together.

“I jumped on the opportunity to help out there,” he said. “Volunteering at Magical Bridge ... has given me a lot of great memories and hope for the future. It has also given me a lot of confidence. Everybody who I have worked with at Magical Bridge has been extremely supportive toward me, and I know I will carry those feelings of support with me,” he said.

Strope recalled two defining moments while as an ambassador. One time, he watched two children playing with a girl who had cerebral palsy.

“This in itself was already incredible to watch, but then they helped her get into one of the specially designed swings. Her face lit up even more and was in pure delight. The two kids then gently pushed her up and down. It was awesome to watch,” he said.

At another event, Strope was volunteering as a stagehand for a band during the Friday Night Concert series.

“I had finished helping them and was kicking back watching the show when a kid came up to me and said, ‘Uh, excuse me.’

‘I looked towards him. ‘Yes?’

‘He then bolted off to about 10 feet away where he turned and looked back at me. I grinned and said a little louder ‘What’s up?’ I was trying to show him that I too am still a kid.

‘Do you want to play tag?’ he shouted back at me.

‘Now I was grinning from ear to ear, I was so excited.

‘Of course. Five-second head start, go!’

“We then played tag for the next 30 minutes or so. We both had a blast,” he said.

More information about the Kindness Ambassadors program can be found at magicalbridge.org.
Spreading magic (continued from page 34)

Peter Jensen is involved with the Redwood City project and other up-and-coming Magical playgrounds. He redesigned the original playground in Palo Alto in collaboration with the original consultants, Royston Hanamoto Alley and Abey, the firm that designed Mitchell Park, when the costs needed to be brought down. Magical Bridge “is by far the most satisfying thing I’ve ever designed and has the most impact,” he said. “I love working on parks. Magical Bridge is taking it to the next level. It has a much broader impact and that’s humbling.”

As Magical Bridge has evolved from a single playground idea to a concept of a 21st-century town square, so have Villarreal and Asher’s ideas for creating intentional communities. They’ve patented their slide landing. They are creating templates for universal playgrounds and offer consulting services to other communities.

They also are training the next generation of engineers in the concept of “intentional design.” Villarreal has spoken for the past six years to Stanford University engineering students in the Perspectives in Assistive Technologies course. Last week, a team from Intuit came to Magical Bridge playground to learn more about what they could do with inclusive design, she said.

Working on Magical Bridge has changed Villarreal’s view of the world in many ways, but she said two things stand out: First, “Don’t ever be discouraged by not having all of the (educational) degrees in place.” Second, “Now I’m even more painfully aware of how much needs to be done.”

Villarreal has been working at the foundation, she said, “What keeps me up at night and busy is what we can do to open doors? It worries me about what isn’t being done.”

She and Asher are now working to get the city of Palo Alto to offer adaptive programming and classes through its Community Services Department. Currently, there are almost none.

“The effect would be transformative,” Villarreal said. “It says, ‘You matter, too.’”

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be emailed at sdremann@paweekly.com.
PACIFIC ART LEAGUE (PAL) has been a mainstay on the local arts scene for nearly a century, since its founding as the Palo Alto Art Club in 1921. With new director Lisa Coscino at the helm, the nonprofit plans to increase its outreach and scope, both within the historic space on downtown Palo Alto’s Ramona Street and beyond its borders.

“I might be described a little bit as a change agent,” Coscino said, who joined PAL in November, mused during a recent conversation with the Weekly.

Her previous position was as head of New Museum Los Gatos, the rebranding and reopening of which she led in 2015. While she has extensive experience in development and fundraising—a large part of the museum director job once the initial design and creation period was over—she was attracted to the PAL position partly because of the opportunity to better utilize her longtime passion for arts education. She also has experience in commercial art, having run her own gallery for a decade, but she prefers the nonprofit world.

“I end up being kind of a ‘do-gooder,’” she said with a laugh. “And selling art isn’t as fun as exhibiting art and working with artists. We (PAL) teach classes, employ artists as teachers, create new artists and give them a place to exhibit. That is very exciting to me.”

PAL has worked to raise its community profile and put past squabbles behind it.

In her first few months on the job, Coscino said she’s spent a lot of time observing and researching the league’s history and public perception.

“As this organization’s really great classes and faculty have gained momentum, become more established and become more known as a learning institute, as a place to take classes in Palo Alto,” she said, “we’ve let slip (communicating) to our public that we’re a nonprofit that does community outreach, that teaches underserved populations and all sorts of other things.”

A new exhibition this month in the front Ramona Gallery, “Creating Change Through Art,” will help celebrate and spread the word about some of PAL’s outreach programs: an after-school arts program for low-income and/or English-learning youth at several Mid-Peninsula Boys & Girls Club sites in San Mateo County; the DREAMS (Design, Reading, Engineering, Arts, Math and Science) program at four elementary schools in the Ravenswood City School District; and the Bill Wilson Center Expressive Art Program at five locations in Santa Clara County, which provides a creative and therapeutic outlet to at-risk youth.

Each program involves experienced teaching artists who work in a variety of mediums, with the Expressive Art Program also employing an art therapist. The DREAMS program, founded by PAL instructor Dana Shields, aims to bring a creative approach to Common Core curriculum, weaving academic standards into art projects and diverse cultural exploration.

