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A head of a House session this Saturday, Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, held a press conference on Tuesday morning in front of the downtown Palo Alto post office to address what she labeled as the Trump administration's attempt to “hi-jack" democracy by undermining the U.S. Postal Service.

With the general election less than three months away, Eshoo said that it was critical to support a service that’s expected to receive an unprecedented number of mail-in ballots due to the ongoing CO-VID-19 pandemic.

“This fall, the Postal Service will have another task that is vital to our democracy: ensuring the timely delivery of millions of absentee ballots for the general election,” she said.

Eshoo will join fellow House representatives on Aug. 22 in Washington, D.C., to vote on the Delivering for America Act, which was introduced by Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, D-New York, to maintain the standards and level of service the Postal Service had in place prior to the pandemic and halt any further changes.

The bill would also provide $25 billion in much-needed funding for the federal agency. Eshoo said she expects the bill to receive bipartisan support.

Smoke from wildfires burning outside of Santa Clara County is visible from Page Mill Road in Palo Alto on Aug. 18.

(Public Safety)

Lightning-sparked fires spread over the Midpeninsula

Multiple blazes covering 10K acres in San Mateo, Santa Cruz counties affect local air quality

by Sue Dremann

Smoke from multiple fires burning in the Santa Cruz Mountains and a major fire in San Mateo County entered Palo Alto and other surrounding communities on Tuesday night and has remained.

Stanford Department of Public Safety announced on Wednesday that the Dish area is closed to hikers due to smoke. The city of Palo Alto announced on Twitter on Wednesday evening that Arastradero Preserve and Foot-hills Park were closed until further notice due to the unhealthy air quality.

Lightning strikes early Sunday morning started the blazes in northern Santa Cruz and southern San Mateo counties, according to Cal Fire. Some of those fires have since merged.

The CZU August Lightning Complex has burned 40,000 acres and is not contained, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire). The fire has destroyed 20 structures and threatens more than 8,600. More than 28,000 people have evacuated, including residents of the town of Bonny Doon, where structures have burned.

Fire officials ordered evacuations in parts of Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties. As of Wednesday at 8 p.m., mandatory evacuations in San Mateo County included South Skyline Boulevard near state Highway 9; Russian Ridge Open Space Reserve; Middleton Tract; Portola Redwoods State Park and the Portola Heights Community area; Loma Mar and Deerborn Park; Pescadero Creek County Park; Butano Community area; Butano State Park, including Barranca Knolls community; Pescadero Beach area; Bean Hollow; Pescadero; San Gregorio; La Honda; Russian Ridge Open Space Reserve; Skyonda and Langley Hill.

Residents in Palo Alto who smelled smoke on Tuesday became so alarmed that the city of Palo Alto sent a message to the public at about 8 p.m. stating there was no fire in Palo Alto.

“We recommend that you call 9-1-1 if you see fire or if there is an emergency. Due to the poor air quality, residents should keep their windows closed and limit outdoor activity,” the city said in the statement.

(continued on page 29)

DEVELOPMENT

Castilleja plan draws mixed reviews

School shrinks planned garage, limits special events

by Gennady Sheyner

A s Castilleja School moves ahead with its plan to re-build its campus in the Old Palo Alto neighborhood, school leaders are offering a series of revisions to try to appease the project’s loudest critics, including reducing the size of a proposed garage, preserving more trees and retaining two buildings that were previously slated for demolition.

But with two Palo Alto’s commissions now reviewing the latest plans in the school’s yearlong effort, one aspect remains constant: opposition from a vocal group of residents in the Professorville and Old Palo Alto neighborhoods. Even with the recent changes, the Castilleja project remains too big and too dense and would bring too many cars to their neighborhood, opponents maintain.

The Final Environmental Impact Report for the Castilleja ex-pansion, which the city released last month, was the subject of public hearings by the Architectural Review Board on Thursday morning, which focused largely on the design of the proposed Bryant Street campus. The Planning and Transportation Commission will review the report on Aug. 26 and will consider, among other things, a new conditional-use permit that would allow Castilleja to increase enrollment — the school is seeking to accommodate up to either 506 or 540 students (22% or 30% (continued on page 10)
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With the local Dawoodi Bohras group since its founding in 2000. For two hours and 15 minutes each day, they will watch recorded sermons by the current leader of the community, Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, and the past two leaders. During normal times, the congregation would have gathered for two meals cooked by members of the mosque daily over the 10-day period, which requires fasting from sunrise to sunset. This year, some members of the local community will prepare the food ahead of time at the mosque’s commercial kitchen, then distribute the meals to around a dozen pickup sites between San Francisco and Gilroy. The group also offers a helping hand to the community during the pandemic in recent months, including donating roughly 200 hand-sewn face masks to East Palo Alto residents and seniors at the Palo Alto Gardens apartment complex and delivering a pizza lunch to East Palo Alto police officers.

A HERO’S REWARD ... The Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley plans to pull out all the stops for outdoor pool to comply with health guidelines. The center has plans to bring back group exercise sessions at Freidrichen Community Park followed by interval, zumba and cycling classes.

QUICK REFLECTION ... Religious groups have had to dramatically readapt their traditions since the coronavirus pandemic hit and the Dawoodi Bohras of San Jose is no exception. The group, which during regular times meets at its mosque in south Palo Alto, has adjusted its practices for “Ashura Mushabeeka” which translates to Blesed 10, a 10-day period of reflection that began on Aug. 19 and kicks off the Islamic New Year. The changes are a dramatic departure from normal customs for the roughly 150-family congregation that during the pandemic in recent months, including donating roughly 200 hand-sewn face masks to East Palo Alto residents and seniors at the Palo Alto Gardens apartment complex and delivering a pizza lunch to East Palo Alto police officers.

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Some recommended police reforms go too far, Palo Alto chief warns

City Council looks to align agency’s policies with recommendations in 8 Can’t Wait campaign

by Gennady Sheyney

W hen protests against police brutality and racial injustice rippled across the nation in June, the Palo Alto Police Department swiftly responded by banning officers from using the carotid hold, a grappling move that shuts off blood flow to the brain. But as the City Council prepares to adopt broader police reforms on Monday, the department is pushing back against some of the proposals on the table. These include a proposed policy that would ban officers from using any tactics that restrict blood flow to the head or neck and another that requires officers to exhaust “all alternatives” before firing their weapons at someone.

Both changes were recommended by the city’s Human Relations Commission, which last month reviewed department policies for conformity with 8 Can’t Wait, a platform issued by Campaign Zero, a police-reform movement that came out of the 2014 police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. Both are facing resistance from Palo Alto police, which is proposing alternative language that would give officers more flexibility.

Among the biggest disagreements between the commission and Palo Alto police is the proposed change to the department’s chokehold policy. The agency already trains its officers not to use chokeholds and strangleholds, and now the carotid hold (in which pressure is applied on the carotid arteries in the side of the neck).

While the department supports making the ban on strangleholds and chokeholds more explicit in its policy manual, the Human Relations Commission recommended on July 22 that the city go further and also ban “vascular neck restraints, chest compression and other tactics that restrict blood flow or neck.”

Various other police departments have already adopted broader policies on strangulation. The Human Relations Commission proposal largely mirrors the policy already in place in Miami, Florida. New York City established the crime of “aggravated strangulation” for an officer who is involved in “criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation, or uses a chokehold or similar restraint, and causes serious physical injury or death.”

Police Chief Robert Jonsen said that while he supports explicitly banning chokeholds, strangleholds and other techniques that create pressure in the neck area, he does not support a broader prohibition on actions that restrict breathing. He told the commission that under its proposed change, an officer may fall on an individual during a fight and restrict oxygen flow just by virtue of their body weight. This, he said, should not constitute a policy violation.

“When you’re in a fight, there are many things that happen — some intentional, some unintentional,” Jonsen said. “But you’re really going to restrict an officer’s ability to defend themselves if they’re concerned about every part of their body potentially restricting oxygen.”

Commission Chair the Rev. Kaloma Smith and Commissioner Steven Lee both favored the broader restriction, with Smith pointing to the 2014 killing of Eric Garner in New York City as an example of why the city should take a more explicit stance against blocking oxygen flow during arrests.

Responding to Jonsen’s objection, Smith said that anyone reviewing an incident in which an officer falls on another person and restricts that person’s breathing will likely be able to tell that the restriction is not intentional.

“We’ve seen several high-profile cases where chokeholds were used,” Smith said. “I’d love to see this language in the policy to show people that this is a detrimental action and that even in a scramble, it’s not something that we advocate for.”

