Determined voters cast ballots amid pandemic, nationwide anxiety

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Burt, Kou, Tanaka and Stone poised for Council victory

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School election DiBrienza, Ladomirak, Collins lead

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Burt and Kou at front of crowded council race

Results suggest power will be shifting toward the council’s slow-growth camp
by Gennady Sheyner

Former Palo Alto Mayor Pat Burt is poised to return to the City Council and Council member Lydia Kou appears set to win a second four-year term, early results from the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters show. The preliminary results show Burt with a 1,000-vote lead over the rest of the 10-candidate field. As of Thursday afternoon, with about 62% of Santa Clara County’s votes counted, Burt had received 10,767 votes, while Kou received 9,782 votes. Incumbent Council member Greg Tanaka and teacher Greer Stone had 9,043 votes and 9,008 votes, respectively, according to early results.

Ed Lauing, a member of the Planning and Transportation Commission, was in fifth place as of 8 p.m. Tuesday, when the polls closed, trailing by just 225 votes for the final seat. But with more votes counted by Thursday, Lauing was behind by 642 votes. Engineer Raven Malone and former Human Relations Commissioner Steven Lee were in sixth and seventh places, respectively, according to early results. If the results hold, the outcome would reshape the council, handing a clear majority to those who favor slower city growth, often referred to as “residentialists.”

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Incumbent Jennifer DiBrienza, Ladomirak, Collins lead battle for school board

With thousands of ballots yet to count, third board seat might go to
by Elena Kadvany

Incumbent Jennifer DiBrienza appears headed toward reelection and challenger Jesse Ladomirak toward winning a second seat on the school board, while the third seat is still too close to call, according to unofficial election results.

The preliminary results, with 58% of ballots counted in Santa Clara County as of Thursday afternoon, show DiBrienza with 25% of the vote. She received 15,493 votes and held a 2,000 vote lead over Ladomirak. Ladomirak, a parent and remodeling company co-owner who ran to bring a parent perspective to the school board, trails with 21%, or 13,184 votes. Board President Todd Collins is in third place with 17% of the vote, 1,382 votes ahead of challenger Katie Causey. Causey has won about 15% of the vote so far.

The six candidates are vying for three open seats on the board during an unprecedented time for public education. The campaign was largely focused on the district’s response to the pandemic and how and when to reopen schools. Causey, a Palo Alto High School graduate and community advocate, and Nagle were the only two candidates to campaign extensively.

The race grew controversial in recent weeks as outside money poured into Mah’s campaign. She received $243,400 in contributions during the most recent campaign finance reporting period, primarily from charter school organizations and representatives, bringing her campaign total to over $300,000. Baten Caswell raised about $180,000, including significant contributions from charter school proponents, and has won about 15% of the vote so far.

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I’m feeling less anxious than I did yesterday.

— Stephen Rosenblum, Palo Alto resident, on waiting for the U.S. presidential election results. See story on page 8.

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Early numbers favor water district, Caltrain but not hotel tax
by Sue Dremann, Lloyd Lee and Bay City News Service

California's app-based corporate luminaries such as Uber and Lyft just waged the most expensive state ballot measure campaign in U.S. history — and paid off big time, allowing those companies to thwart the will of all three branches of California government.

By approving Proposition 22, voters allowed those companies to avoid a 2019 California labor law that would have required them to treat drivers, shoppers and similar gig workers as employees.

Nor was that the only instance in which a well-financed and aggrieved industry appeared to have persuaded voters to override lawmakers. Voters also rebuffed Proposition 25, blocking a cash bail ban that state lawmakers passed in 2018 that otherwise would have driven the state's bail bond industry out of business.

Legislators also opted to ask voters to reinstate affirmative action by placing Proposition 16 on the ballot, yet it trailed in every pre-election poll. By the morning after the election, it had been defeated. On two other measures, California voters continued to distance themselves from the state's tough-on-crime approach of prior decades. They passed Proposition 17, giving people on parole the right to vote, and they voted down Proposition 20, opting not to increase penalties for shoplifters and probation violators.

California voters also haven't changed their minds much since 2018. Again this year, they rejected a measure that would let cities expand rent control, Proposition 21, and another, Proposition 23, that would have slapped kidney dialysis clinics with new regulations.

The Associated Press called these state ballot propositions with in a few hours of the polls closing. Here's what we don't yet know: Pretty much everything else.

California voters are used to waiting for their results. Even before the threat of viral contagion convinced state lawmakers to send

Upfront

ELECTION 2020

Californians waive labor law, keep affirmative action ban

Unprecedented sums of money spent on campaigns pay off for bail bond, gig work corporations
by Ben Christopher

Proposition 25, blocking a cash bail ban that state lawmakers passed in 2018 that otherwise would have driven the state's bail bond industry out of business.

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Dozens of residents took to the streets in Mountain View on Wednesday to demand that every vote be counted in the 2020 election, following concerns that President Donald Trump may try to subvert a fair election process and a peaceful transition of power.

The protest at the corner of El Camino Real and San Antonio Road was one of numerous events taking place across the Bay Area on Nov. 4, responding to what organizers describe as worrying statements from the president. In recent days, Trump has challenged the validity of mail-in ballots and has floated the idea of prematurely halting the vote count.

Trump on election night tweeted without basis that the Democratic party is attempting to "steal" the election — a post that has since been hidden by the social media company for containing false or misleading statements. Amid the protesters who held signs that read “Don’t let democracy die,” Mountain View resident Mark Lentczner said he felt compelled to join in the protest after seeing Trump’s statements.

Lentczner said it’s strange to be at a point where the country is debating whether to count votes and that he does not believe Trump’s comments should be disregarded as empty threats. “Even if the electoral count decides a winner, we have an administration that is filing lawsuits as we speak,” he said.

The local rally was part of the “Protect the Results” movement. Palo Alto resident Stephen Rosenblum, who helped organize the event, said the goal of the protest is simply to support that all votes be counted in the election, warning that Trump has no qualms with violating custom and legality to get what he wants. Rosenblum said he has no doubt that Trump won’t go quietly.

As of 7 a.m. Thursday, former Vice President Joe Biden had a sizable lead in the presidential race, with 72.2 million votes and a projected 264 Electoral College votes, while Trump had 68.7 million votes and a projected 214 Electoral College votes. Key battleground states that had not been called for either candidate include Pennsylvania, Nevada, and North Carolina.

Other events taking place Wednesday included an all-day event at San Jose City Hall with protesters — including reverend and rabbi speakers — who demanded a peaceful transition of power.

A larger network of more than 150 organizations called off coordinated nationwide protest on Wednesday, Rosenblum said, in large part because Trump has not taken any egregious action. “The president hasn’t really done anything except threaten lawsuits to stop counting the ballots, but so far we haven’t really seen any substantive effort to stop the proper ballot-counting process,” Rosenblum said. “I’m feeling less anxious than I did yesterday.”

So why move forward with the protest? Rosenblum said he felt it was important to give people the opportunity to attend a post-election demonstration and let their voices be heard on an election that has left many feeling anxious and uneasy. There were no fiery speeches over speakerphones, Rosenblum said, but enough to solicit support from cars passing by. “We want to let people know that we’re here to support democracy, and if they agree they can honk back.”

Staff Writer Kevin Forestieri reports for the Mountain View Voice, a sister publication of Palo Alto Online.

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ELECTION 2020

Incumbents ahead in contest for Foothill-De Anza Board of Trustees

Casas, Landsberger and Wong look forward to another term

by Sue Dremann

Votes appeared to be re-arranging lines in the race for three seats on the Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees on Tuesday night.

Gilbert Wong, Peter Landsberger and Laura Casas, were ahead with 30%, 28.44% and 27.82% voter approval, respectively. Sole challenger, Govind Tatachari received a 13.73% of the vote as of 9 a.m., Thursday, with all precincts reporting.

Tatachari, a technology professional who grew up in mining towns in India and boot-strapped himself into a professional career in computer science, ran on a platform of invigorating Foothill-De Anza colleges with 21st century technology programs that would help students prepare for industry and public transparency.