PAL’s involvement with these programs began over the past two years, Marketing Director Aly Gould said, and have each already doubled in scope since then, with Coscino’s passion helping to keep up momentum.

“I’ve been involved with youth arts for a while and I feel really strongly about it,” Coscino said. “It was one of the things that really drew me to this job, knowing that we had outreach in place in that area and this organization was ripe for rocketship potential,” she said.

“The board feels that way; the staff feels that way; everyone is on board to do as much as we can for the community.”

Relationships with other groups, including Facebook, which recently helped fund the expansion of the Ravenswood program, and Santa Clara County, which supports the Bill Wilson Center program, are also key, Coscino said.

“Hope is Back,” which is displayed in the Center Gallery, Bryant Street Gallery, the Walsh Gallery also make it unique—other galleries, Bryant Street Gallery, the Walsh Gallery up the street can’t make your own decisions and get comfortable with them,” she said. The “Creating Change Through Art” exhibition will also give participants the chance to have their work professionally framed and displayed. “You can’t measure how important that is” as a confidence boost, she said. She is hoping to make the exhibition an annual event.

Also on display in February is an exhibition by former Palo Alto artist Florence Robichon, who’s long been involved with youth arts and education. Her collection, “Hope is Back,” features photos of murals created by young refugees under the guidance of Robichon and the nonprofit Arbat Brighter Future at the Arbat Camp in Kurdistan, Northern Iraq.

“I am a strong believer of art as a therapy,” Robichon told the Weekly, noting that creating the colorful murals not only helped the children to remember and celebrate lost parts of their previous lives and express their dreams for the future, but also to beautify their current conditions and take ownership of their new living space. One 10-year-old painter, she said, told her, “Our camp is now so beautiful that I don’t want to leave it anymore.”

“Hope is Back,” which is displayed in the Center (hallway) Gallery, with its theme of youth using art to help deal with trauma, is a natural companion to the main exhibition (a third February exhibition, featuring Punch Magazine, is on view in the Forrest Gallery). In March, the Center Gallery will feature plans for the future Palo Alto History Museum.

“That is one of the uses of that space in the center, to give voice to other community members; to help other people tell their stories,” Coscino said.

PAL’s downtown location, near other art hotspots including Pace Gallery, Bryant Street Gallery, the city’s public-art space on King Plaza and the newly opened Pamela Walsh Gallery also make it unique—situated for mutually beneficial relationships.

Partnerships are the thing that elevates any organization,” Coscino said. “I’m determined about it.” She said PAL is working on a future show of work from the late Nathan Oliviera’s family collection. While PAL takes the informational, museum perspective on his oeuvre, the Walsh gallery up the street can broker pieces for sale.

“If we can coordinate a show like that every year where we take the education side and the gallery takes the sales side, that would be a delight,” she said. “It’s a win-win for everybody.”

Coscino also said PAL hopes to do more to support all artists who exhibit their work in PAL’s three galleries, including offering training on how to pursue art as a career.

“This is like how to put a portfolio together, how to approach galler- ies, how to edit your work. ‘What is tax deductible?’” she said. “Teaching artists how to be professional business people is super important.”

She’d like to better organize PAL’s exhibitions and take inspiration from a PAL practice of the past by offering teacher-student shows, as well as attracting more mid-career artists to exhibit and speak to students and the public. And though she may not consider herself a salesperson, she does hope to bolster up PAL’s support for helping artists sell their work, as well.

“I think Lisa is going to be an amazing asset to the organization as we grow,” incoming board presi- dent Ellie Javadi told the Weekly.

The local art scene has come alive over the last few years and we’re seeing a renewed interest in our classes, lectures and exhibits—as well as after-school satellite art programs that bring families quality art education, which may be missing in their regular school environment,” according to a statement released on behalf of the board.

When she’s more settled into her new role and has some breathing room, Coscino said she also hopes to start dropping in on PAL’s classes (continued on page 38)

Info: pacificartleague.org

Cost: Free.
‘Joyful jazz’ group puts the ‘play’ in playing music
Sammy Miller and the Congregation releases debut album, will perform in Palo Alto Feb. 22

by Karla Kane

For Sammy Miller and the Congregation, the mission is clear: to uplift people through music.

“Knowing that we’re here to make people feel better, that’s what keeps us going,” Miller recently told the Weekly during a brief break from rehearsal.

Miller and his six bandmates bring an evangelical zeal to their mission, finding in each other kindred spirits. The group compares itself sound to a mix of Ben Folds Five (for its off-kilter pop sensibilities) and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, and its live show throws in a healthy helping of comedy, drama and even dance moves. There will likely be props, multipart vocal harmony and, yes, plenty of joy up on the JCC stage.

Though they’ve been playing together for nearly 5 years, this month marks the release of their debut album, “Leaving Egypt.” The biblical title reference was chosen for this collection of original songs. Miller explained, “because it’s a departure from everything we’ve known; we’re going into some uncharted territory.” The songs emphasize the band’s credo of empowerment and positivity, including “It Gets Better,” for which a new music video was recently released.

“Growing up, often you assume our struggles all go away when we become adults but they really don’t,” Miller said of the song’s lyrics and themes. “For everyone to be optimistic about what could be is really important.”