The commission also recommended that Palo Alto follow San Francisco’s example and adopt a policy that allows officers to use deadly force “only as a last resort when reasonable alternatives have been exhausted or not feasible to
Former district principal is running for school board

In bid, parent Matt Nagle aims to prioritize minority students

by Elena Kadvany

Matt Nagle

Matt Nagle, a former Juana Briones Elementary School principal, long-time educator and district parent, has announced he’s making a bid for a seat on the Palo Alto school board in the November election.

Nagle, who was Juana Briones’ principal from 2009 to 2012, said he was motivated to run by his son, a rising Gunn High School freshman and Mexican American student, and other minority students who he feels are poorly served by the district.

“...(he) was proud of increasing enrollment and bringing a ‘resurgence and a rejuvenation in energy’ to the school. He left Juana Briones in 2012 because he wanted to move to Marin County, he said. The Weekly reported in 2012 that the announcement of his departure followed tensions at the school, “apparently precipitated by Nagle’s controversial recommendation not to renew the contract of a popular school librarian,” which led to other staff members coming forward with complaints.

Nagle and his daughter moved to Marin County, where he served as principal at West Marin Elementary School’s Spanish immersion program. He worked as an elementary school principal in Saratoga and San Jose before arriving at Juana Briones, where he said he was proud of increasing enrollment and bringing a “resurgence and a rejuvenation in energy” to the school.

Nagle’s departure from West Marin Elementary was controversial. He said the district, alleging he was demoted in retaliation for running against renewal of the contract of the county’s superintendent of schools, had been reassigned to a teaching position after losing his bid to unseat Superintendent of Schools Mary Jane Burke.

During the campaign, he was critical of her and her response to closing the achievement gap, according to news articles.

Nagle told the Weekly he “upset the status quo of Marin County” and allegedly the school board had collided with Burke against him. The district settled with him earlier this year for $700,000, according to a Point Reyes Light article.

In 2015, Nagle also ran for a seat on the Tamalpais Union High School District board of trustees and lost narrowly in a recount.

The through-line in Nagle’s educational career and political aspirations, he said, is closing the achievement gap. He criticized the current Palo Alto board’s approach to this issue, stating that the members “ignore” minority and low-income students and “treat them in a deficit model, as damaged, when that’s not the case.”

If elected, he said he would focus on personal, direct engagement with minority and low-income students and their families. He said he wants to use a Google form to solicit feedback and better understand their experiences.

“We need to get their stories and their narratives,” Nagle said. “Too many of our board members talk about data. They only mean quantitative data, which is numbers. My son is not a number.”

As a parent and the spouse of a teacher, Nagle feels firsthand both the pressures and risks of reopening schools.

“I have both forces pushing on me: one force of, I don’t want my wife, a teacher, to get ill or get me ill, and the other force is I don’t want my son to languish and wither away at home when he should be in school,” Nagle said. “But the question is and my goal is: Can we make it safe enough to bring small groups of students back initially and then larger groups later by June 2021?”

He said the school board should direct the superintendent and staff to come up with “viable options for bringing small groups of students back to school when safe. He thinks, teachers, staff and parents of all racial/cultural backgrounds discuss the likelihood that schools could be physically closed for the entire school year.

“I’m certainly not in favor of that, even with the risk to my health and the risk to my wife’s health. I’m not in favor of keeping kids out of school until June 2021,” he said.

Nagle is not filing an official candidate statement, nor is he accepting campaign donations. He’s encouraging people to donate to nonprofits he is passionate about or instead asking people to donate to nonprofits he is passionate about or instead asking people to donate to nonprofits he is passionate about.

Nagle is also currently enrolled in the Doctorate for Educational Leadership for Social Justice program at California State University, East Bay.

Nagle is one of six candidates running for three open seats on the school board: incumbents Todd Collins and Jennifer Díaz-Brinfield and newcomers Bronwyn Alexander, Karna Nisewaner, Jes Collins and Jennifer DiBrienza.

Bronwyn Alexander

Bronwyn Alexander left her long-time job at Belle Haven Elementary School in Menlo Park last year so she could run for a school board seat in this election.

Alexander, a teacher since 1992, has worked in Ravenswood since the early 2000s, first as a teacher, then an instructional coach in science, math and reading. The administrative role provided her with a taste of having influence over more than just one classroom of students each year. In 2018, she was among the teachers, parents and community members who rallied against renewing the contract of former Superintendent Gloria Hernandez-Golf.

“I didn’t like the way it seemed like students and teachers were left to be the last thing on the school board’s mind, not the first. I decided I wanted to have more influence,” Alexander said of her motivation to try for the seat on the Board of Education.

Alexander now works as a language and literacy specialist in the San Mateo-Foster City School District.

She’s running on a slate with Joel Rivera, a construction labor manager and husband of a Ravenswood teacher. The Ravenswood teachers
Wonderful 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bathroom Cape Cod with charming covered porch and curb appeal in sought-after Green Gables neighborhood. First floor boasts a bright eat-in kitchen with an island and high-end stainless steel appliances; a separate dining room and lovely living room with fireplace, built-ins, and direct access to the large rear brick patio surrounded by beautiful mature landscaping including fig and maple trees; an ensuite bedroom with access to the rear yard (currently used as a family room) and a bonus room with built-in desk and bookcases serving as a quaint office. The upstairs holds the master suite and two additional spacious bedrooms and a third full bathroom. The home of 2,626 sq.ft. + an attached 2-car garage is perfectly situated on a 6,023 sq.ft. lot. Excellent Palo Alto schools: Duveneck Elementary, Greene Middle, Palo Alto High.
more than currently allowed) — and set limits on special events held at the school.

The expansive environmental document includes a new alternative that, along with a smaller underground garage, distributes drop-off and pick-up spots to three locations: the garage and looped driveways on Bryant Street and Kellogg Avenue.

The alternative also allows Castilleja to preserve two homes on Bryant Street that would have been taken down under the prior plan.

The group PNQLNow (Preserve Neighborhood Quality of Life Now), which consists of residents opposing the Castilleja project, acknowledged on its website that the revised plan would save the two Emerson Street homes, but it also indicated that it continues to oppose the expansion.

For PNQLNow, both enrollment and special events have been sore subjects. Many members repeatedly point to the school’s past failure to comply with the enrollment limit in its current conditional-use permit, a violation that prompted the city to issue a $265,000 fine in 2013.

PNQLNow members also have repeatedly criticized the school for holding too many events, which inundate the neighborhood with cars. The group notes on the website that some of the events at Castilleja are for 500 to 700 people.

“The impact on the neighborhood can’t be understated,” PNQLNow states on its website.

According to data provided by Castilleja, slightly more than half of the roughly 100 events that it holds annually have between 50 and 100 attendees. The rest have been attended by more than 100 people.

Castilleja’s calendars of special events show that the school held 119 special events in the 2014-2015 school year, 101 in the 2015-2016, and 100 in the 2016-2017.

Lorraine Brown, director of communications and community relations at Castilleja, said the events are publicized to neighbors on the school’s website, as required by the school’s conditional-use permit. Although she did not have a list of the events in 2018-2019 similar to the prior years, a tally of the events on the online calendar showed 189 events.

Castilleja’s existing permit allows up to five major events per year, which almost all students and their parents attend, potentially bringing more than 1,000 people to the campus. This includes Back to School Night, Founder Day Luncheon and Commencement. The school plans to keep that restriction in place, according to the Final Environmental Impact Report.

The school also proposes to limit to 90 the number of special events it holds with 50 or more guests each year.

Under the proposed conditions, Castilleja would have no events on campus on Sundays, although it expects to hold 22 events on Saturdays throughout the school year, according to the environmental report. Athletic competitions would only take place on weekdays and would be complete by 8 p.m.

For events that bring between 50 and 80 guests on campus during normal instruction hours, Castilleja would prepare a plan to identify parking spaces that are not used by students in space.

For events that occur outside of instructional hours and have fewer than 160 guests, all parking would be provided on site. For events in the off-hours with more than 160 guests, Castilleja would “use best efforts” to park at satellite parking locations that would provide at least one space for every 1.3 guests, as well as offer shuttle services and traffic monitors to direct event traffic.

Brown noted that Castilleja has already been relying on some off-site parking locations. Some employees park at First Presbyterian Church on Cowper Street and then walk to campus. And for events, the school has a cooperative relationship with Palo Alto High for when over-capacity parking is needed, she said.

“For the most part, however, we do not need that parking because we have been accommodated on Speiker Field (the grass field adjacent to Embarcadero),” Brown said in an email. “For the few all-school events when we need extra parking, Paly has approved the overflow, and we’ve offered shuttles to the campus.”