The board also will be tasked with finding appropriate and effective ways to allocate $89 million in bond money (Proposition G) approved by local voters in March, which they have said will go largely to infrastructure upgrades, including replacing the structurally unsound Flint Center at De Anza College in Cupertino with a performing arts structure. The trustees must consider additional distance learning programs due to the coronavirus pandemic.

All three have identified the effects of the coronavirus pandemic as a serious obstacle, but revenue from the state is determined by the number of full-time students who are enrolled at the colleges. To that end, they’ll need to find ways to attract new students through relevant classes that will allow them to transition to four-year colleges and universities and to encourage additional enrollees, such as immigrants who work in Silicon Valley, they have noted.

Housing, which is badly needed to attract and retain teachers and students, will be another largely debated topic, and the three incumbents have differing views on how making up for that shortfall could be achieved. Casas is against on-campus housing while Wong is for it. Landsberger supports a Santa Clara County-led effort to provide off-campus housing on land near the Palo Alto courthouse and possible partnerships with nonprofit organizations.

Landsberger said by phone on Nov. 3 that his reelection “is a reaffirmation of what the voters said when they went for the bond and parcel tax.”

In his coming term, he said the district would face challenges financially that will make it difficult to achieve what he thinks is its primary goal.

“It’s imperative to focus on equitable outcomes” for students, he said, so they can acquire the skills to become contributing members of society. “But that success can only come when there are no achievement gaps. “It’s absolutely imperative that we double down to eliminate those disparities,” he said.

The district also will be tasked with responding to all of the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic and how they can meet the economic concerns along with providing the educational opportunities and quality students need, he said.

Wong said he was “excited and humbled” to be reelected by the voters.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the board worked hard regarding Proposition G priorities, Wong said, adding that he pushed hard for them to be fiscally conservative regarding spending the measure’s money. He also said he will focus on affordable housing for students, many of whom are housing and food insecure and on ways to address public safety through the eyes of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Like Landsberger, he said addressing the effects of COVID-19 would be a priority, and he hoped to make sure that programs such as the College Promise program, which gives high school students two years of free tuition, would continue.

He is also continuing his lobbying work on the federal level, he said.

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be emailed at sdremann@pawweekly.com.
Two political newcomers, Bronwyn Alexander and Jenny Varghese Bloom, are leading the race for two open seats on the Ravenswood City School District Board of Education, edging out the sole incumbent in the race.

Alexander, a former Belle Haven Elementary School teacher, has held the top spot since the first unofficial results were released Tuesday night, with 24% of the vote (2,194 votes). Varghese Bloom, a college admissions counselor and district parent, is close behind, trailing by only 254 votes.

Board member Marielena Gaona Mendoza, who’s running for a second term, is in third place with 14% of the vote — 669 votes behind Varghese Bloom. Gaona Mendoza’s seat is up for grabs as well as Sharifa Wilson’s, who is not running for reelection after 12 years on the board.

Julian Alberto Garcia, a former Ravenswood employee who ran unsuccessfully in the last school board election, pulled into fourth place overnight with 1,165 votes as of Wednesday morning. He’s followed closely by labor manager Joel Rivera (1,136 votes), East Palo Alto native and Emerson Collective employee Mele K. Latu (1,111 votes) and Zeb Feldman (330 votes).

The San Mateo County chief elections officer warns that election night results “may be significantly different from the final count.” Preliminary results do not include vote-by-mail ballots received in the mail after Oct. 28, dropped off at vote centers or drop boxes after Oct. 28 or conditional voter registration or provisional ballots.

Alexander, a longtime teacher who left her job at Belle Haven in Menlo Park last year so she could run for a school board seat in this election, said she’s cautiously optimistic about the early results. She said she believes the issues she campaigned on, including reversing Ravenswood’s declining enrollment and increasing teacher pay, resonated with voters.

“I think it’s coming down to what the candidates were saying that addressed what the community was feeling,” she said.

Varghese Bloom, whose daughter is a Ravenswood kindergartner and son attends the district’s preschool, said in a previous interview that her priorities, if elected, include focusing on better preparing Ravenswood students for high school — an area she knows well through her work as a college counselor at Insight Education — and listening to input from parents, students and teachers.

On Tuesday night, she also remained “hopeful and optimistic” with about half of the ballots counted in San Mateo County.

“I’m proud of the campaign I’ve been able to run with the support of my neighbors, friends, and family,” she said. “I believe my platform is a positive contribution to the furthering of Ravenswood schools. No matter what the outcome, I will be involved in (the) Ravenswood School District as a parent, and I hope that I will be a voice on the board.”

Gaona Mendoza, a special education teacher who was first elected in 2016, has said she wants to continue the district’s upward trajectory, particularly with new leadership in place. She did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the early results.

The recent, sudden resignation of trustee Stephanie Fitch halfway through her first term means that there will be a third, new face on the dais this winter. The board voted last week to proceed with making a provisional appointment to replace Fitch. This story will be updated on PaloAltoOnline.com as more results come in.

Staff Writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@paweekly.com.
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Webster Street, 8/14, 1:17 p.m.; sex crime/lewd acts.
San Antonio Drive, 8/15, 10:35 p.m.; sex crime.
Encina Avenue, 10/21, 12:22 a.m.; domestic violence/battery.
Clara Drive, 10/22, 3:20 p.m.; sexual assault/oral copulation.
Matadero Avenue, 10/22, 3:33 p.m.; sexual assault.
300 Pasteur Drive, 10/25, 1:51 p.m.; battery.
University Avenue, 10/28, 2:31 p.m.; dependent adult sexual.
Layne Court, 10/30, 8:42 p.m.; domestic violence/battery.

Theft related
Fraud .................................... 2
Grand theft ................................ 14
Identity theft ................................ 1
Petty theft .................................. 5
Residential burglary ......................... 1
Shoplifting .................................. 3

Vehicle related
Auto theft .................................. 2
Bicycle theft ................................ 8
Driving w/ suspended license ............. 3
Hit and run .................................. 2
Lost/stolen plates ......................... 2
Theft from auto ......................... 1
Theft from residential ..................... 1
Theft from vehicle ....................... 1

Miscellaneous
Animal control .............................. 1
Casualty fall ............................... 1
Court order violation ..................... 2
Found property ............................. 1
Lost property ............................. 3
Possession of stolen property ............ 1
Psychiatric subject ....................... 4
Suspicious circumstances ............... 1
Warrant/trespassing ....................... 4

Menlo Park
Oct. 27-Nov. 4
Violence related
1300 block Carlton Avenue, 10/27, 6:38 p.m.; sexual assault.
Monte Rosa Drive/Sharon Park Drive, 10/28, 12:54 a.m.; suicide.
1200 block Windermere Avenue, 10/29, 4:10 p.m.; hit and run.
100 block Hamilton Avenue, 10/29, 11:51 p.m.; spousal abuse.

Theft related
Burglary .................................... 3
Grand theft .................................. 1
Identity theft ................................ 1
Petty theft .................................. 7
Residential burglaries ...................... 2

Vehicle related
Abandoned vehicle ......................... 2
Auto recovery .............................. 1
Auto theft .................................. 1
Bicycle theft ................................ 2
Driving w/ suspended license ............. 1
Hit and run .................................. 1
Lost/stolen plates .......................... 1
Theft from auto ............................ 3
Theft from vehicle ....................... 1
Theft of property ......................... 1

Miscellaneous
Coroner case .............................. 1
Court order violation ..................... 1
Disturbance .................................. 1
Found property ............................ 1

A list of local residents who died recently:

Adriana Joan Wyn Cooper, 89, a former Palo Alto resident, died on Oct. 7.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at PaloAltoOnline.com/obituaries.

Stanford Blood Center
Give blood for life!
Schedule an appointment: call 888-723-7831 or visit bloodcenter.stanford.edu

OBITUARIES

Jack Robert Wheatley
January 31, 1928 – October 31, 2020

Jack Robert Wheatley passed away peacefully Saturday, October 31, 2020 at his home in Salt Lake City, Utah after a fruitful life spent in service to his family, church, and community.