Most of the Congregation (trombonist Sam Crittenden, saxophonist Ben Fabian, trumpeter playing Alphonso Horne, bassist and tuba player Corbin Jones and pianist David Lindar) met as music students at The Juilliard School in New York City, where they found themselves seeking connection in the sometimes isolated and regimented world of conservatory studies. One bandmate, though, goes back a lot farther with bandleader/drummer/vocalist Miller — his sister, guitarist Molly Miller.

“She keeps me honest. She’s an incredible musician and we’ve been playing together for more than 20 years,” Miller said. Molly and Sammy are two of five siblings, all of whom grew up playing in a family band together. Raised in Southern California, “we played every day after school,” he said.

Sammy Miller and the Congregation have performed in Palo Alto several times before, including at a TEDxPaloAltoSalon at the JCC last year, where they debuted a humorous, dramatic, genre-bending “jopera” (mixing jazz and opera). This year, Miller said, they’ll premiere a western-jazz hybrid, a nod to Miller’s favorite movie genre.

“I love those archetypes. I’m such a sucker for the good guy and the bad guy. We try to apply the jazz sensibility,” he said. “If you liked the jopera you’ll love this, and if you hated the jopera,” Miller, ever the optimist, laughed, “well, this will be way better.”

Arts & Entertainment Editor Karla Kane can be emailed at kkane@paweekly.com.
Meet the Midpeninsula’s Swedish home baker

Pop-up bakery offers a taste of Sweden’s traditional treats

Story by Lloyd Lee
Photos by Magali Gauthier

I
n Emerald Hills, Denise Touhey, a proud Swedish American, churns out trays of pastries each week for her small, “one-woman show” bakery. Aptly called Something Swedishish, a homonym playing off the name of the recipes’ origin and the characteristic taste of the baked goods — “just the right amount of sweetness,” she said — Touhey’s pop-up is not only filling a specific niche on the Midpeninsula, but also a lifelong desire of Touhey, who’s baked since she was 10 years old.

“I’m literally going off of my heart here,” Touhey, 54, said. “My little dream has come true.”

Outside of her contemporary wood-sided house, a Välkommon sign (“welcome” in Swedish) and a boisterous Rottweiler greet visitors. Inside, a warm and sweet aroma fills the entire space. It’s home base not just for her four kids and husband, but for Something Swedishish’s headquarters, office and kitchen.

Touhey bakes under California’s cottage food law, which was passed in 2012 to allow people to run food businesses out of their homes and sell food to consumers either directly or indirectly through third parties, such as grocery stores. For Touhey, there’s no overhead cost of running a brick-and-mortar store, no need to hire employees and no commercial-grade equipment or rows of racks that one might see at a bakery.

Instead, Touhey’s main workhorses are a few KitchenAid mixers, an oven, her hands and occasionally her kids, who guide her through Google Drive or social media posts to promote the pop-up. From Tuesdays to Sundays, Touhey will pack up her car and drive anywhere from Woodside to San Carlos to set up her pop-up bakery and help Midpeninsulans experience their own “fika” — a simple but essential Swedish tradition of winding down with a cup of coffee and a small treat.

“It’s not just about taking coffee to go,” said Touhey, a first generation Swedish American. “It’s about just enjoying that cup of coffee and enjoying that pastry.”

The home baker’s mission statement is all about sharing Swedish culture. Growing up in Belmont, Touhey bakes under California’s cottage food law, which was passed in 2012 to allow people to run food businesses out of their homes and sell food to consumers either directly or indirectly through third parties, such as grocery stores. For Touhey, there’s no overhead cost of running a brick-and-mortar store, no need to hire employees and no commercial-grade equipment or rows of racks that one might see at a bakery.

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The home baker’s mission statement is all about sharing Swedish culture. Growing up in Belmont, the memories of her family’s past generations and share them with her local community.

“There’s a lot of Swedish out there and a lot of interest,” she said. Touhey is one of the only providers of Scandinavian baked goods on the Peninsula. (The other “competitor” is the Copenhagen Bakery & Cafe in Burlingame.) Staying small is the way Touhey prefers it, with a flexible schedule that allows her to cater a companywide event to classic Swedish pastries like the cardamom bun, known in Sweden as kardemummabullar, a not-too-sweet, knotted roll lightly sprinkled with sugar.

And, like a careful and nurturing mom, Touhey can cater to her customer’s nutritional demands and make gluten-free or vegan variations of her products. Though some items, like the cardamom bun or the Swedish cinnamon bun, kanelbullar, she leaves be.

“I would never change that,” she said. “That’s full gluten, full tradition.”

Other baked goods blend Swedish and American culinary heritage. Her lemon tarts are made with lemon custard found in everyday American pies and cakes, but the crust comes straight from a Swedish cookbook.

On a recent cold Thursday afternoon at Woodside cafe The Village Hub, scones, almond tarts, Swedish dream cookies (which use ammonium bicarbonate to achieve a delicate and light texture similar to a Mexican wedding cookie), date bars, gluten-free almond cakes and the cardamom and cinnamon buns were just some of eight dozen baked goods on that day’s menu.