On Thursday, there was little neighborhood consensus about Castilleja’s plan. Some residents told the Architectural Review Board that they appreciate Castilleja’s efforts in listening to the neighbors and adjusting its plans based on feedback, while others suggested that the project would be detrimental to both the neighborhood and the city at large.

Kimberly Wong, a Melville Avenue resident who supports the project, lauded the school for being an “excellent neighbor” and argued that the new campus would be “far more aesthetically pleasing” than what exists today.

“This smaller, less impactful project is a result of successful collaboration toward the shared goals to improve the neighborhood and the campus,” Tuck said.

Others remained unpersuaded. Mary Sylvester, a member of PNQLNow, said that while she enjoys living near the school, she believes Castilleja’s expansion plan, including the new garage, are not consistent with the city’s Comprehensive Plan. On balance, she said, the costs of Castilleja’s expansion to Palo Alto “do not justify the benefits to a small portion of Palo Alto residents.”

Kimberly Wong, who lives on Emerson Street, called the proposed campus “monstrous.”

“This project does not take into consideration neighborhood inavailability as residents need to bear the brunt of traffic and noise brought in by this massive project,” Wong said.

The board largely agreed that the revised project represents an improvement over the prior proposal, though members also said they would also like to see further design changes, particularly along the school’s Kellogg Avenue facade. Several board members suggested that the massing of the campus along Kellogg should be broken up and request more details about the school’s landscape plan.

Board Chair Peter Baltay said that it’s not enough for the new campus to simply be superior to the dormitory buildings that were constructed in the 1960s. The city, he said, should hold Castilleja to a higher standard.

“It’s not enough though just do better than before,” Baltay said.

Castilleja has been around for a long time and they’re a valuable member of our community. We want them to do right by us.” — Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.
Light-filled three bedroom, two bathroom in Crescent Park with transitional design combining today’s best modern conveniences with designer details honoring its original traditional roots. The heart of the home is a vaulted-ceiling great room with open-concept dining and bar area, a Chef’s dream kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances and an oversized island, a dining area with custom bar and wine fridge, a formal living room with a reading nook, and a family room with glass doors that dramatically extend the living space outside to a wonderful rear patio and yard. The primary bedroom suite has a gorgeous bay window seat, tray ceiling, dual walk-in closets, and a spa-like bathroom. Lovely and eco-conscious landscaping surrounds the 1,660 sq. ft. home that’s perfectly situated on a 5,000 sq. ft. lot. Fantastic location close to downtown Palo Alto, Stanford, and parks. Neighborhood schools: Addison Elementary, Greene Middle, and Palo Alto High.
Richard A. Heddleson
October 4, 1950 – August 3, 2020

Richard Heddleson died in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on August 3, 2020, at the age of 69. He was graduated from Johns Hopkins University and received his MBA from Harvard University. He met his wife Linda in Baltimore in 1974 at Equitable Trust Company. The couple moved to California where Richard worked in finance for companies including BankAmerica Corporation, Radius, Resuminx, ReSound, Evolve Software, Visioneer, and 3dx Interactive. In 2004, the family moved to Pennsylvania, where Richard was Regional Director for Ben Franklin Transformation Partners.

Richard is survived by his wife Linda; his children Emily, Caroline Martin (Andrew), and Ace; his grandson Arthur Martin; his mother Mary Ann; and three sisters. He is predeceased by his father Clement. Contributions can be made to an organization of choice, including two identified by the family: Mental Health America PA and Children’s Literacy Initiative.

Mary Wilcox
April 2, 1928 – August 4, 2020

Mary Kiki Wilcox, born in San Francisco in 1928, died on August 3, 2020, in Palo Alto, CA. She was predeceased by her dearly beloved husband, Wally (Wallace) Wilcox in 1999.

She was a teacher and principal in the San Francisco Unified School District for twenty years, and a senior researcher at SRI International for ten years. Her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D. from Stanford University. In her later years she experienced the continuing gifts of music in her life, as a violinist in small chamber music groups, including Fiume de Musica and the Channing House Trio. Also, to her delight, she found joy and purpose in her volunteer music program in the Health Center of her senior community, Channing House. These experiences were published in her book, A Song Just For Me: Stirred by Music to Conversation and Compassion.

Survived by stepchildren, Lee Wilcox (Carol), Timothy Wilcox (Jana), Wendy Wilcox (Harry); grandchildren Bradford (Jessica), Ellen, Morgan, Nicholas (Amanda), Stephanie (Daniel), and great grandchildren (Emily, Addison, Abigail, Tye, Boden, Mavric, Otis and Rowyn); by siblings Chrisie Koras Kuno, Bess Kerhoulas, Gus Anastole, the late Anthony Anastole; and many nieces and nephews.

During her later years she felt increasing gratitude for the support and blessings of her loving family and cherished friends who transformed her concerns into blessings upon blessings.

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During her later years she felt increasing gratitude for the support and blessings of her loving family and cherished friends who transformed her concerns into blessings upon blessings.

Contributions to The Fistula Foundation (www.fistulafoundation.org) or a charity of your choice will be received with much appreciation.

A celebration of Kiki’s life will be planned when it’s safe to gather in person.
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Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 34.
Voting to endorse Proposition 15, the Schools & Communities First Initiative, Santa Clara County Supervisors repeatedly mentioned $504 million that proponents predict will flow into county and city coffers. But, wait! A total of $1.217 billion ($1.2 billion) of new property tax revenue is supposed to be raised in the county. Where did the other $713 million go? To local schools?

Sadly, no. Proposition 15 will only distribute $139 million — 11% of new revenue — to schools and community colleges in the county. Palo Alto Unified will get just $1 million. Mountain View and Los Altos schools get $2 million, combined.

From Palo Alto to Gilroy, $259 million of property tax raised for education will leave the county 40% of all new tax levied here. Is this what you expected?

Under Proposition 15, property taxes leave counties for the first time. Just 1% of the new revenue in Palo Alto, Mountain View, Saratoga and Los Gatos districts flows to their schools. And none of the remainder goes to southern county. Those cash-strapped districts get to keep a little more of their own locally raised revenue (see graph above), but then join their neighbors as net contributors to the statewide fund.

Discussing Proposition 13’s 1978 tax reform, people describe a traumatic cut to local revenues and the mechanistic entitlement granted to long-term property owners. Over time, the Cain-vs-Abel battle it created among local governments for the remaining 1% levy — and the complete opacity of the byzantine allocation process that resulted — have proved equally detrimental to California school funding.

An example? Property tax revenues for Ravenswood School District in east Palo Alto are growing by a stunning 12.45% this year. The district, however, will receive no property tax at all. In fact, state funding deferrals make Ravenswood will have to borrow from March to October to pay its bills. All of its property tax revenues have been diverted by the legislature to pay a state obligation to the county and local cities known as “the VLF Swap.” The opacity of this $9.4 billion statewide diversion is a legacy of Proposition 13.

Proposition 15 is another tax reform. It creates a statewide school funding pot. This pot is disproportionately funded by counties located in high-cost areas and those that allocate a large proportion of property tax to education. Santa Clara checks both boxes. The mechanisms defined in Proposition 15 redistribute at least $4.1 billion from Santa Clara, Orange, San Mateo, San Francisco, Monterey, Humboldt, San Luis Obispo and five other counties.

Who benefits? Counties with low percentage allocations to education or low regional property values. Los Angeles County will be the biggest net recipient. Although Los Angeles has a high proportion of commercial industrial property (30% of the new revenue statewide) and average regional costs, it allocates a relatively low percentage to education. Propositions forecast an impressive 74% of LA’s new local revenue will flow to its county and municipal governments. This leaves very little for schools. Since the pot is distributed based on the statewide education funding formula, and disregards county effort, Los Angeles would pull out $276 million more than it put in. Other, less surprising, large net beneficiaries: Riverside, San Bernardino, Sacramento, Fresno and Kern counties.

Another problem? The proposition doesn’t just reallocate new revenue that it raises. No, it also subsumes all new construction and every sale of appreciated commercial-industrial property. Proponents’ research shows 30% of new revenue coming from properties that have already changed hands within the decade — typically consolidations for new development and properties bought for renovation and resale.

Note that 12.5% of the property tax revenue now flowing to Santa Clara local governments and schools is the result of new commercial construction and change of ownership over the past decade. Going forward, the legislature will decide how much remains in Santa Clara County and how much flows to the common fund to be shared statewide. This shift to legislative control introduces an ongoing vulnerability in the growth and stability of local school funding.