Born on January 31, 1928 to Michael Wheatley and Maude Agnes Norton at Robin, Idaho, Jack grew up on the family farm with four older siblings where he learned to work hard and be productive. His early education was in a two-room country schoolhouse, followed by his graduation from Pocatello High School and after one year at Idaho State University he received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy.

West Point was a turning point in his life as he added discipline to enhance his natural talents and skills. He inculcated the academy’s motto of duty, honor and country into his life’s mission. During his cadet years, he met his eternal companion, Mary Lois Sharp at the New York City Manhattan Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. If opposite personalities and talents can combine to create something great, this was the result of the union of Jack and Mary Lois. Jack often commented that many of his greatest accomplishments were a result of Mary Lois’ influence on his life. They were married in 1952 in the Salt Lake Temple and then he commenced a construction career in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In 1956, the young couple moved to Palo Alto, California to found the first of several construction and real estate development companies and to raise their growing family. Jack’s work ethic and engineering know-how led to business success. He built homes, subdivisions, apartments, condominiums, schools, churches, shopping centers, hospitals, office complexes, civic buildings, university buildings and the Oakland Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He gave back to his community as he served in many church positions such as bishop and stake presidency counselor and as a city councilman, mayor and in other civic positions.

Another turning point in his life occurred in 1978 as Jack and Mary Lois were called to preside over the Denver Colorado Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Giving three years of service as a missionary further focused his efforts on serving his family and fellowmen. After returning from his mission, he continued to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and to turn his business acumen to philanthropic efforts centered around giving others the opportunities to learn and succeed in life, Brigham Young University in Provo, Idaho and Hawaii, Idaho State, BYU Pathway and many other charitable causes became the settings where he could improve the lives of many others. In 1989, Jack and Mary Lois again embarked on full-time missionary service, this time in Portugal. After this mission, Jack and Mary Lois moved in 1992 to one of their favorite places, Carmel, California to enjoy its natural beauty and to provide a place for their family to gather. As his wife’s health declined, in 2010 they moved to Salt Lake City to be closer to family.

Jack never seemed to run out of energy to do good. Despite his busy life, he always had time for his family. His relaxation was not rest or leisure, but just turning his focus on something different where he could contribute his efforts. As a family, we enjoyed many fun vacations and teaching moments as Jack traveled with his children and grandchildren.

He had high expectations for his family and taught his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to seek after eternal things by his example and unwavering faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. His great legacy is a productive posterity. Jack is survived by his children John (Diane), Victoria Schmidt (Jeff), Elizabeth Lambert (Scott), Robert (Lisa), Charles (Shauna) and Mary Margaret McQuinn (Tony), by 34 grandchildren and 59 great grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Lester Wheatley. He is preceded in death by his wife, Mary Lois, three siblings and by two great grandchildren. We are so grateful for his loyal and great caregiver, Vicky Booth who dedicated eleven years of her life in keeping our parents comfortable in their later life. Although we will greatly miss our Father’s love and faithful example, we are very grateful to have had his influence in our lives. There is, no doubt, great joy in heaven as he is now reunited with our mother and so many of his friends and family.

Because of the pandemic, we will not have a conventional viewing and funeral. The family plans to celebrate his life in a limited, private family funeral and graveside service on Friday, November 13th. The extended family and friends are welcome to share their memories, photos and thoughts of Jack at www.larkinmortuary.com. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Inspiring Learning at BYU, BYU Pathway Worldwide or a charity of your choice.

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • November 6, 2020 • Page 15
COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY
2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer’s Agent • Waived if DeLeon Buyer’s Agent

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.

For virtual open houses & more photos, please visit:
www.925LincolnAvenue.com
Offered at $5,988,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only.

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Palo Alto.
Data from BrokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019, in Palo Alto, residential properties, with no off MLS sales included in the rankings.

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
3787 Woodside Road, Woodside

Supreme Privacy, Timeless Luxury on 3.15 Acres in Woodside

Nestled on a verdant 3.15-acre lot (per county) in peaceful Woodside, this stunning estate presents superb privacy, timeless luxury, and incredible space for entertaining on a grand scale. Lofty ceilings craft an airy atmosphere throughout the home and tall, wide windows allow an abundance of natural light. Expansive formal rooms enjoy elegant appointments, the superkitchen is sure to inspire your inner Top Chef, the handsome office can meet all work-from-home needs, and the lower level includes a theater for fantastic movie nights. Offering 6 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, and 7,168 sq. ft. of living space (per county), including a 1-bed, 1-bath guest house, this home will have you feeling a million miles away from the frenetic pace of Silicon Valley thanks to extraordinary grounds that include a pool, barbecue patio, and pathways that wind their way to the serene banks of Bear Gulch Creek, yet you will still enjoy the convenience of being just a short drive to the amenities of the Town of Woodside, and be close to Interstate 280 for Bay Area commuting. Adding the finishing touch, children may attend the acclaimed Woodside Elementary School (buyer to verify eligibility).

For virtual open houses & more photos, please visit:

www.3787Woodside.com

Offered at $11,988,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only.

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties*

Data from BrokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019, in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties combined, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

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
COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY
2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer’s Agent • Waived if DeLeon Buyer’s Agent

1557 MONTALTO DRIVE, MOUNTAIN VIEW

Bright, Spacious, and a Great Location
Right next door to beautiful Buena Park, a short walk to Cuesta Park, and just around the corner from acclaimed Mountain View schools, this 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom home offers 1,562 square feet of comfortable living space along with an unbeatable location. A delightful front porch welcomes you, while inside, abundant natural light highlights stylish appointments including hardwood floors and plantation shutters. Spacious gathering areas include the living room with a centerpiece fireplace, the kitchen with stainless-steel appliances and a wine bar, and the family room with access to the backyard. Four bedrooms are perfect for family and friends alike, and the home’s bathrooms have both been remodeled. The backyard features great space for entertaining with a hot tub, ample patio space, and multiple fruit trees. Plus, you will have easy access to Highway 85 for Bay Area commuting.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.1557Montalto.com
Offered at $2,188,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only,
Easy appointments between 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm on Saturday (11/7) and Sunday (11/8).

Listed by Audrey Sun of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties
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For more information contact: Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話：650.785.5822 我們精通國語和粵語
Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY
2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer’s Agent • Waived if DeLeon Buyer’s Agent

1613 WRIGHT AVENUE, SUNNYVALE

Modern Conveniences with Classic Eichler Charm
Extensively remodeled in 2013, this 4-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home expertly blends timeless Eichler charm with the best of modern conveniences to create an unmatched living experience. Designed by the renowned design firm of John Klopf, this home exemplifies Eichler style, with details including an atrium, walls of glass, and globe light fixtures adding to the ambiance, and radiant heated floors extending throughout nearly 1,900 square feet of living space. The open floorplan offers great space for entertaining and everyday living, with gathering spaces including the bright living room, and the family room, that flows into the chef’s kitchen featuring an island with seating. Find comfort in the spacious master suite that features access to the expansive backyard with patio space and a lush lawn. Enjoy a location close to top tech companies including Apple and Linkedin, as well as Highway 85. Plus, children may walk to top-ranked schools including West Valley Elementary, Cupertino Middle, and Homestead High, all of which are within one mile (buyer to verify eligibility).

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.1613Wright.com

Offered at $1,998,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only,
Easy appointments between 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm on Saturday (11/7) and Sunday (11/8).

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ARTISTS PONDER PANDEMIC PARENTING AND ‘HOLDING IT TOGETHER’

TIMELY EXHIBITION HERALDS THE REOPENING OF PALO ALTO ART CENTER’S MAIN GALLERY

Holding it Together,” the playful-yet-poignant new exhibition at the Palo Alto Art Center, is a collection of new works by artists that examine the experience of parenting during the pandemic in all its often chaotic, frustrating, humorous and sweet glory.