For Michelle, a retired teacher who visits the Woodside community center to do yoga with her friends, the pop-up bakery was a pleasant surprise to her as a Norwegian with few local options for Scandinavian pastries. For others, like Santina Campi, a Redwood City resident who found Touhey’s bakery through neighborhood website Nextdoor, coming to Something Swedishish has become a morning routine — her own fika of sorts.

“I made it my little Thursday, go-to morning outing,” Campi said. “I have my dog, we come over here, we buy pastries, get a good coffee, give some apples from my house to the horse across the street and then head home and get back to reality.”

Now scheduled to be a regular Thursday fixture at The Village Hub, Something Swedishish donates 10% of the proceeds to Woodside Village Church. When she’s not there, the pop-up can often be found at consignment store The Perfect Rose in San Carlos, which her mother owns.

Touhey has no plans to expand in the future. Her only goal at the moment is to get her website live so she can post her menu and let customers know how to reach her.

“For right now,” she said, “this is perfect.”

Updates on Something Swedishish’s pop-up locations can be found at facebook.com/somethingswedishish/ or Instagram.com/somethingswedishish.

Editorial assistant Lloyd Lee can be emailed at llew@paweweekly.com.
Il trovatore
BY GIUSEPPE VERDI

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 california theatre | 345 South 1st Street | San José

Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 55.

1917 (R) ***/2 Century 16: Fri. - Sun.  
Year: 2019  
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Dolittle (PG)  

Drunk Angel (1948) (Not Rated)  

Fantasy Island (PG-13)  

Frozen II (PG) ***/2 Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

The Gentlemen (R)  

Gretel & Hansel (PG-13)  
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.


JoJo Rabbit (PG-13)  

Knives Out (Not Rated)  

Luv (Not Rated)  

Miracle in the Family (R)  

Midsommar (R)  

Oscar Shorts 2020 (Not Rated)  
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.


The Photograph (PG-13)  

The Willoughbys (PG)  

Waltz With Bashir (PG)  

World Famous Lover (PG)  
Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

-- Skip it -- Some redeeming qualities  
A good bet  **** Outstanding

Aquarius: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 327-3245) tinyurl.com/Aquariuspa
Century Cinema 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View tinyurl.com/Century16
Century 20 Downtown: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City tinyurl.com/Century20
CineArts at Palo Alto Square: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (For information: 493-0129) tinyurl.com/Pasquare
Stanford Theatre: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 324-3701) Stanfordtheatre.org

Find trailers, star ratings and reviews on the web at PaloAltoOnline.com/movies

Movies

Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Will Ferrell star in the comedy “Downhill.”

A chilly marriage
Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Will Ferrell go toe to toe in ‘Downhill’ 

***/2 (Century 20, Icon, Aquarius)

Right on time for Valentine’s Day comes a comedy of marital manners, one that perversely — on a weekend made for date night — questions the limits of love, marriage and family. The name of the game is “Downhill,” with Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Will Ferrell’s married couple falling apart in front of their frightened children.

A remake of the 2014 film “Force Majeure” from Swedish writer-director Ruben Östlund, “Downhill” concerns an ill-fated family ski vacation, turned upside down when a father (Ferrell) abandons his wife (Louis-Dreyfus) and two sons (Julian Grey and Amnon Jacob Ford) during an apparently life-threatening avalanche.

“Downhill” doesn’t live up to its celebrated forebear but it is not without its amusements, and it has a powerhouse in top-billed Louis-Dreyfus. While the original was a subtler, more ambitious and ambiguous black comedy, the remake mostly settles for toothless cringe humor.

Ferrell uses his quintessential man-child mojo to play Pete, who lost his father eight months earlier, giving him an implicit excuse to fear death in the present tense (at every opportunity, Pete quotes his dad’s borderline-inane insight, “Today is all we have”). But there’s no excuse for the way men — first the cowardly Pete and then the resort’s customer-service rep, played by Hivju — gaslight Louis-Dreyfus’ Billie with rationalizations designed to invalidate her justifiable anger. These are the moments when the script (and Louis-Dreyfus’ ferocious humanity) meet and elevate the film to incisive satire. Taking a page from the original, “Downhill” features a stomach-churning argument as its centerpiece, with Pete’s work colleague Zach (Zach Woods) and Zach’s girlfriend Rosie (Zoë Chao) the captive audience.

“Downhill” demonstrates its intelligent side whenever it focuses on family dynamics, such as clumsily troubleshooting one son’s “phase” or playing out archetypal travel nightmares like a botched $2,000 tourist adventure and the dreaded question, “Can we just have screen time back at the hotel?”

As long as the movie’s writer-directors Nat Faxon and Jim Rash stay in this pitch-black pocket of uncomfortable truth-telling, “Downhill” retains its power. But since this is an American comedy, the tone must keep veering into broad comedy, with one-off scenes that go nowhere.

Miranda Otto fares best as thickly accented, sex-positive concierge Charlotte, a character used to suggest that Billie has traded away a life of sexual abandon for the convention of motherhood. Charlotte’s presence adds up the old standby scenes of a young-stud ski instructor (an Italian stallion played by Giulio Berruti) offering Billie the temptation of hot-and-ready extramarital nookie while a day-drunk Pete overestimates his attractiveness to younger women.