Looking at all these new mechanisms, Proposition 15’s authors took an extraordinarily complex approach to “closing the loophole.” To reclaim the 3SB annual statewide subsidy to commercial industrial property owners with base years before 1990, they propose shifting a subset of all commercial properties to a market-value assessment system, creating a new statewide education fund with 2019-based distribution rules, granting new tax exclusions and exemptions to businesses and small commercial property owners, moving property taxes outside county boundaries, emshoring commercial residential entitlements in the constitution, and centralizing more control in the legislature. Unsurprisingly, $53 billion of the new money raised in the county will go to the assessor, controller, county counsel, and appeals board to try to make this happen.

If it becomes law, these complexities — and their attendant risks — suggest that Santa Clara will need to act decisively to protect local revenues.

Fair warning, though, expect little sympathy in Sacramento. My experience trying to get a regional cost supplement into school funding suggests that the Bay Area is viewed like Capitol City in Hunger Games. From Richmond to Gilroy, we are known for our generosity not as tightly packed, hard-laying geese producing the excess $28 billion of golden income tax eggs that provide the backbone of statewide K-14, UC and CSU funding.

Proposition 15 is no great friend to Santa Clara. Contributing a growing $259 million a year more to statewide school funding, without materially helping the poorest districts among us, deserves thought.

Let’s implore local officials to do all the math — not just estimate their cut — and be 100% transparent about the whole picture.

Jennifer Bestor is a longtime Menlo Park resident who has served as the volunteer research director for Educate Our State, a grassroots, statewide, parent-led organization committed to a high-quality public education for all students (educatourstate.org). She can be reached at jenniferbestor@yahoo.com.

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925 Lincoln Avenue, Palo Alto

Classic Charm, Modern Living in Community Center
Presenting a masterful blend of timeless Palo Alto allure and the best of modern amenities, this beautiful 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom Tudor revival offers comfortable spaces, superb ambiance, and an unbeatable location on well over one-quarter acre in Community Center. Gleaming hardwood floors extend throughout much of the home’s 3,100+ square feet of living space, and appointments including arched entryways and coffered ceilings evoke classic charm. A gas fireplace in floor-to-ceiling stone centers the living room, the kitchen includes appliances from Viking, Sub-Zero, and Bosch, the family room features outside access, and the detached offices allows you to work from home in style. Enjoy a location that puts you one block to Eleanor Pardee Park, a short trip to University Avenue, and within a mile or less of top-ranked Palo Alto schools. Plus, this home enjoys a rich history steeped in Silicon Valley lore. This is Palo Alto living at its finest – welcome home.

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19 Prado Secoya Street, Atherton

Modern Colonial Masterpiece on Over 1 Acre

Supreme luxury awaits at this prestigious home built in 2013, offering remarkable privacy, unparalleled build quality, and every conceivable modern amenity. With 7 bedrooms, 8.5 bathrooms, and over 9,100 square feet of living space, including a beautiful guest home, this Colonial-style masterpiece rests on a pristine lot of over an acre populated by colorful plantings and specimen trees. Soaring ceilings and excellent use of glass create a bright and inviting ambiance, highlighting high-end appointments including Herringbone flooring and elaborate moldings. Spacious, sophisticated living areas are ideal for both entertaining and everyday living, including the fireplace-centered living room, and the chef’s kitchen that opens fully to the comfortable family room. Arranged over three levels with elevator convenience, this home also includes a library, a lower-level entertainment area with a wet bar and wine room, and five bedroom suites, including the incredible master suite with a romantic fireplace. Resort-like grounds include sweeping lawns, a sparkling pool, a sports court, and a built-in barbecue patio. Adding the finishing touch is a location just moments to both downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, with access to acclaimed Menlo Park public schools, and within walking distance of Sacred Heart and Menlo School (buyer to verify eligibility).

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1705 Fulton Street, Palo Alto

Luxury and Style on an Iconic Palo Alto Street

Just around the corner from Rinconada Park, and a little over one mile to the excitement of University Avenue, this 5-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom home offers nearly 3,400 square feet of luxury living space, nestled on almost 8,600 square feet on one of the most iconic streets in all of Palo Alto. Set on a corner lot and boasting outstanding curb appeal, this home features high-end appointments everywhere you turn, from hardwood floors, to fine millwork, to detailed ceilings. Elegant public spaces invite entertaining on a grand scale, the kitchen includes appliances from Thermador and Viking, and a fireplace centers the office so you can work from home in comfort and style. Enjoy the delightful sunroom that leads to the backyard, where you will find great space for outdoor fun. Located on Fulton Street, known throughout the Peninsula as “Christmas Tree Lane” during the holiday season thanks to the amazingly decorated homes that line the block, this home is also convenient to everything Palo Alto has to offer, and is within walking distance of top-ranked Palo Alto schools.

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中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.783.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
Like tiny images on a sheet of postage stamps, 130-plus boys in navy shirts join voices in the upbeat “We Are the Day.” To the untrained eye, the boys in Ragazzi, an award-winning Redwood City-based choral group, look and sound as if they’re singing together, as they have done for years. But each boy, ages 6 to 18, is recording alone, singing at home with earbuds or headphones, hearing only himself and his cues. While this particular choral piece, which begins with the words “We are the eyes gleaming with wonder,” expresses hope and joy, it grew out of a devastating pandemic that forced chorales overnight to change the way they perform. The biggest challenge that we went through a mourning period,” said Jennah Delp Somers, co-founder and co-artistic director of Ragazzi, an award-winning choral group, look and sound as if they’re singing together, as they have done for years. But each boy, ages 6 to 18, is recording alone, singing at home with earbuds or headphones, hearing only himself and his cues. While this particular choral piece, which begins with the words “We are the eyes gleaming with wonder,” expresses hope and joy, it grew out of a devastating pandemic that forced chorales overnight to change the way they operate. A chorus is a group that sings together. COVID-19 made that impossible, giving choir directors a difficult choice: Adapt or drown.

“The biggest challenge we face is having something that we love to do that brings a lot of purpose to our existence (be) dangerous,” said Jennah Delp Somers, co-founder and co-artistic director of iSing Silicon Valley, which brings together 300 girls from first to 12th grade in five different choirs. “We went through a mourning period.” In-person rehearsals: canceled. A choral trip to the UK: canceled. A spring concert before an audience of a thousand at Mission Santa Clara: also canceled. The release of the choir’s debut album, “Here I Stand,” “was a fantastic way to end an otherwise disastrous year,” Delp Somers said.

Because a choral performance or even a rehearsal is a “superspreading event” for COVID-19, choirs had to change how they operate. Instead of singing Mendelssohn’s entire “Elijah” oratorio before live audiences, the Los Altos-based Schola Cantorum produced “Virtually Elijah,” featuring soloists singing at home, pianists playing at home, and the entire chorus virtually joining voices in the glorious “He, Watching Over Israel.”

When choral rehearsals shut down abruptly in mid-March, choral directors with little or no technical training suddenly Zoomed into electronic media. Within four days of the shutdown, Ragazzi’s conductors took up the challenge of keeping their choirs alive. They created audio and videotapes to conduct singers they could neither see nor hear, at first relying on parents and volunteers with sound and video skills to transform individual recordings into a choral performance.

“Along the way we produced three virtual choirs,” said executive and artistic director Kent Jue. Among them are a dozen graduating seniors performing “Shenan-dough” as their swan song, and a group of 24 singing the rhythmic “Count on Me.”

“All of this was a plan. It sort of just developed,” Jue added. “Once we learned we would have to cancel our season and be remote, we needed a project for the boys to focus on. We came up with these virtual choirs, which, I have to admit I was not a fan of at the beginning because there’s so much work on the back end and so much work on the front end.”

At the front end, the logistics involve creating instructions, collecting recordings and fielding questions. With boys as young as 6, that means parental involvement.

Ragazzi estimates that phase takes about 15 hours, not counting individual singing time. For the nearly 140 separate voice recordings that went into “We Are the Day,” audio and video editing, all done in-house, took another 30 hours. Of course, it would be simpler if choral members could sing and record simultaneously on apps like Zoom, but the sound from the home of a conductor or an accompanist does not reach 140 other homes, or even a half-dozen simultaneously. Delays of a few tenths of a second from one place to another would result in aural cacophony. That’s why choir members must push their mute buttons during group rehearsals.

Jue noted that Ragazzi recently had to record nine singers simultaneously in real time, but not on Zoom. “One of our board members is a technology genius,” he said, adding that the technology, which is a “game-changer,” is still in the experimental stages.

Making the transition from live to virtual is no easy undertaking. While Los Angeles conductor-composer Eric Whitacre combined 17,500 voices from all over the world in his “Sing Gently,” local conductors are working on a more modest scale. Some are focusing on coaching individuals, which they don’t have the opportunity to do during regular rehearsals, when the focus is on the group. By working on their own, the singers are improving.