The show is a reunion for Bay Area artists (and parents) Alexandra Bailliere, Karen Leslie Ficke, Benicia Gantner, Amy Hibbs, Jenny Hynes, Jill Miller, Robin Mullery, Ashley Lauren Saks, Trevor Tubelle and Vanessa Woods, who first came together for a residency led by Mullery at the Art Center in conjunction with the 2018 “Care and Feeding: The Art of Parenthood” exhibition.

Mullery, a Palo Alto resident, mother of third graders and member of the Cubberley Artist Studio Program who also works as a therapist, reached out to the rest to suggest organizing a group show exploring their experiences during the COVID age.

“I had the idea to see what we’re all doing right now in this really crazy time,” she said. “Sometimes it’s hard to find other parent artists because we’re so isolated.”

Mullery’s piece, “Mama?,” installed in the center of the gallery, consists of 19 concrete balls in various sizes and conditions — some suspended like moons and planets in an imagined galaxy, some cracked or misshapen, smashed upon the floor. Concrete as a material interests her, she said, because of its mix of strength and fragility. “Mama?” speaks to how the life “pause” caused by the global pandemic has revealed many hidden cracks and ruptures in U.S. society, from social injustice to the climate crisis, and how humans are seeking connection and resilience in hard times. The concrete balls also represent how she, as a parent, has felt more than ever the pressure to juggle aspects of her life, with the acknowledgement that many goals or plans may remain unfinished or broken; a mama bearing “the heaviness of it all.”

Bailliere, who called the original residency experience very meaningful for the opportunity it provided to connect with others who were juggling identities as parents and artists, has contributed three different projects to “Holding it Together.” “Tiger King Binge-watch,” with its titular nod to the popular Netflix documentary, is a hand-sewn “pandemic quilt,” started enthusiastically, Bailliere said, when she assumed the shelter-in-place order would only last for a few weeks. As it stretched on, the quilt expanded and “could continue to grow but may never be completed,” she said. Two large oil paintings were inspired by senior citizens she got to know while leading virtual art workshops, who impressed her with the way they were handling the loneliness and isolation with grace and dignity. And a series of small oil paintings represent her early attempt to complete one painting a day, a goal often “hijacked by something one or all of my three teenage sons did which took my attention away from the practice of completing these daily works,” including a skateboard crash resulting in a trip to the emergency room. These pieces, like several in the exhibition, exemplify what every parent knows: Trying to work while at home with children involves a whole lot of interruption.

During the 2018 residency, Mullery said the group members began referring to each other jokingly as “momrades” (mom comrades), with Trevor Tubelle as the sole “dadrade.” For “Holding it Together,” dadrade Tubelle has created a whole-wall installation representing a project titled “Quarantine Walk Drawings.”

“When the pandemic started, I was stuck at home with my family just like everyone else on the planet and I realized I would not be able to go to my studio to make art. So I needed to figure out how to not go insane from being around my kids day and night and to somehow keep my creative mind alive, not to mention keeping my body from falling apart from inactivity,” he said. In late March, he began going on walks around San Francisco, making quick drawings on small scraps of paper and leaving them on display in situ. By June, he had created 40. “I’ve been visiting the drawings periodically to document how they complete one painting a day, a goal often “hijacked by something one or all of my three teenage sons did which took my attention away from the practice of completing these daily works,” including a skateboard crash resulting in a trip to the emergency room. These pieces, like several in the exhibition, exemplify what every parent knows: Trying to work while at home with children involves a whole lot of interruption.

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fare over time in terms of weathering (sun, rain, wind) and other factors outside my control (e.g., graffiti and vandalism),” he explained. At the Art Center, Tubelle has drawn a map on the wall representing all the neighborhoods he visits on his walks (with wires radiating from a center nail, representing his home), along with photos of the drawings showing their changes over time, plus data on the dates and locations. As many of the drawings are still intact, he said, the project will continue.

For Hibbs, “2020 has been a year of extremes in my art-making practice. At times, I’ve been creatively immobilized for weeks while caring for my kids, homeschooling, or just plain worrying about the world,” she said. “But the lack of running around dropping kids off and picking them up has also unlocked some unexpected time during which I’ve deepened my practice.”

In “Holding it Together,” Hibbs works demonstrate how she’s found inspiration, naturally, from the world right outside her door. Her cyanotype prints are based on plant waste she’s photographed around her San Jose neighborhood. She’s also included one of her compost prints, in which she places a pile of compost from her yard on a piece of synthetic paper, “letting the process of decay mark the paper withinky organic patterns.”

Visitors to the exhibition have a chance to take part in another of Hibbs’ compost-centric works. Just inside the lobby sits the “Transformation Station,” where all are invited to write down or draw a negative thought or fear. These are shredded and added to an adjacent worm compost bin. They’ll be transformed by the worms into lifegiving fertilizer, to be spread around the Art Center’s grounds in the spring, literally turning negatives into positives. Fittingly, Hibbs worked in collaboration with her daughter on the piece. “My hope is that this piece is both cathartic and fun,” she said.

The exhibition encompasses a variety of works in other media, including sculpture, photographic collage, video installation and more. “Holding it Together” is the first show to be installed in the main gallery since winter (the Peninsula Photo Contest is currently installed in the smaller Glass Gallery). Art Center Director Karen Kienzle said the creation of this show, as well as the ability to physically reopen the gallery, has come as a pleasant surprise after the cancellation of the previously planned “Safe” exhibition, she said, adding that for the time being, the Art Center will err on the side of caution and open at 25% rather than the 50% capacity allowed by the county. She is also committed to each exhibition having a virtual presence, for those who are unable or uncomfortable coming to an in-person show, so a photo tour will be available on the center’s Flickr page.

In addition to feeding their worries and frustrations into the Transformation Station, community members are also invited to participate in the show by submitting photos of how their families are “holding it together” during these times (send via Instagram to @palalortalartcenter, email to artccenter@cityofpaloloalto.org or text 650-646-5344). These will be added to the gallery walls throughout the duration of the show, which runs until Dec. 12. The Art Center is open Tuesday-Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. More information is available at cityofpaloloalto.org.

Arts & Entertainment Editor Karla Kane can be emailed at kkane@pawweekly.com.
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<thead>
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<th>Address</th>
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DeLeOn Realty
We don't get great listings. We make great listings.
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953 S. WOLFE ROAD, SUNNYVALE

Stylish Townhome with a Convenient Location

Convenient living awaits in this stylish townhome, offering 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, and nearly 2,100 square feet of living space, with a location that puts you close to everything Silicon Valley has to offer. Numerous windows take full advantage of this home’s end-unit location, filling the space with natural light and creating a bright, airy ambiance. Relax in the spacious living room centered by a fireplace, craft delicious meals in the granite-appointed kitchen, and enjoy al fresco dining on the backyard patio. Four spacious bedrooms include the master suite with an inviting en suite bathroom. This home also features in-unit laundry, plus an attached 2-car garage. Adding the finishing touch is a location that puts you close to top tech companies including Apple and LinkedIn, a short drive to downtown Sunnyvale, and within easy reach of major commute routes.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.953SWolfe.com

Offered at $1,298,000

Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only,
Easy appointments between 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm on Saturday (11/7) and Sunday (11/8).

Listed by Audrey Sun of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties

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For more information contact: Audrey Sun, DRE #01931274 電話：650.785.5822 我們精通國語和粵語
Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
Mountain View

2356 Thompson Court

$1,749,000  3 Bed  2 Bath  1,104 SF  5,300 SF lot

3br/2ba home redesigned for your comfort and enjoyment. Formal entry foyer opens to a spacious living room with vaulted ceilings and focal fireplace, the perfect place to enjoy reading a book on a cold winter day. The kitchen has been bumped out and tastefully remodeled while the dining room opens to a large covered patio, perfect for year-round outdoor entertaining. Other features include a 200 amp electric panel, a brand new roof, central forced air heating, recessed lighting throughout, and an oversized single car garage with built-in workbench and storage shelves. Great location and Los Altos High School (Buyer to confirm school availability).