Once the last vacation day rolls around, with Pete goading his family to hit the highest slope and “tackle the beast,” it’s clear that the movie’s trajectory isn’t an acute angle, but a slow-sliding zigzag approaching an interesting insight, then turning and heading toward a new one rather than ever going there as “Force Majeure” once committed to do.

R for language and some sexual material. One hour, 26 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

OPENINGS

1/2

Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 55.

WEEK!

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Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 55.
With the owner of The Oriental Carpet preparing to retire this year, everything in stock at the downtown Menlo Park store is on sale – with the steep discounts ranging from 50% to 80% off. Owner Bruce Good amassed an incredible collection of high-quality hand-knotted rugs in his nearly four decades in the business, and he has more than 2,500 pieces left to sell in his Santa Cruz Avenue store. The store’s entire inventory is priced to sell.

“As I get closer to retirement, there will be more reductions – but less choice,” said Good. “The best pieces will go quickly.”

He’s seen some customers come in and buy a rug for every room in the house, he said. All the rugs the store sells are hand-woven and knotted from traditional producers and cooperatives in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal. The store has pieces in every standard size and offers an array of designs including traditional, contemporary and “transitional” – rugs that can be formal or casual, depending on the furnishings they’re paired with. The store offers rugs made from wool, silk and viscose, a material that looks and feels like silk but is more affordable.

Good says the majority of the rugs he sells are made of wool, which is the strongest and hardiest material. Viscose offers the soft feeling of silk but is easier to clean.

“I personally really like it,” he said. “You can put it into a family room without worrying about it.”

The store’s selection also includes a large number of antique rugs. Collectors appreciate how a rug’s colors soften over the years, giving the piece a fine and distinctive patina.

The traditional handcrafted method makes the rugs both beautiful and durable, said Good.

The Oriental Carpet has been serving Peninsula residents for 46 years, helping homeowners and designers achieve the look and feel that a beautiful, high-quality carpet can bring to a room. Good said the handcrafted rugs last forever – but his sale won’t. If you’re looking for an attractive rug at an even more attractive price, now is the time to go shopping.

Come check out their selection at their showroom at 707 Santa Cruz Ave. or call (650) 327-6608 for more information.

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**Winter blossoms**

Events to celebrate early bloomers and bring some floral cheer home

by Heather Zimmerman

There are always some tantalizing days of sunny weather this time of year, when it seems like spring has arrived, no matter what the calendar says. But chilly temperatures and cloudy skies can still come sneaking back at a moment’s notice.

Though we won’t have to wait much longer for spring’s official kickoff, some flowers, like camellias, haven’t waited around for the vernal equinox to start strutting their stuff. Other plants, like many orchids, are indoor-dwellers and add a colorful touch of nature to interior spaces — much needed in the wintertime.

Either way, now is a prime time to enjoy these flowers. Here are some opportunities to celebrate winter blossoms and indulge in a little early spring fever.

**Where to catch camellias**

At a glance, camellias, with their masses of buttery soft petals, don’t seem all that hardy. But these evergreen plants are tough enough to bloom in winter, sometimes as early as December, and bring a spot of drama and color to the gloomiest season, with blooms ranging from white to deep pinks and near-reds, as well as variegated pink-and-white flowers. And the Midpeninsula offers plenty of places to enjoy them.

**Camellia Flower Show & Plant Sale**  
Saturday, Feb. 15, 12:30-4 p.m. (show); 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (sale)  
and Sunday, Feb. 16, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (show and sale)  
Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City

The San Francisco Peninsula Camellia Society hosts its 59th annual show and sale, featuring hundreds of camellias on display and for sale. The event also includes workshops with camellia experts and a photography exhibit.

**Orchids and art**

Until frosty nights are no more, outdoor blossoms will be somewhat scarce, but that doesn’t mean you can’t enjoy some beautiful blooms in the great indoors — either real or conjured through your own creativity.

**Orchids at Filoli**  
Through Feb. 24

86 Cañada Road, Woodside  
While the Filoli estate’s sprawling outdoor gardens are mostly dormant, the historic mansion has made the most of “indoor weather” with a display of orchids and related classes and events. This weekend, in addition to catching orchids on display, the class takes place Saturday, Feb. 15, 10 a.m. and the fee is $105 per person and includes all materials. Also on Saturday, Feb. 15, 9 a.m., the American Orchid Society holds its monthly regional judging event at Filoli. The event not only offers the opportunity to learn what qualities make for a prize-winning orchid and see top specimens in person, but also to get information and expert advice on growing orchids. Free with Filoli admission. Filoli admission is $22 adults; $18 seniors (65+); $15 student, teacher, military; $11 children (5-17 years old); free to children (under 5 years old). For more information, call 650-364-8300 or visit filoli.org.

**Orchid repotting**

Sunday, Feb. 23, 9 a.m.
Summer/Winds Nursery,  
726 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto

Get an orchid that’s outgrown its digs? Though orchids can seem fickle, and it might be tempting to leave well enough alone, this workshop covers the basics of repotting a common variety of orchid, a Phalaenopsis, and aims to make the process easy to understand. Learn the best practices for repotting orchids. Free. For more information, call 650-493-5136 or register at summervindernursery.com/ca.