“I’m confident that when we come out of this, and are able to rehearse in person again, we will be stronger and better,” Jue said.

Delp Somers agreed. “The kids are becoming really individually savvy and responsible for learning notes and pitches,” she said. “Things that they might have relied on others for in the classroom setting, they’re now individually accountable in a new way. We were surprised to see so much individual growth in such a short amount of time.”

In addition, although the singers are not performing before live audiences, they are finding new audiences in distant places. When Mark Burrows, the composer of “We Are the Day” who lives in Texas, heard Ragazzi singing his song on YouTube, he thanked “all of my new friends” with a YouTube recording of his own. “As a...
Better singing through technology? virtual recording only looks easy
by Janet Silver Ghent

With the voice of Aurora Singers conductor höfer Bandermann, coming through my iPhone, and an Audacity app on my computer, I attempted to record a relatively easy song, an American traditional called “Over My Head.” Easy for someone else, but not for me. After four nasal probes for COVID-19 — one inconclusive, one positive and two negative — my sinuses and nasal passages rebelled. My voice squeaked, and my breath control was pathetic. I ran out of air at the end of each phrase, and instead of “Over my head I hear music in the air,” what actually sounded like music was in the air.

I recorded the piece five, six, seven, eight times, never satisfied, and then dispatched the recording with an apology. I felt exposed; I knew somebody would hear my naked voice and gasp.

In a virtual choir, not a soloist, and listening to a recording of my solo voice came as a shock. That said, even soloists are not always happy with their first attempts, or even their fifth or sixth.

“It took me three months to get a really sweet and final audio recording of ‘Sunshine in My Soul,’” said Aurora president Cynthia Mahood Levin, a first soprano with professional training. “I found issues with each of my early recordings. It was also important to right set up, with a good background for the video, favorable lighting, and good sound quality and volume level. My husband had to hold up a lamp to illuminate me properly and avoid shadows. I ended up using two different iPhones — one to listen to and one to record on. It was a lot of trial and error. But, in the end, it felt incredibly satisfying to get a final recording that I was happy with, though, of course, it was not perfect.”

As for me, I had attempted to record “Sunshine in My Soul,” but in the third rehearsal, I gave it a rest. However, the final piece is lovely, thanks to the work of Reny and three Aurora Singers who volunteered their time: producer John Reed, graphics designer Zana Vartanian and audio production engineer Ian Novotny.

Vartanian, who spent about 10 to 15 hours putting together the video for “Sunshine,” said one challenge was to look as if “the singers’ mouths move as if they’re singing simultaneously.” She used After Effects, an animation program from Adobe. “Since each singer started with a series of claps, I could see a waveform display for each singer. I lined them all up so the claps were timed together.” The result is that the words, and the mouths, are synchronous.

For Novotny, transforming more than 30 separate recordings into a virtual choral piece took, and then all the way to 20 hours on “Sunshine” and another 10 on “Over My Head.” “As you might imagine, when you’re singing together, we have a natural feedback loop of listening to each other that keeps us in tune. That does not work when we’re alone, so if you sing 15 cents sharp (a fraction over pitch), and someone else sings 10 cents flat (a fraction under), it’s not going to work out as good.”

“Also, absent a conductor waving their arms in front of us and many hours of rehearsal, many of us cannot get the rhythms accurately enough for me to sync the tracks.”

Using a product called Melo-phon, a wave animation program from Adobe, Novotny said, “I can edit everyone’s notes both in tone, vibrato and time. I can move notes around, and make the line up.”

So my foreshortened chords and slurred words? “I fixed everything,” Novotny said. “I can move notes around. Besides, every voice helped to make the final piece sound good.” He was right.

When Emerich had a flood under-neath her Cupertino townhouse, which forced her to evacuate for a week, she was distraught. Emerich, who has been isolating since March, has asthma as well as other chronic health conditions that put her at high risk. “The idea of staying for a week in a hotel was very scary to me,” she said.

Emerich mentioned her concern during a rehearsal. Fellow soprano Ellen Beaudet offered her guest room, a separate bathroom and use of the community kitchen. It’s wonderful to be able to help one another.”

Freelance writer Janet Silver Ghent can be reached at ghentwriter@gmail.com

997 Fictitious Business Name Statement STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME File No. FBN-666907 The following person(s)/partnership has/has not abandoned use of the fictitious business name(s) listed below. The person(s)/partnership is/are: 1.) Dutch Poet Press, 2.) Robert Perry Book Design. This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of the County of Santa Clara on August 6, 2020. (959) Aug. 14, 21, 28, Sept. 4, 2020 THERAVAN WELLNESS 1.) FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. FBN-667331 The following person (person(s) is/are) doing business as: THERAVAN WELLNESS, located at 2269 Wyandotte St., Apt. 6, Mountain View, CA 94040, in the County of Santa Clara. This business began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s): RASHMI CHIDHANAND, PhD. This business has an Individual and the residence address of the registrant(s) is: RASHMI CHIDHANAND, PhD. 2500 Hospital Drive Building 14 Mountain View, CA 94040. This BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY: a Partnership. This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on July 30, 2020. (959) Aug. 14, 21, 28, Sept. 4, 2020 DUTCH POET PRESS 1.) FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. FBN-667851 The following person (person(s) is/are) doing business as: DUTCH POET PRESS, located at 2269 Wyandotte St., Apt. 6 Mountain View, CA 94040. This business began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s): ROBERT PERRY BOOK DESIGN. This business was conducted by: An Individual and the residence address of the registrant(s) is: ROBERT PERRY BOOK DESIGN, 429C Wilkyo Way, Palo Alto, CA 94306. This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on August 5, 2020. (959) Aug. 14, 21, 28, Sept. 4, 2020

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
PALO ALTO WEEKLY Date: August 3, 2020

Clerk of the Superior Court

REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA Case No. C160236465

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE Petitioner: KATE MARIA LOUIE filed a petition with this court for a divorce-changing names as follows: Petitioner: KATE MARIE LOUIE filed a petition with this court for a divorce-changing names as follows: Petitioner: KATE MARIE LOUIE filed a petition with this court for a divorce-changing names as follows: Petitioner: KATE MARIE LOUIE filed a petition with this court for a divorce-changing names as follows: Petitioner: KATE MARIE LOUIE filed a petition with this court for a divorce-changing names as follows: Petitioner: KATE MARIE LOUIE filed a petition with this court for a divorce-changing names as follows: Petitioner: KATE MARIE LOUIE filed a petition with this court for a divorce-changing names as follows: Petitioner: KATE MARIE LOUIE filed a petition with this court for a divorce-changing names as follows: 1.) Dutch Poet Press, 2.) Robert Perry Book Design

The name and address of the petitioner is: KATE MARIA LOUIE, 2500 Hospital Drive Building 14, Mountain View, CA 94040. The name and address of the person to whom service shall be made is: KATE MARIA LOUIE, 2500 Hospital Drive Building 14, Mountain View, CA 94040. The name and address of the person against whom the action is brought is: KATE MARIA LOUIE, 2500 Hospital Drive Building 14, Mountain View, CA 94040. The name and address of the person that is being served with this process is: KATE MARIA LOUIE, 2500 Hospital Drive Building 14, Mountain View, CA 94040. The name and address of the person that is being served with this process is: KATE MARIA LOUIE, 2500 Hospital Drive Building 14, Mountain View, CA 94040. The name and address of the person that is being served with this process is: KATE MARIA LOUIE, 2500 Hospital Drive Building 14, Mountain View, CA 94040. The name and address of the person that is being served with this process is: KATE MARIA LOUIE, 2500 Hospital Drive Building 14, Mountain View, CA 94040. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. If any person objecting to the name changes described above shall file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days prior to the date set for hearing on the petition, the objection shall be heard at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition.

 NOTICE OF HEARING: October 6, 2020, 8:45 a.m. at 700 S. First Street, 4th Floor (Building 3), of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, 191 First Street, Sun, Santa Clara, CA 95053.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
PALO ALTO WEEKLY Date: August 3, 2020

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Six Locally Made Desserts You Can Eat Right Now

We all need things to look forward to these days, and in my world, that is very often dessert. Here are six local sweets I’ve enjoyed of late, from Indian-inspired ice cream to the chocolate chip toffee cookie dough that’s taken up residency in my fridge, and the stories of the people making them. Check out the list below to support these local businesses... and satisfy your sweet tooth while doing so.