Lynne Mercer

650.906.0162
Lmercer@compass.com
www.Lmercer.com
DRE#00796211

Enjoy the holidays in your new home
A pandemic-induced isolation extends into its ninth month, residents of local senior living communities are finally reconnecting with the outside world.

Residents in independent living at Palo Alto's Moldaw Senior Residences, Vi and Channing House, who were once strictly confined to their apartments with all meals delivered to their doors, may now leave their homes for shopping, recreation and walks in the community. Those at The Sequoias in Portola Valley also have been cleared for certain outside activities, including golf.

Vi recently re-opened its in-house hair salon and library and, along with Channing House, has free to come and go. “We emphasize, as does (County Health Director) Dr. Sara Cody, that just because you can’t means you should,” Kim Krebs, director of marketing, said. “It’s always about safety first.”

Channing House has constructed an open-air hair salon and visiting area in its parking lot, and all the senior housing communities have launched programs such as remote fitness and music appreciation classes to engage residents while they stay inside.

Much tighter restrictions apply for residents in skilled nursing at the senior communities. According to the Santa Clara County Health Department, nursing home and assisted living residents accounted for more than 40% of the county’s 400-plus COVID-19 deaths at the end of October, underscoring the need for strict rules, which often preclude even family members from coming inside.

Such prolonged isolation from loved ones exacts a heavy toll on patients’ physical and mental health, say physicians who make the rounds of nursing homes.

“I’ve had patients who would only eat if their family member fed them, or would only respond to their family member,” Stanford geriatrician Marina Martin said.

Geriatrician Mehrdad Ayati said over the past two to three months, he’s seen people getting worse in their depressive symptoms, including crying and sleep issues.

“For people who have dementia and whose children cannot come and visit, their routine has been changed,” Ayati said. “In those patients I’m seeing more agitation, more behavioral disturbances related to dementia that had absolutely been well-controlled before the pandemic. Isolation makes everything become worse, both mental and physical health.”

Since the lockdowns in mid-March, many nursing homes have become more proactive in promoting family contact for patients, however limited, doctors said.

“She just wants contact with someone who can take care of her, and she’s kin to me,” said a nurse at Channing House. “It’s not just a matter of physical contact, but emotional support as well.”

Some of them are purchasing iPads, setting up FaceTime visits and making full-on schedules where you have people signing up for certain slots of time and a nurse or staff person will facilitate that,” Albert Lam, geriatrician at Palo Alto Medical Foundation, said.

“We have to adapt to the residents because not all of the residents can figure it out. Some people can go on site and do what’s known as a window visit,” where patients and family members can see one another and talk, at a distance, through an open window or screen, Lam said.

“There are a lot of things we know (about the virus) that we didn’t know before, so we can find adapted ways to have more visits with loved ones that are safe,” Martin said.

Ayati predicted pandemic isolation would leave lasting scars on a whole cohort of elders.

“Any isolation [is] bad,” he said. “Any isolation adversely affects some people but not others, Lam said.

At Channing House, Chalmers Smith, a 91-year-old retired lawyer who now lives in skilled nursing at the facility, has managed to pursue his passion for music through the pandemic — even playing duets with his daughter, Sarah Smith.

Heartbroken that the shutdown would force an end to making music with her dad, Sarah Smith designed a visiting cube made of wood, Plexiglas and acrylic.

“I tried to think of a solution where we could continue to meet, and it had to be without masks,” she said. “I’m a bassoonist and can’t wear one while playing.”

Since the lockdowns in mid-March, many nursing homes have become more proactive in promoting family contact for patients, however limited, doctors said.

“I’d like to say that after this length of time, things are getting easier, but in my experience, it’s getting harder,” she said. Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick can be emailed at ckenrick@pawweekly.com.
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Senior Focus

DMV EXTENSIONS ... The California Department of Motor Vehicles announced Oct. 15 it is providing an automatic one-year extension to Californians age 70 and older with noncommercial driver licenses that have expiration dates between March 1 and Dec. 31, 2020. The action delays the requirement for this population to visit a DMV office during the COVID-19 pandemic. Drivers can request a free, temporary paper extension online through DMV’s Virtual Field Office to document the extension, though it is not needed to drive.

ELDER RESILIENCE ... Despite being most at risk of suffering health complications if they contract COVID-19, older people reported better emotional well-being than younger people, according to a study by Stanford University psychologist Laura Carstensen. In April, Carstensen and graduate student Yochai Shavit surveyed nearly 1,000 Americans aged 18 to 76 about the positive and negative emotions they were experiencing. “The findings show that older people report better emotional experience than younger people, even during a pandemic that is placing them at greater risk than any other age group,” Carstensen told Stanford Report. “The most striking difference was that older people reported experiencing negative emotions substantially less often than younger people.” The study was published Oct. 26 in the journal Psychological Science.

MR. BLUE JEANS ... Museum educator Ron Gialt will present a guided virtual tour of an exhibit on 19th century immigrant Levi Strauss on Tuesday, Nov. 10, from 1 to 2 p.m. The virtual tour will be a walk-through of an exhibit about Strauss now on display at the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco until Jan. 10, 2021. The program is free, but preregistration is required to obtain a Zoom link. To register, go to paloaltojcc.org, click on “Adults & Community” and then on “Community Conversations.” For more information, contact Michelle Rossengauss at mrossengauss@paloaltojcc.org.

FOUR SHILLINGS SHORT ... The Celtic folk music duo Four Shillings Short will present a special Celtic winter concert, featuring music, poetry and stories from the Celtic lands in celebration of the season. The online concert will be Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 1 to 2 p.m. The event is free, but preregistration is required to obtain a Zoom link. To register before Nov. 15, go to paloaltojcc.org, click on “Adults & Community” and then on “Community Conversations.” To register after Nov. 15, go directly to Four Shillings Short website, 4shillingshort.com.

INTERIM CEO ... John Sink has been named interim CEO of the senior services agency Avenidas while President and CEO Amy Andonian is on leave. Sink joined Avenidas in 1980 and managed the adult day health center for 26 years. He has overseen a wide array of Avenidas services, including lifelong learning, health and wellness, Chinese community services, transportation, volunteering and technology.

Items for Senior Focus may be emailed to Palo Alto Weekly Contributing Writer Chris Kenrick at ckenrick@pawweekly.com.
Nearly a decade after his murder conviction, Bulos Zumot gets a new trial

**Federal judge grants petition to man convicted of strangling Jennifer Schipsi**

by Gennady Sheyner

Bulos Zumot, a former Palo Alto resident who was convicted in 2011 of murdering his girlfriend, Jennifer Schipsi, and setting their rented cottage on fire, will face a new trial after a federal judge concurred with a motion to vacate Zumot’s conviction, which was previously granted in late 2019. Federal District Judge Liam Orrick directed the state to take steps towards a new trial within 120 days.

Zumot was convicted in 2011 on a petition for a writ of habeas corpus, U.S. District Judge William Orrick of the Northern District of California denied it in March 2019.

In a Sept. 2 order granting Zumot’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus, U.S. District Judge William Orrick directed the state to release Zumot from prison, unless the state commences proceedings for a new trial within 120 days. The Santa Clara District Attorney’s Office plans to retry Zumot for murder within 120 days, according to the judge.

Zumot is currently serving a term of 33 years to life at California Men’s Colony, a state prison near San Luis Obispo, after being convicted of killing Schipsi and setting their Addie Avenue cottage on fire on Oct. 15, 2009. According to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, he is eligible for parole in October 2034.

By granting Zumot’s petition, the federal court handed him a victory after numerous defeats on the state level. In November 2016, the California Superior Court denied his appeal, and an appeal to the California Court of Appeals rejected his argument on Aug. 31, 2017. Zumot then took his petition to the California Supreme Court, which similarly denied it in March 2019.