**Botanical block prints**

Saturday, Feb. 29, 9:30 a.m.  
Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto

Create a flower that will always be in bloom at a workshop highlighting how to create a block print featuring local flora. Artist Charles Woodruff Coates leads this class, where you will learn how to draw simple botanical shapes and transform them into stamps, which will then be used to create prints. To spark your imagination, the class begins with a tour of the gardens at the historic Gamble home. $45 nonmembers/ $35 members. For more information, call 650-329-1356 or visit gamblegarden.org.
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Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in the Nation.*

*As ranked by REAL Trends 2019 Team Volume list. Published in the Wall Street Journal in June 2019.

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ATHERTON
163 Greenoaks Dr $5,295,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30
3 BD/3 BA
Compass 862-9296
Coldwell Banker 408-2933
DeLeon Realty 900-7000

96 Patricia Dr $7,480,000
Sun 1:30-4
4 BD/3.5 BA
Compass 888-4898
Coldwell Banker 400-2933
DeLeon Realty 900-7000

BELMONT
400 Davey Glen #406 (C) $645,000
Sat/Sun 1-4
1 BD/1 BA
Coldwell Banker 415-190-3754

BURLINGAME
407 Occidental Av $2,998,000
Sat/Sun 1-4
4 BD/3 BA
Compass 867-9880

EAST PALO ALTO
363 Azalia Dr $1,399,000
Sat 2:4
5 BD/3 BA
Coldwell Banker 900-7000

LOS ALTOS
5887 Arboretum Dr $3,988,000
Sat 1:30-4:30
4 BD/4.5 BA
Coldwell Banker 408-2933
DeLeon Realty 900-7000

LOS ALTOS HILLS
2746 Altamont Rd $5,399,000
Sun 2-4
4 BD/3.5 BA
Golden Gate Sotheby’s International Realty 408-656-9816

9060 Chardonnay Ln $3,695,000
Sat 2-4
4 BD/3.5 BA
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MOUNTAIN VIEW
2111 Latham St #315 (C) $975,000
Sat/Sun 1-4
2 BD/2 BA
Intero 619-2732

PALO ALTO
555 Byron St #109 (C) $1,998,000
Sun 2-4
2 BD/3 BA
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555 Byron St #307 (C) $1,998,000
Sun 2-4
2 BD/3 BA
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LOS GATOS
515 Bachman Av $2,100,000
Sat 10:30-1:30/Sun 1-4
3 BD/2 BA
Golden Gate Sotheby’s International Realty 408-234-6083

725 Evergreen St $2,800,000
Sun 1:30-4
4 BD/2.5 BA
Compass 888-4898

1105 Rosefield Way $3,359,000
Sat/Sun 1-5
3 BD/3 BA
DeLeon Realty 207-8444

10776 Mora Dr $3,788,000
Sat 1:30-4:30
4 BD/2 BA
DeLeon Realty 900-7000

11801 Francemont Dr $5,488,000
Sat 10:30-1:30/Sun 1-4
5 BD/6+2 Half BA
DeLeon Realty 900-7000

2079 Valparaiso Av $1,725,000
Sat/Sun 1-4
3 BD/2 BA
Golden Gate Sotheby’s International Realty 690-1379

6400 Soda Springs Rd $1,725,000
Sat/Sun 1-4
3 BD/2.5 BA
Golden Gate Sotheby’s International Realty 408-358-2800

1105 Rosefield Way $3,359,000
Sat/Sun 1-5
3 BD/3 BA
DeLeon Realty 207-8444

3608 Magnolia Dr $2,495,000
Sat/Sun 1-4
3 BD/2 BA
Compass 333-3833

555 Byron St #101 (C) $1,550,000
Sun 1:30-4
3 BD/2 BA
Compass 906-8086

555 Byron St #101 (C) $1,550,000
Sun 1:30-4
3 BD/2 BA
Compass 906-8086

5755 Middlefield Rd $2,795,000
Sat 1-4
3 BD/3.5 BA
Coldwell Banker 619-6461

5920 Middlefield Rd $2,795,000
Sat 1-4
3 BD/3.5 BA
Coldwell Banker 619-6461

555 Byron St #101 (C) $1,550,000
Sun 1:30-4
3 BD/2 BA
Compass 906-8086

80 Golden Oak Dr $5,985,000
Sat/Sun 2-4
5 BD/5.5 BA
Coldwell Banker 415-577-2924

REDWOOD CITY
132 Rutherford Av $1,699,000
Sun 1:30-4
3 BD/2 BA
Coldwell Banker 415-572-1595

SAN BRUNO
2496 Trenton Dr $1,590,000
Sat/Sun 1-4
4 BD/3 BA
Coldwell Banker 400-5039

SAN CARLOS
482 Erlin Dr $3,250,000
Sat/Sun 1-4
3 BD/2 BA
Compass 380-9095

640 Crestview Dr $4,150,000
Sun 1:30-4:30
4 BD/4.5 BA
Compass 787-0839

SAN JOSE
489 Flagg Av $1,098,000
Sat/Sun 1-4
2 BD/2 BA
Aryste Realty 845-376-3227