**Salted caramel ice cream with ghee fudge**

KoolFi Creamery

KoolFi Creamery founder Priti Narayanan left a career in civil engineering to devote herself to ice cream full time. Her flavors pay homage to the desserts she ate growing up in South India. The name of the business is a riff on kulfi, an Indian milk-based frozen dessert.

“As I love American ice cream and it’s creaminess and richness and the tradition of American ice cream, I did not find the flavors that we enjoyed growing up and I didn’t find a lot of dessert from South India that my mother makes,” I said. “Can we try the interesting, innovative combination of American ice cream with Indian flavors?” said Narayanan, whose job title is now appropriately “chief ice cream engineer.”

While KoolFi is based in the east bay, you can pick up pints at The Market at Edgewood at Building Farmers Market in San Francisco. She also offers delivery within 60 miles from downtown Sunnyvale with a minimum order of $99.

**Indonesian sweets**

1,000 Layer Bakery, Sunnyvale

1,000 Layer Bakery’s namesake dessert is an architectural feat: as many as 20 pieces of delicate, 2-millimeter tall layers of cake stacked on one another like a mini-dessert skyscraper on your plate.

The cake, called lapis legit or spekkoek, is a fusion of Indonesian and Dutch sensibilities, owner Jennifer Huang said. “Truly a labor of love,” she bakes one layer at a time, each made from eggs, butter, flour, condensed milk, clove, nutmeg and an Indonesian cinnamon. The result is a not-overly-sweet cake that would be just as good for breakfast with a cup of coffee as it would be for dessert.

Huang, who was born and raised in Indonesia and lives in Sunnyvale, started her baking business after working at corporate cafes at tech companies, including Google and DropBox. She mostly offered corporate catering, business that has completely dried up with offices closed during the pandemic.

Earlier this year, Huang was accepted into San Francisco nonprofit La Cocina’s food incubator program, which helps women, immigrants and people of color start and grow food businesses.

Huang makes a rotating selection of Indonesian desserts and snacks, including nastar, bite-sized buns filled with spiced pineapple jam, and kue lapis, a steamed, layered cake made from rice flour and infused with grassy pandan and coconut. (Many of her desserts are made from rice flour so are naturally gluten free and vegan.) She some-

**Salted caramel ice cream with ghee fudge**

KoolFi Creamery, multiple locations

KoolFi is known for its salted caramel ice cream with ghee fudge, or mysore pak, which means you can create your own pie sampler without feeling like a total glutton.

I indulged recently in three mini pies ($7 each): lemon chess, pecan and chocolate cream. The super-tart lemon chess and sticky, dense pecan were my favorites. (I’m definitely getting the pecan for Thanksgiving this year, and yes, it’s August and I’m already thinking about my Thanksgiving menu.)

Owner Haruwn Wesley makes his pie crusts without lard or hydrogenated oils and the fillings from seasonal, local ingredients.

You can preorder and pick up pies at the bakery at 1625 Palmetto Ave., Pacifica, by calling 415-412-5992 or ordering online. Wesley also has stands at the Daly City Farmers Market on Thursdays and the Burlingame Farmers’ Market on Sundays, where you’ll find him wearing a mask decorated with pies.

For more information: shampaspies.com

**The Cheesecake**

Basuku Cheesecakes, Palo Alto

Charles Chen, a restaurant consultant with Maum in Palo Alto, started baking Japanese-inspired Basque cheesecakes in his home kitchen in Oakland during the shutdown. They’ve become a hot commodity in the Bay Area, spreading like wildfire on Instagram and often selling out within minutes.

The Basque cheesecakes started as a quarantine baking project for Chen, alongside bread and other desserts. But he kept coming back to the cheesecake and eventually turned to a friend in Japan who

(continued on page 26)
Eating Out

made a Basque cheesecake with what looked like a perfect texture. She attributed this to the quality of dairy and eggs she used. “That’s a flavor I’ve been trying to achieve in America but it’s extremely difficult to get that quality of dairy around here,” he said. But he eventually found it in Alexandre Family Farm, a regenerative organic dairy farm in Crescent City, whose cream he describes as the “soul” of the cheesecake. He picks it up the same day it’s bottled, and it goes into the cakes with pasture-raised organic eggs from Vital Farms, sugar and cream cheese. Chen has honed his recipe, tinkering with ratios and taking the additional step of pouring the batter through a sieve to ensure a smooth, homogenous texture that falls somewhere in between a jigglly Japanese souffle pancake and a firm cheesecake. What was once a home baking project unexpectedly snowballed into a full-on side hustle that he’s now working on expanding. “All I’m going to do is I’m going to make this one cake, there’s going to be one flavor, doing one thing and I’m going to use the best ingredients I can find,” he said.

Maum is the only pickup location on the Peninsula for Basuku Cheesecakes. They’re available for pickup at 322 University Ave. via Tock (explorestock.com/maum); preorders open Mondays at noon.

For more information: @basukucheesecakes on Instagram

Bombolini

Borrone MarketBar, Menlo Park

Borrone MarketBar, Cafe Borrone’s long-closed sister restaurant, quietly reopened for takeout in late July. Located around the corner from the main cafe, MarketBar is making some of its own specialty grab-and-go items and baked goods, including fresh pasta, sauces and double-baked biscotti, plus a selection of natural wines.

MarketBar’s fresh bombolini also have made a triumphant return. If you can pass by the large, cream-filled Italian doughnuts on the counter and not leave with one, I commend your willpower. Here’s hoping MarketBar’s seriously excellent focaccia makes a comeback, too.

Borrone MarketBar at 1010 El Camino Real Suite 140, Menlo Park, is open for takeout Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information: cafeborrone.com

Chocolate chip toffee cookies

Love for Butter, Palo Alto

I recently ran out of John Shelsta’s toffee chocolate chip cookie dough and had a minor panic attack. Chocolate chip cookies seem to be almost every restaurant takeout menu these days, so I’ve been sampling them for months as part of an unofficial research project that was sanctioned by no one except me. Shelsta’s remain the best, in my opinion. They’re made with large hunks of Valrhona chocolate and toffee and have that ideal chewy bite (don’t @ me if you’re a crispy chocolate chip cookie person). He bakes them into delightfully enormous spheres, almost the size of a small dessert plate. I prefer the cookies fresh when I can get them, but he also sells pints of dough, which means you can make them at home whenever the craving strikes.

Shelsta’s baked goods are available for pickup at Zola at 565 Bryant St. in Palo Alto, usually on Sundays. Sign up for his newsletter at loveforbutter.com to get notified about bake sales. A small selection of pastries — often including those cookies — are available Wednesday-Sunday at the Tono Coffee Project pop-up at 369 Lytton Ave. in Palo Alto.

For more information: Loveforbutter.com

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For more information contact:
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Staff Writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@paweekly.com. Check out her Peninsula Foodist blog at PaloAltoOnline.com/blogs.
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Although this year’s event will be quite different from prior appearances, many book enthusiasts can still find the day a great time to try new works by local authors, Eustaquio said. This year, Books Inc. plans to offer exclusive items for purchase on a first-come, first-served basis.

“I think independent bookstores are part of what makes a community a community. They provide expertise. There’s nothing like a recommendation from a book seller who has read the book,” Saccherie said. “People are still passionate about reading, and children’s books especially lend themselves to be read in a physical form.”

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

(continued from page 7)

protect the safety of the public and/or police officers.” During the July 22 hearing, Assistant Police Chief Andrew Frisk wrote in a police report that this would be “a reasonable policy” and that the department already trains officers to exhaust all other options before using deadly force.

“We want the officer’s mindset to be that their first option is to de-escalate,” Bender said. “As a natural flow, they would exhaust all that is feasible before using deadly force.”

Despite its general alignment with the commission’s view, the department is proposing language that would give officers more latitude. Under the department’s proposed language, officers would be required to “evaluate each situation in light of the particular circumstances in each case and use other available resources and techniques when reasonably necessary and feasible to do so.”

The department also proposes allowing officers to use deadly force when they “reasonably believe” there is an immediate threat or emergency.

In other areas, the Police Department and the Human Relations Commission are largely in agreement. Both believe that the department’s existing policies on reporting of force and on issuing warnings before shooting are already consistent with 8 Can’t Wait.

Tanaka (continued from page 7)

The complaint claims that Tanaka “has knowingly committed clear violations of state law by both receiving illegal monetary contributions and making illegal expenditures from his 2016 campaign committee account months before filing a new 501 Form as legally required.”

The complaint notes that the recent violations, combined with his failure in 2017 and 2018 to report significant campaign contributions from developers (he agreed to pay $733 in fines), demonstrate “persistent attempts to shield the sources and amounts of his campaign contributions from public scrutiny by voters in this current election.”