Orrick, however, concurred with the arguments from Zumot’s attorney, Cliff Gardner, that the prosecution’s case had significant flaws. In his petition, Gardner focused on two pieces of evidence that were used during the trial: surveillance footage from the now-closed Da Hookah Spot on the day of the fire, and a recording of someone calling from a blocked number that Schipsi received on Aug. 24, 2009.

During the trial, Palo Alto police officers testified that Zumot was at Da Hookah Spot, a University Avenue hookah lounge that he owned, at about 6:47 p.m., and surveillance footage showed him at the downtown establishment at that time. This suggested that it was feasible for Zumot to set the fire at 5:57 p.m. and reach the hookah lounge by 6:47 p.m. The Fire Department received the call about the fire at about 6:39 p.m., when Zumot’s landlord saw the flames and reported the blaze.

In his petition, Gardner presented evidence suggesting that Zumot may have been at the hookah lounge earlier, which would make it less likely that he had started the fire. One was footage showing Zumot at 6:45 p.m. The other was a 43-second snippet from 6:41 p.m., showing a blurry image of someone walking to the hookah shop from the Ramona Street entrance.

In his response, prosecutors from the California Attorney General’s Office disputed the idea that this footage represents “false evidence” and pointed to prior court decisions, which found the 6:41 p.m. footage highly questionable. The person in the brief clip is shown wearing a shirt with shirttails extending below the waist, the state’s argument notes. Zumot

As Castilleja plans its expansion,
city seeks firm assurances on traffic

**Planning commission calls for ‘no net new trips’ requirement as part of school growth plan**

by Gennady Sheyner

If Castilleja School moves ahead with its ambitious plan to rebuid its campus and increase enrollment, it may have to do so without bringing any additional traffic to the neighborhood around its Bryant Street campus under a proposal the Palo Alto Planning and Transportation Commission backed Wednesday night.

During a long discussion, the commission also signaled its support for slightly increasing the number of special events the all-girls school at 1310 Bryant St. would be allowed to hold and requiring Castilleja to install equipment that measures real-time traffic data.

The meeting was the commissioners’ first chance to fully discuss some of the most contentious issues surrounding the project, which has been going through the planning process for the past four years. The commission focused Wednesday on conditions of approval that the city would impose on Castilleja as part of its new conditional-use permit, taking numerous votes on the conditions over the course of the six-hour meeting.

It adjourned at midnight without completing its task, however, and agreed to hold another hearing in the coming weeks.

The majority agreed, however, that the city’s evaluation should focus less on the proposed higher enrollment and the number of school events and more on the impacts of these students and events would have on the neighborhood. Several commissioners, most notably Michael Alcheck, argued that the commission should not micromanage the details of the school operation but focus on the impacts of these events, particularly car trips.

Commissioner William Riggs suggested applying to Castilleja the standard that Santa Clara County applies to Stanford University: a requirement for no net new car trips. Alcheck and Commissioner Barton Hechtman then argued that the standard is too stringent, but the rest of the commission voted to advance Riggs’ recommendation.

Riggs and Commissioner Ed Lauing both noted that Castilleja already has a robust transportation-demand management program (TDM), which involves buses, carpools, Blue Bots and remote parking for employees within walking distance of the campus. The school also requires employees to use alternative modes of transportation at least three times per week. These measures, and others, have helped it reduce peak traffic by 31% since 2013 when the program was launched.

“I think Castilleja is well-intentioned and they have good results so far... The risk goes up as traffic goes up, so managing the TDM in a tight way makes good sense to make sure it happens correctly,” Lauing said. “It also helps with crime.”

Commissioner Chair Cari Templet agreed and said imposing the “no new net trips” requirement would make the project “more manageable.”

“We’d be managing impacts and not methods,” Templet said before the 5-2 vote.

Hechtman, who with Alcheck opposed the motion, said he is concerned this would set a difficult precedent for future projects. “That’s why I think the commission should not micromanage the details of the school’s enrollment expansion.”

Though it was rejected, the motion provides a proposed “no net new trips” requirement that the city’s evaluation should focus on. By 6:47 p.m. footage highly questionable. The person in the brief clip is shown wearing a shirt with shirttails extending below the waist, the state’s argument notes. Zumot

(continued on page 28)
Bill Gates talks about how to control the coronavirus pandemic

“It’s sad that this took a Richter-scale 9 earthquake to wake us up”

by Sue Dremann


MICROSOFT co-founder Bill Gates implicated a lack of leadership in the United States’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic, inconsistency in the country’s overall strategy and persistent misinformation as threats to controlling the deadly virus.

In an interview with Dr. Lloyd Minor, Stanford School of Medicine’s dean of medicine, Gates, who is co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, predicted years ago that a pandemic caused by an alien pathogen would spread across the globe.

His prediction wasn’t pulled out of the ether. Gates has been involved in developing and combating the spread of dangerous diseases for more than 20 years.

The foundation works on solutions to develop inexpensive medications and vaccines to treat persistent infectious diseases such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), polio and malaria in poor and underserved countries.

Gates’ work with the foundation led him early on to predict the current pandemic. During an April 2018 Shattuck Lecture in Boston, Massachusetts, would likely be an unknown pathogen that would be seen for the first time, Gates said in his Stanford interview that the emergence of infectious diseases such as swine flu in 2009, the Ebola in 2014, Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) made him pay closer attention to pandemics.

The conclusion he came to during a radio interview with Dr. Anthony Fauci and himself, who are the two most prominently mentioned in some of these inaccurate theories, it could drive people to not wear masks as much or not be willing to seek out the vaccine.

We have to offset that by being creative about (getting out) the truthful message: the heroes who invent the vaccine; the facts about how the safety trials are done. We’re going to have to push ourselves on this,” he said.

“Bizarrely — I hope not tragically — by demonizing Dr. (Anthony) Fauci and myself, who are the two most prominently mentioned in some of these inaccurate theories, it could drive people to not wear masks as much or not be willing to seek out the vaccine. We have to offset that by being creative about (getting out) the truthful message: the heroes who invent the vaccine; the facts about how the safety trials are done. We’re going to have to push ourselves on this,” he said.

Gates said he has hope that once people see a vaccine works, more will seek immunization.

“I think in the United States my hope is that 20% to 30% of the population will be willing to take the vaccine early on, knowing that they’re helping their fellow citizens by the transmission-blocking benefits that the vaccine brings,” he said. If others see that there are very few side effects in that 20% to 30%, it would build confidence.

The COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on the economy has been greater than Gates had anticipated in 2015, when he predicted a $3 trillion loss.

“We could easily get to $10 maybe $15 trillion over the next two years,” he said.

“Particularly if it’s a low-dose intervention, that is really a big deal in reducing overall deaths,” he said, noting that side effects might be minimal and supplies could be scaled up rapidly.

So far, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the antiviral drug remdesivir to treat COVID-19 in hospitalized patients, the first such treatment the FDA has authorized to fight the deadly coronavirus.

While the school has yet to get a formal approval from either the planning commission or the City, it did score a major victory in the protracted process on Thursday morning, when the Architectural Review Board voted 4-1 to support its application. The Nov. 4 vote followed three public hearings on the project, during which time board members had asked for revisions to the new buildings’ Kellogg Street façade, and additional information about landscaping and fencing on the Emerson Street side.

On Thursday, the board found that Castilleja has adequately responded to its concerns and voted to move the application forward, while directing a subcommittee of its members to work with the school on some outstanding issues. These include requests that the school consider adding an acoustic barrier at the terrace level and that the school provide updated elevation plans.

Board Chair Peter Bailty, the sole dissenter, said that while he generally supports the project, he believes the board should continue to work on refining the project’s details, rather than refer the outstanding to a subcommittee.

Staff Writer Genevieve Sheyney can be emailed at gsheyner@pawWeekly.com.
Seeking to settle a lawsuit from the NAACP and ACLU and resolve a decades-old community debate, the Palo Alto City Council agreed on Monday to abolish a contentious policy that excludes nonresidents from visiting Foothills Park.