50 Mounds Rd #110 (C) $1,388,888
Sat/Sun 1-4
2 BD/2 BA
Aryste Realty 845-376-3227

501 Alma St #405 (C) $1,750,000
Sat/Sun 1-4
3 BD/3.5 BA
DeLeon Realty 208-2388

SUNNYVALE
50 Mounds Rd #110 (C) $1,388,888
Sat/Sun 1-4
2 BD/2 BA
Aryste Realty 845-376-3227

WOODSIDE
1942 Kings Mountain Rd $2,195,000
Sun 1:30-4:30
3 BD/2.5 BA
Compass 907-1500

2128 Stockbridge Av $2,749,000
Sat/Sun 1-4
3 BD/2 BA
Compass 776-5445

16 Stadler Dr $3,000,000
Sun 2-4
4 BD/3 BA
Golden Gate Sotheby’s International Realty 450-0450

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ON THE COURT ... The Pinewood girls basketball team downed visiting Sacred Heart Prep 56-42 to clinch the outright West Bay Athletic League title with one game remaining. The Panthers are 8-1, followed by both Menlo and SBHP at 6-3. Junior Courtzi Thompson returned to the lineup for the Panthers, giving them a boost with 11 points and six rebounds. Annika Decker added 15 points and five assists. Malia Garcia had eight points and nine rebounds ... Menlo defeated visiting Eastside 55-20 as Maria Makoni finished with 14 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the Knights (10-5, 6-3), who travel to play Notre Dame in Belmont at 5:15 p.m. Friday. Sharon Nejad had 13 points and six rebounds. Senior DeDe Franklin led Eastside with 11 points and six rebounds. Senior Maeia Makoni finished with 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Sacred Heart Prep seeks Open invitation

Menlo-Atherton closing in on PAL Bay Division title

by Rick Eymer

Sacred Heart Prep wrapped up its West Bay Athletic League boys soccer season with a 3-0 victory over visiting Harker, the team that put the only league blemish on the Gators’ record.

It becomes a waiting game for the Gators (16-0-2, 11-0-1), who clinched their second straight league title and again hope to show what they can do in the Central Coast Section Open Division. The CCS seeding meeting is Thursday.

“There’s not a lot tension, we’ll just prepare for whoever,” SHP coach Guillermo Talancon Jr. said. “Last year we were a little more anxious because the desire and the vision to play Open was huge. After not making it last year, we’ll be focusing on what we can control.”

The Menlo-Atherton boys, who beat visiting Half Moon Bay 2-0 Wednesday night to clinch at least a tie for the Peninsula Athletic League Bay Division title, already know if they win the title, they’ll be playing in the Open Division.

The Bears (9-5-4, 9-3-1) are three points up on Carlmont with one match remaining. Carlmont owns the tie-breaker should the teams end up tied. M-A can make it easy on itself by beating (or tying) host Burlingame on Friday (game time is 4:30 p.m.) and not having to worry about Carlmont.

“No matter who we play, we’re focused on playing to the best of our ability,” M-A coach Leo Krupnik said. “That’s been our focus all season.”

Menlo beat visiting Eastside Prep 13-0 and moved into second place in the WBAL following Harker’s loss.

Menlo-Atherton basketball

Menlo beat visiting Eastside Prep 13-0 and moved into second place in the WBAL following Harker’s loss.

The Knights (13-2-3, 8-2) travel to Harker on Friday to determine the final CCS automatic qualifier spot. Both schools will likely be asked to participate though.

In the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League De Anza Division, Palo Alto fell to visiting Mountain View 4-0 and in a non-league game, Woodside lost to host El Camino, 4-2.

Kevin Box scored twice, each assisted by Ethan Vegthe, and Liam Johnson scored with an assist from Matt Kirkham for SHP against the Eagles.

“We take pride in working hard and winning,” Box said. “We’ve had a tough time with sickness and injuries but we’re managing ourselves this week, getting rest and making sure we’re all able to play.”

(continued on page 54)
Prep soccer
(continued from page 53)

Box, who has experienced a CCS Open Division title with the water polo team, hopes he’ll get a chance for a repeat in soccer.

“It’s something I’ve wanted,” he said. “I want to win a CCS title for the boys and for the program.”

M-A scored twice in the first half against Half Moon Bay, getting goals from Jose Bailon and Will Demirkol, and then playing a possession game in the second half, and created a couple of nice scoring opportunities.

Dylan Bernard assisted on both of Woodside’s goals, one in each half. Emilio Amezcua and David Ruiz scored for the Wildcats (6-9-2).

Against Eastside, junior Christian Corcoran had a first-half hat trick and the Menlo seniors all scored: Jackson half hat trick and the Menlo scoring opportunities.

Will Demirkol, and then playing half against Half Moon Bay, get-chance for a repeat in soccer.

water polo team, hopes he’ll get a CCS Open Division title with the

Matt Marzano scored 21 points to help Palo Alto beat Milpitas in overtime and clinch at least a tie for the SCVAL De Anza Division title.

Prep Boys Basketball
Palo Alto clinches a title tie at home Friday

by Glenn Reeves

Palo Alto clinched no worse than a share of the league title with a win Wednesday, but had to dig deep and give everything it had to do so.

The Vikings (18-4, 10-0) went to overtime to win at Milpitas 71-68, and now have a two-game lead with two games left in the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League De Anza Division boys basketball season.