The complaint also points to Tanaka’s expenditures in the early months of 2020 as evidence that he was using the contributions to his 2016 campaign to ramp up his reelection effort.

Bicycle news

Bicyclist dies in collision

A 36-year-old man died after a collision on University Avenue in East Palo Alto on Friday morning, July 24, according to a report from the Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office.

The collision occurred when a 31-year-old man, who was riding a bicycle, was struck by a white 2016 Ford Focus.

The man died Thursday night at Stanford Health Care. The driver of the car was not injured.

A woman who was riding a bicycle was also struck by the car but sustained only minor injuries.

Tanaka (continued from page 7)

These expenditures were incurred well before his 2016 campaign filings for his reelection campaign.

The 2020 expenditures represent a significant increase in campaign spending, according to the commission, noted in his filed statements. In 2018 and 2019, his expenditures for each six-month reporting period ranged from $207.57 to $211.97. In the six months prior to the New Year’s Eve contributions, Tanaka’s campaign had spent $301.15, his filings show.

The only exception in his campaign, which had reported significant spending was in the second half of 2017, when its $1,243.70 in expenditures included the $733 fine from the state.

“The one-month accumulation of over $25,000, between December 31, 2019 and January 31, 2020, by Mr. Tanaka’s 2016 campaign committee with no nexus to ongoing office-holding expenses, and incurring expenses such as the voter database that directly correlate to campaign activities clearly implicates changes in recipient committee information,” the complaint states.

This week, Tanaka disputed the accusations and denied any wrongdoing. State law, he noted, allows campaigns of elected officials to receive significant contributions after a successful election. The expenditures that his campaign made before July 24 were consistent with his reelection effort but with his regular activities included as a council member. This includes his regularly held office hours during which he broadcasts on Facebook Live.

“That’s what we were spending funds on, constituent outreach,” Tanaka said.

When asked about the New Year’s Eve contributions, which were made more than six months before he declared his intention to run again, Tanaka said the donations reflected the desire of community members to see him seek another four years on the council.

“There’s a lot of people who support me and a lot of people who wanted to encourage me to run,” Tanaka said. “I think people wanted to see me continue to serve on the council. There was enough support for me convinced that I could do it.”

Staff Writer Gednady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

Fires (continued from page 5)

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has issued Spare the Air alerts through Sunday, Aug. 23, because of smoke from wild- fire throughout the region that has created unhealthy air pollution.

Bicyclist killed

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has issued Spare the Air alerts through Sunday, Aug. 23, because of smoke from wildfires throughout the region that has created unhealthy air pollution.

Both have also concluded that the department’s policy on de-escalation tactics to improve decision making, reduce situational intensity, and provide opportunities for outcomes with greater voluntary compliance.”

The council’s discussion of revising Palo Alto Police Department policies to better comply with the 8 Can’t Wait platform is part of its broader conversation on police reform.

In late May, Mayor Adrian Fine formed ad hoc committees on police politics, accountability in the Police Department, diversity and alternative service models. Each committee is scheduled to make its first report to the council in August.

While the council’s actions are, by and large, a response to the national movement in favor of police reform, it is couched in its own accusations of police brutality stemming from arrests at Buena Vista Mobile Home Park in February 2020 and a Stanford Department of Public Safety arrest in July 2019. The city has already paid a settlement of $572,000 to Gustavo Alvarez relating to the Buena Vista arrest, which has also prompted the Santa Clara County District Attorney to launch an investigation into retired Sgt. Wayne Benitez, who was the supervisor during the arrest and who can be seen on home surveillance footage following Alvarez into the hood of a car.

The case is also facing a federal lawsuit over the arrest of Julio Arevalo, in which Benitez was recorded yelling that he was flipped to the ground by a Palo Alto officer near Happy Donuts.

Neither Alvarez nor Arevalo was charged with any crimes relating to incidents that led to their arrests.

Palo Alto is also already on track to adopt other reforms, some of which are required by state law. This includes the collection of demographic data on police stops, including race, age and gender of the person of the person being stopped, the reason for the stop and actions taken during the stop. The Racial and Identity Profiling Act, or RIPA, requires police departments to collect this data for the fiscal years ending in 2019 and 2020.

The department plans to start collecting the demographic data one year before state law requires it, according to a memo from police Capt. April Wagner.

Staff Writer Gednady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

Public safety

Man rescues boy from Boronda Lake

It was Aug. 5, a cloudy Wednesday evening, Daniel Frisk was on the phone, walking away from Boronda Lake after a calm, hourlong hike at Foothills Park, when he heard a large splash.

“Something went off in my head thinking that someone might have fallen in,” Frisk said in an interview with the Weekly.

That’s when he heard a child’s cry coming from the water by the footbridge: “I need help, I need help!”

In a moment he described as a flash, Frisk went into “autopilot” to pull the child out of the murky lake by holding on to the railing of the bridge with one hand and reaching out to the boy with his other.

Frisk didn’t see the boy enter the water, but thought the child may have fallen in while riding his bicycle ahead of his parents, near the landing at one end of the bridge, where there’s no guard rail.

“It was kind of funny because the boy’s first reaction after I pulled him out was: ‘Oh, but my bike is still in there,’” Frisk said.

After the rescue, there were no bags or handshakes due to the pandemic protocol of social distancing — just a moment of shared shock, gratitude and relief with the boy’s parents, who were nearby with three of their other children when the boy went into the water.

For Frisk, the experience was a particularly cathartic one, with tinges of déjà vu. Years ago, when he was 4 years old, Frisk said, he too once fell into a lake and was saved by a stranger.

“I was 4, and I don’t even remember it was I, but I’ve been carrying around that image ever since,” Frisk said.

After pulling the boy out of the water, Frisk said he hoped that through telling this story, he could express how grateful he was to the man who rescued him years ago.

“I’d love to say thanks to the man who saved me,” he said.

—Lloyd Lee

Palo Alto Weekly • August 21, 2020 • Page 29
union has endorsed both of them. She said the K-8 district, now under a new superintendent, has made progress in improving communication and transparency. But she wants to see improvement in other areas, including teacher retention, equity and environmental sustainability.

If elected, she said she’d prioritize increasing teacher pay to re-duce turnover. At Bell Haven, she said she once heard a student tell a new teacher, “Why do I have to remember your name? You won’t be here next anyway.”

“Teachers in Ravenswood do a serious amount of work outside their contract hours, and we’re one of the lowest compensated districts in the area still,” she said. Increased stability among teachers also helps build trust with parents and works well with students and families, she said.

One of Ravenswood’s most pressing issues is years of sharply declining enrollment. The district has lost 1,500 students, or one out of every five students, during the last decade due to state funding decline. Alexander said she would push for bringing back state funding to help close the budget gap.

Her daughter is a Ravenswood kindergartner and her son attends the district’s preschool.

“East Palo Alto is our community and our children have always been in care and education here. I believe that my perspective and ability to connect with others will complement the existing board,” she wrote in an email.

Varghese Bloom, who grew up in Texas and works as a college student mentor, community college assistant instructor, legal assistant and college counselor. She holds a bachelor’s degree in human development, family sciences with a focus on child development from the University of Texas at Austin and a master’s degree in early childhood education from Loyola Marymount University.

At Insight Education, she helps high schoolers and their parents navigate the college admissions process.

“I bring to the table my experience across an expanse of fields within education, which can improve the current practices moving forward,” she said.

Varghese Bloom said her priorities, if elected to the school board, would be focusing on better preparing Ravenswood students for high school — an area she knows well through her work as a college counselor — and listening to input from parents, students and teachers.

The greatest challenge facing the K-8 district, from her perspective, is financial.

“I know that it has been a building season for the board with reassessing budgets and making sure that resources are allocated well to fund schools and teachers. I think that is something that will continue to be a challenge in Ravenswood.”

With two schools closing in the fall and students at the merged campuses starting the new year remote, Varghese Bloom said the importance and support among families will also be crucial to focus on this year, she added. She wants the district to continue hosting virtual town halls at least once a month to keep parents informed and connected.

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to discuss revisions to Palo Alto Police Department policies to make them more compatible with the 8 Can’t Wait campaign, and provide direction on the city’s race and equity initiative. The virtual meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 24. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 362 027 238.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ... The school board will discuss school safety measures, hiring trends during the school closures, support systems for students in distance learning and reopening plans, among other items. The virtual meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 25. The meeting will be broadcast on TV Channel 28 and midpenmedia.org. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by going to paused.zoom.us/97888468129 or dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 949 9734 6242.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to hear an update on green stormwater infrastructure and discuss the Ramon River improvement project. The virtual meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 25. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 951 4917 7161.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ... The commission will discuss Castilleja School’s proposal to rebuild its campus, construct an underground garage and obtain a new Conditional Use Permit that would allow it to add a 600-student “enrollment unit” for grades K-12. The virtual meetings will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 26. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 952 7264 6737.