By a 5-2 vote, with council members Lydia Kou and Greg Tanaka dissenting, the council axed a 1965 policy that bans nonresidents from visiting the 1,400-acre nature preserve off Page Mill Road unless they are accompanied by a resident. In a report recommending the change, City Attorney Molly Stamp and City Manager Ed Shikada noted that such a regulation is “extremely rare” and that city staff is not aware of any other California municipality that limits access to parkland to residents and their guests.

The council vote will have two near-term effects. It means that anyone will be able to enter Foothills Park as soon as mid-December. It also means that the city’s staff is not aware of any other California municipality that limits access to parkland to residents and their guests.

Most of the speakers at Monday’s hearing supported the lawsuit’s contentions. Others argued that the city’s prohibition on nonresidents visiting the park has nothing to do with racism and that limiting visitors is necessary to protect the park’s sensitive habitat. “I don’t think the lawsuit should be settled in a way that implies that the plaintiffs against Palo Alto are correct,” resident Joe Hirsch said. “Palo Alto is not in my opinion a racist town or community.”

He called the specific examples of racist policies “ancient history” and argued that the city — unlike the market — does not restrict who gets to live here. “The suit, however, contends that the effects of the discrimination are still felt to this day. Palo Alto has a far lower proportion of Black residents than neighboring communities such as East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, the suit states. According to U.S. Census data, African Americans made up 1.6% of the city’s population in 1959, when the city purchased the land. As of 2019, it remained at 1.6%.

Council member Eric Filseth suggested that the lawsuit’s account of Palo Alto’s history of racism in housing policies is valuable and advised people to read it. He also said, however, he does not believe that opening up the park to nonresidents is a direction that most Palo Altans enthusiastically support. “I also don’t believe that the majority of Palo Altans would agree that this is a racist, segregationist or human rights issue,” Filseth said.

“I think most Palo Altans believe we passed the hat, no one was interested and that’s how we got there,” he added, alluding to the fact that neighboring cities declined to chip in for the purchase of Foothills Park in the 1950s.

Filseth ultimately joined the council majority in supporting the settlement, which includes as a key condition a permanent court injunction banning the city from reimposing restrictions on nonresident access in the future. Some council members balked at this condition. Vice Mayor Tom DuBois said he’d rather expand the program that the expansion of access needs to be revenue-neutral. And they decided to send the issue of permanently abolishing the restriction on nonresidents to the voters in 2022 — a decision that the Monday settlement renders moot.

Kou and Tanaka both argued against settling. Each suggested getting an additional legal opinion and alluded to surveys that they had conducted showing strong resident support for keeping the restriction on nonresidents in place.

Kou called the lawsuit “a bully maneuver” and argued that the NAACP, by joining the suit, is “discrediting themselves and jeopardizing their reputation.”

In making a motion to change the policy, Filseth included provisions that would limit the number of visitors who can be in Foothills Park at one time to 750 in the first 90 days after it goes into effect. After that, the park would go back to its current limit of 1,000 visitors.

The new policy would also give residents preference on reservations of recreational facilities at the park.

The council’s Monday vote accelerates a process that some members were hoping to roll out slowly and gradually over the coming months. On Aug. 3, the council took up months of discussions of a proposal from its Parks and Recreation Commission for a pilot program that would allow up to 50 nonresidents to purchase permits and enter Foothills Park daily.

Council members also specified as part of their August approval of the program that the expansion of access needs to be revenue-neutral. And they decided to send the issue of permanently abolishing the restriction on nonresidents to the voters in 2022 — a decision that the Monday settlement renders moot.

One person who disagreed with Kou’s and Tanaka’s position was Mayor Leland Levy, who over the years has repeatedly urged the council to open Foot hills Park to nonresidents and who did so again on Monday. However, Levy said he disputes the lawsuit’s allegations that the city is acting illegally in banning nonresidents from Foothills.

“I believe over the years we have acted legally,” Levy said. “But I also believe that it’s not sufficient to demonstrate legality. We should do what’s right. And what’s right is opening Foothills to all.”

**Staff Writer Gennady Shemyn** can be emailed at gshemyn@pawweekly.com.

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**PUBLIC AGENDA**

**A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week**

**CITY COUNCIL** ... The council plans to discuss the city’s strategy for economic recovery, including proposals to revise the city’s regulations banning conversions of ground-floor retail to office use. The council will also consider changes to the Evergreen Park/Mayfield Residential Preferential Parking Program and discuss the city’s response to a recently released national Housing Needs Allocation methodology. The virtual meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 9. 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 vote on a plan to reopen the secondary schools and discuss special-education reopening and a safety update, among other items. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10. The meeting will be broadcast on Cable TV Channel 28 and midpenmedia.org. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by going to zoomus.com/j/9788948129 or dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 949 9734 6242.

**COUNCIL POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE** ... The committee is tentatively scheduled to discuss the city auditor’s work plan and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The virtual meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 946 1874 4621.

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION** ... The commission plans to review the amended Community Development Block Grant citizen participation plan, discuss the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report, review the 2020 Human Services Needs Assessment survey results and consider recommendations on the draft fiscal year 2023-24 Human Services Resource Allocation Process priority of needs. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 10. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 919 9545 8701.

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**UPFRONT**

**Palo Alto strikes ban on nonresidents at Foothills Park**

City Council abolishes 1965 policy restricting access to popular nature preserve by Gennady Shemyn

Foothills Park, seen here in August, will open to nonresidents as soon as mid-December.
997 All Other Legals
APN: 154-24-024. No. 2020 154 Order Date: 11/15/2020
Lien No. 8502_TC200000214
Title No. 1554216 Trustee Sale Notice: 8502
8502_TC200000214

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won’t increase existing rates — an average $0.006 per square foot annually — he said. The district’s Board of Directors could raise the parcel tax up to 2% annually for inflation.

The program protects the drinking water supply and dams from earthquakes and climate change and reduces pollution, toxins and contaminants in waterways, including San Francisquito Creek in Palo Alto and the wetlands of San Francisco Bay.

Measure S would raise approximately $45.5 million annually, with a qualifying senior exemption, annual audits and independent citizen oversight. It would provide $263 million for flood-control projects, $54 million for seismic upgrades to Anderson Dam, $51 million for removing trash and homeless encampments from creeks, $155 million for creek restoration and wildlife protection and $53 million for environmental education and conservation grants.

Proponents and opponents had argued over the necessity to have an open-ended tax. Proponents said the extended tax would guarantee work on projects that won’t be finished by 2028 could be completed. Opponents said there was no sunset date for overturning the tax and it could increase annually by 2% on the minimum residential parcel size of one-quarter acre. They also claimed the measure did not allow for adequate citizen oversight.

Trish Mulvey, a member of the Vote No on Measure S Committee, said in an email that the campaign team had no comment on the early results. But speaking only for herself, she noted there was considerable disparity in funding between the Vote Yes and Vote No campaigns.

“It’s better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all,” she said. She expressed “gratitude to the voters for being so decisive that any nuances of final vote counts won’t matter.”

Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Member Gary Kremen, who supported the measure, was pleased by the early results.

“The voters have clearly spoken in overwhelming support,” he said in an email on Wednesday. “Passage means continued protection of Palo Alto homes and businesses from San Francisquito Creek and tidal flooding, creek restorations and trash removal from homeless encampments as well as the water conservation program.”

The measure will benefit Palo Alto and Mountain View. It would fund $31.5 million to continue the San Francisquito Creek project (upstream of U.S. Highway 101), providing flood protection for approximately 3,000 homes and businesses in Palo Alto. Measure S also provides $46 million to continue the San Francisco Bay Shoreline Projection Project, which provides tidal flood protection; restores and enhances tidal marsh and related habitats; and funds recreational and public access opportunities including in Palo Alto and Mountain View. It also provides $53.1 million for cities, agencies and individuals for water conservation, pollution prevention, creek cleanup, wildlife restoration projects and other benefits, plus $38.7 million to help clean up large creekside homeless encampments that may contaminate creeks.