“They’re really good, they’re much better than a three-win team,” Palo Alto coach Jeff LaMere said of the Vikings. “I’m proud of our team as we’ve been after any game this season.”

Milpitas, which showed an ability to knock down tough shots all game, took a 59-57 lead with 9.3 seconds left in the fourth quarter on two free throws by Lee Riddley, who scored a team-high 20 points.

On two free throws by Lee Riddley, who scored a team-high 20 points.

Taghizadeh scored a breakaway goal from an overhead through ball delivered by junior Nickolas Romero.

Junior Joey Cianfichi added another goal off a penalty kick, earned after freshman Kevin Landverde was taken down in the box while driving to the goal. Monte Vista scored a last-minute goal in the game.

Gunn’s final regular season game is Friday at 5:30. Seniors will be acknowledged at 5 p.m.

by Staff report

Moun
tain View High School Principal David Grissom has been hired to replace the retiring Duane Morgan as the Central Coast Section Commissioner. He will officially take over on July 1, the CCS Executive Committee announced Wednesday.

Grissom, who has been at Mountain View since 2013 and previously at Santa Clara High, has worked 25 years in the world of secondary education as a coach, teacher, athletic director, and administrator.

He has voluntarily worked in the realm of CCS governance structures, serving as a member of the CCS Board of Managers, chairperson of the CCS Finance Committee, CCS Vice President and, currently, President of the CCS.

He also currently represents the CCS on the CIF Federated Council and as a member of the CIF Executive Committee.

“Dave brings a wealth of experiences and administrative strengths to his new position,” said Keith Mathews, CCS Past President and chairperson of the selection committee.

Said Morgan: “Dave’s passion for high school athletics and all the benefits that it avails to the student-athletes makes him a perfect person for this position.”
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This week’s SUDOKU

Answers on page 40.

Across
1 Lip enhancer
6 Go through flour
10 Pale
13 Blue ___ (butterfly species)
15 ___ Shamrock McFlurry (McDonald’s debut of 2020)
16 Ingested
17 Company that launched Falcon Heavy in 2018
18 Game that generated more digital revenue in 2018 than any game in history, per the Hollywood Reporter
20 “Nashville” director Robert 22 Word before eye or twin
23 “The ___ Squad”
26 Air traffic org.
27 Like some soft coats
29 Blue, in Barcelona
31 “So the theory goes…”
34 Host who retired from “Inside the Actors Studio” in 2018
36 On the nose
39 What goes around?
40 “That’s mildly funny,” online
41 Aquiline bird
43 “King Kong” and “Citizen Kane” studio
44 Song that topped the Billboard Hot 100 for a record 19 weeks in 2019
47 Auburn-born fashion designer
48 Crossword puzzle, without the clues
49 Part of some pirate costumes
52 Fighting a bug, perhaps
54 Indefinite quantity
55 “___ y Ahora” (Univision newsmagazine)
56 Amy’s “Parks and Recreation” role
59 It held up a banana in Maurizio Cattelan’s 2019 artwork “Comedian”
60 ESPN personality who retired in 2019 after being with the network since its inception in 1979
63 ___-di-dah

Down
1 Sports exec, for short
2 Cut off, as branches
3 Pop singer and “The Masked Singer” (U.K.) panelist Rita
4 Animal advocacy org.
5 Kneecap
6 Den furniture
7 Monopoly token replaced by a cat in 2013
8 Two ___ (buy one, get one deal)
9 “Paw Patrol” watch
10 Forfeit voluntarily
11 Loft storage area
12 Hockey Hall of Famer Cam
56 Org. for Madeleine Sagström and Park Hee-Young
57 “___, meeny, miney, mo”
58 Spain’s longest river
59 “Top Chef” host Lakshmi
61 Be off
62 ESPN personality who retired in 2019 after being with the network since its inception in 1979
66 Little ___ (protagonist of Punch-Out!!)
67 Omen
68 Make angry

69 2001 Will Smith role (or a prickly 2019 role opposite Will Smith)
70 Oil of ___
71 “Well, you’re not looking ___ yourself…”


14 Jamaican stew ingredient
19 It may be pressing
21 Broadway hit based on a Roald Dahl book
23 Senior’s focus
24 Jason Bateman Netflix drama
25 Flying Disney character
27 ___ Schwarz (toy store that reopened in 2018)
28 Bedding purchase
29 Blue, in Barcelona
30 Luau wear
31 “So the theory goes…”
34 Host who retired from “Inside the Actors Studio” in 2018
36 On the nose
39 What goes around?
40 “That’s mildly funny,” online
41 Aquiline bird
43 “King Kong” and “Citizen Kane” studio
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63 ___-di-dah

This week’s SUDOKU

Answers on page 40.

46 Words repeated after “Whatever” in a Doris Day song
47 Landed
49 “Top Chef” host Lakshmi
50 ___
51 Big name in bags
53 Pride participants?
56 Org. for Madeleine Sagström and Park Hee-Young
57 “___, meeny, miney, mo”
58 Spain’s longest river
60 Chinese menu name
61 Be off
63 ___-di-dah
64 Anton ___ (“Ratatouille” restaurant critic)
65 Nevertheless

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