BOARD POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE ... The board’s policy review committee will tentatively discuss policies on sexual harassment, Title IX, infectious diseases, physical education/athletic and “individuals” education programs (IEPs). The virtual meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 28. The Zoom link was not available by press deadline.
with students at Ronald McNair Academy, Cesar Chavez Academy and the Ravenswood Middle School.

Latu, who is Pacific Islander, said students often told her, “It’s rare that we see someone from East Palo Alto that works here and doesn’t work as a security guard or a janitor.”

“They felt like there was a connection,” she said. “For them to see someone who looks like them, who talks like them, who lives down the street from them to be able to do what I’ve been able to do was inspiring to them.”

Latu now works as a community collaboration manager for the Emerson Collective, the social change organization founded by Laurene Powell Jobs. She works at the organization’s Bloomhouse site in East Palo Alto, which is “part of: the East Palo Alto waterfront,” its website reads. (Bloomhouse is physically closed due to the coronavirus shutdown but still providing virtual services.)

If elected to the school board, Latu said she would focus on creating “togetherness” in a district that’s gone through leadership transitions, financial upheaval and is threatened by outside forces of gentrification and housing affordability. She pointed to her “network and rapport within the community” as a source for building stronger relationships in the district.

Similarly, she said she’s committed to being an accessible official who prioritizes communication. She said the district should be developing a COVID-19 version of its long-term strategic plan.

“What is education going to look like post-COVID and how are we going to be able to maneuver that? It’s not just about planning for this year but the following year and the year after that,” she said.

Latu also advocated for adding more East Palo Alto history — including how the city was incorporated and its deep-rooted legacy of activism and community engagement — to Ravenswood curriculum to combat negative stereotypes of the community. This kind of curriculum would “show our young people that East Palo Alto is more than the stigma” often affiliated with the city, she said.

**Joel Rivera**

Joel Rivera became a U.S. citizen so he could run for a seat on the Ravenswood school board this fall.

Rivera immigrated to the United States from Mexico as a young child, was raised in San Francisco and moved in 2000 to East Palo Alto, his wife’s hometown. He wanted to run in the 2016 school board but was a U.S. resident, not yet a citizen, at the time, so he couldn’t. This year, he became a U.S. citizen.

Rivera has worked for 20 years in the construction industry, including as a foreman, assistant superintendent and superintendent. He currently works as a labor manager for Nibbi Brothers General Contractors in San Francisco.

He said he was motivated to run by watching the amount of time and effort his wife, Jesusita Rivera, a fifth-grade teacher at Costaño Elementary School, puts into her job outside of school hours and requirements. He recalled watching her stay up late one night to write grants to fund a field trip, wondering why there weren’t established systems in place to address a funding need that in many districts would be a given.

“It brought me back to my construction background. When we have needs, we go to people who specialize in (them). We won’t bog down folks that are better skilled at certain areas,” he said. “It frustrated me. That’s not fair.”

Rivera’s two children attend the Menlo Park City School District through the Voluntary Transfer Program, also known as the Tinsley program.

“Some of the sad truths of our neighborhoods is that our kids grow up a little too fast, a lot too fast sometimes,” he said of their decision to not send their children to Ravenswood schools.

Rivera said he wants to fight the very trend his own children are a part of: the increasing number of students who live in East Palo Alto or east Menlo Park but don’t attend district schools there.

If elected, he said he would focus on increasing engagement among working parents so that it’s the “default, not an exception.”

“It’s not the norm in our area for parents to participate on a regular basis. They can’t — long hours, two jobs, multiple people working and a lot of them are intimidated by the language barrier,” Rivera said.

“That’s one of my goals — to have it feel regular, comfortable.”

Rivera, as both a parent and the spouse of a teacher, witnessed first-hand the challenges of distance learning when schools closed in the spring. For his children, it was a state of “survival,” he said.

But when it comes to reopening schools, health and safety should come first, he said.

“We’re asking for really negative results if we try to have kids go back before it’s safe to do so, even with the challenges of remote teaching,” he said.

**Valerie Campos**

Amid COVID-19 restrictions, Valerie Campos, director of adult services at the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, pivoted to mobility classes via telephone and talks on Zoom. As a Vista client/board member, I’m inspired by a can-do spirit that touches the most vulnerable among us.

Submitted by: Joan Desmond

**Maria Martinez**

Maria exemplifies the best in community service to the residents at Buena Vista Mobile Park. She partners with PAUSD, donors, and volunteers to ensure children get school lunches and families receive canned foods, fresh vegetables and fruit. Maria promotes community health during this pandemic.

Submitted by: Amado Padilla

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Santa Clara County prepares
As concerns about the Postal Service heat up in Washington and local residents have already voiced complaints about unexpected delays in delivery, Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters’ Shannon Bushey has sought to assure voters that her office has procedures in place so that all ballots will be counted, just as in years past.

Under a new law signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in June, all registered voters in California for the first time will be sent mail-in ballots to ensure safety during the pandemic. But Santa Clara County already has experience with that method, having implemented it during the March primary under the county’s Voter’s Choice Act. Bushey said.

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Redwood City | $1,299,000
Located in the desirable Woodside Plaza neighborhood, this home offers two bedrooms, one bath and an attached one-car garage.
Cesar Cervantes
650.283.5763
cesar.cervantes@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #01752339

Half Moon Bay | $1,200,000
Renovated Classic 3br1.5ba Beach house in Westside Miramar. 3 Blocks (+-) from beach. Very large lot. New Roof. Driveway, Kitchen and Bathrooms.
Grant Walters
650.867.0462
Grant@coastside.net
CalRE #01063348

Carmel Valley | $1,985,000
Character and charm surround you in this 3br1.5ba home. Indoor, outdoor living is heightened by a swimming pool and landscaped patios.
Ben Heinrich
831.915.7415
TeamTheHeinrichTeam.com
CalRE #00584641

Redwood City | $1,898,000
3 bd 2 ba home in sought after neighborhood at end of cul-de-sac. Privacy, location & contemporary updates.
David Hicks
650.644.7708
david.hicks@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #02074444

Carmel Valley | $899,000
Spectacular million-dollar views & sunsets from approx 20 acre, 3,136 SF, 4 bd. 3.5 ba at end of private road.
Rick Smith
831.277.6039
rick.smith@camoves.com
CalRE #00844450

Redwood City | Price Upon Request
Close to downtown, charming 2br1ba features open floorplan with hardwood floors, fireplace & large backyard.
Amelia Middel
650.704.3064
CalRE #01103989
Miriam Pooma
408.644.5041
CalRE #02002039

Half Moon Bay | $998,000
Renovated Classic 3br1.5ba Beach house in Westside Miramar. 3 Blocks (+-) from beach. Very large lot. New Roof. Driveway, Kitchen and Bathrooms.
Grant Walters
650.867.0462
Grant@coastside.net
CalRE #01063348

Redwood City | $699,000
3br/1ba w/remodeled kitchen, finished garage, & grassy backyard w/coversed patio in desirable North Fair Oaks.
Pat McDonnell
650.464.3744
pat.mcdonnell@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #01926896

Redwood City | $899,000
Spectacular million-dollar views & sunsets from approx 20 acre, 3,136 SF, 4 bd. 3.5 ba at end of private road.
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www.595Matadero.com for more information. Rare opportunity! Over 10,000 sf flat lot with a darling 3-bedroom home in a tranquil and serene setting of sought-after Barron Park neighborhood of Palo Alto. This property is the ultimate blank canvas offering many options to customize—move in and enjoy, remodel & expand plus an ADU, or a fantastic location to maximize the lot potential and build your dream home.
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Meticulously maintained beautiful duplex home located on a quiet street near Downtown Mountain View & Google.
Noemi Ruelas
650.917.4303
noemi.ruelas@cbnorcal.com
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Menlo Park | $1,695,000
Ready to sell and get on with your plans? This beauty Sold quickly in the pandemic. Contact Ellen now and your home will be Sold at the best price!
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Rarely available 2br/2.5ba unit with private front patio & oriental garden in the Colorado Place complex.
Terrie Masuda
650.400.2918
tmasuda@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #00951976

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Amazing triplex with 2 units offering 1 bd 1 ba, while 3rd has 2 bd 1 ba. Call us today for more information!
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CalRE #01767102
Yoli Hurchanik 650.533.8822
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