**East Palo Alto (continued from page 7)**

restorative justice to police reform, that he hopes to home in on during his four-year term. But right now, his immediate focus, should the final vote count cement his spot on the council, would be to address the impacts the coronavirus has had on the city.

“The most important thing is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, making sure there’s protections in place so residents are not displaced and the essential needs are taken care of,” Lincoln said. “There’s a lot of things we want to do but we have to take care of this pandemic.”

Similarly, Gauthier said there are a lot of issues to address in the city, from housing to the East Palo Alto Sanitary District. But right now, the longtime East Palo Alto resident and mother of three said she’s focused more on family matters with a new grandson from her daughter now in the picture.

“I left the campaign trail as of Sunday to be with my daughter,” Gauthier said. The incumbent also said she did not want to call a race prematurely in a council election that can be decided with less than 200 votes, especially since they’ll be spread out amongst six other candidates.

Lopez, who is just 192 votes behind Lincoln, also said in an interview that he was campaigning until the polls closed at 8 p.m. Tuesday, which could impact the final results. Still to be counted are vote-by-mail ballots dropped off at vote centers or drop boxes after Oct. 28 as well as conditional voter registration or provisional ballots.

Moody, an affordable housing consultant, said that he believes people turned out for him because of his nearly four-decade track record in the city, first serving on the Rent Stabilization Board in 1984 and later joining the council in 2008. But like Gauthier, the former vice mayor agreed that anything can happen to the results in the next few days.

“In the last 2016 election, I was in fourth place with about 257 votes, but ultimately ended in first with over 250 votes of Larry Moody,” Romero said. He also said that the “past is not the prologue” and 2020 is an anomaly, considering all the ways COVID-19 could have affected voter behaviors.

The lone incumbent who sits below Lopez in the results is Larry Moody, the former mayor and vice mayor who is seeking a third term on the council.

“I haven’t taken it all in yet,” Moody said. “This might be the first time on Nov. 3 that I went to bed not certain that I was going to be reelected.”

Out of all the candidates taking the lead, the longtime East Palo Alto resident said he was a bit surprised to see Lincoln at the top of the results.

“I wish I could say I knew him, but I don’t,” he said. “I’ve never met him and I think many in the community felt that way.”

This election, a record 11,748 people are registered to vote in East Palo Alto. Though it doesn’t necessarily translate to the number of people who participated in the council election, more votes are expected to come through in 2021 by what is showing very tight margins.

The total voter count for this year’s election is also expected to surpass the turnout of the 2016 election, when 6,965 out of 10,221 registered voters cast ballots, according to statewide data analyzed for the Bay Area Equity Atlas.

This story will be updated on PaloAltoOnline.com as more results come in.

Edwin Assistant Lloyd Lee can be emailed at ldlee@paweekly.com.

**Higher hotel tax losing in East Palo Alto**

An increased hotel tax proposal in East Palo Alto backed by this year’s City Council candidates has not quite gathered enough votes needed to pass, according to San Mateo County’s semiofficial election results.

The measure would be available as of Wednes-day evening showed Measure V received 2,744 “yes” votes out of the 4,357 total votes counted so far, which comes to a 63% approval rate, according to the semi-official results from the county’s Elections Office. The measure needed a two-thirds majority vote — about 4% more — in order to move forward.

If approved, the proposal would have increased the current 12% tax, known as the transient occupancy tax, on short-term guests of the city to 14% by Jan. 1, 2023. Short-term guests are defined as anyone renting a room in East Palo Alto, such as in a hotel or through Airbnb, for 30 consecutive days or less, according to the measure’s text.

Results from these will be posted on PaloAltoOnline.com as they come in.

Senior Writer Sue Dremann and Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee can be emailed at sdremann@paweekly.com and llee@paweekly.com.

**East Palo Alto City Council race**

Unofficial results as of Nov. 5, 9 a.m.

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<tr>
<td>Larry Moody</td>
<td>1,247</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlos Romero</td>
<td>1,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters
School board
(continued from page 5)

oppose bringing students and teachers back to school in person this fall.

DiBrienza, a former teacher who is seeking a second term on the board, led by about 2,000 votes as of midnight on Tuesday evening. She remained cautiously optimistic about the early results.

The defining issue of the campaign, DiBrienza said, was the coronavirus. This was underscored by the fact that two candidates — Ladomirak and Nisewaner — ran expressly because of their own families’ frustration with school closures in the spring.

“I think that while it’s always been important that people on the board have kids in the district or kids in the district, right now uniquely it matters that those of us going through it have a voice with the district,” said DiBrienza, who is the only current board member with children in district schools.

Ladomirak, who raised more campaign funds than all of her competitors, described the school board race as “competitive.”

“There was a number of high-quality candidates in the race. Honestly, at this point, it’s been an honor to run and to earn the votes of so many people, and I feel comfortable that our district’s going to be in good hands regardless of the outcome,” she said.

Collins declined to make himself available for comments on the results.

Causey, the youngest candidate, who ran a campaign focused on youth voice and civic engagement, said she hopes her campaign set an example for young people in the community.

“I got to spend the last months helping students, educators and community members be heard that is everything I’ve wanted to do since I was 15,” she wrote in an email. “The number one thing I want to come out of tonight is that I hope our students feel like they can run for office after they graduate.”

Nisewaner said running for a seat as a newcomer was more challenging during a pandemic.

“It makes it a lot harder if you’re not an incumbent, if you don’t already have a structure in place. It’s difficult to connect with voters, she said.

If she loses, Nisewaner said she’s not sure whether she will run again in 2022 but feels more prepared to do so.

“I now have at least the infrastructure of a set of people who are supportive, and I know what’s necessary. I understand now how important endorsements are from parties, even in nonpartisan elections, and I also understand how much is driven by revenue and how much money you bring in,” she said. “That’s definitely something that I now better understand in terms of how local politics here work and that this is a more aggressive local political scene than you might find in other areas.”

Nagle, a longtime educator and former principal of Juana Briones Elementary School, said he wasn’t surprised by the early results. He focused his campaign on improving outcomes for minority and low-income students.

Hechtman, Lauing, Roohparvar, Summa, Templeton

Hirsch, Loe, Loe, Thompson No: Baltay

Palo Alto Board of Education race

Unofficial results as of Nov. 3, 9 a.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board Member</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer DiBrienza (24.6%)</td>
<td>15,493</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesse Ladomirak (21.1%)</td>
<td>13,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Nagle (18.5%)</td>
<td>10,699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Causey (4.9%)</td>
<td>9,317</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karna Nisewaner (13.2%)</td>
<td>8,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Nagle (6.8%)</td>
<td>5,511</td>
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Source: Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters

Board of Education
(continued from page 5)

Staff Writer Elena Kadvany

Katie Causey

Todd Collins

Jennifer DiBrienza

Staff Writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@paweekly.com.

Board of Education
(continued from page 5)

vote-by-mail ballots are counted on election night, while vote-by-mail ballots received after Nov. 2 and provisional ballots are counted after election day, according to the Registrar of Voters.

The registrar conducts manual recounts in races where the margin of victory is either less than 0.25 percent of the ballots cast or fewer than 25 votes.

Baten Caswell is familiar with the experience of waiting for an election outcome. In 2016, a narrow margin between her and another incumbent for the third open seat on the Palo Alto school board triggered an automatic recount. Though the other candidate conceded a week after the election, it wasn’t until late December that Baten Caswell was declared the official winner and elected to a third term.

On Thursday, Mah said she’s “keeping her fingers and toes crossed” as ballots continue to be counted. She said this was the most competitive race she’s had in 13 years.

“It’s been a very challenging race … having to raise more than 10 times what I’ve raised in my previous races,” Mah said. “I still wish the money could have been spent on students and classrooms, but it’s kind of the nature of politics.”

Area 1 includes the Palo Alto Unified, Los Altos, Mountain View Whisman, Mountain View-Los Altos Union High school districts, a majority of the Sunnyvale School District and corresponding portions of the Fremont Union High School District.

Mah, a former engineer and Palo Alto resident, has represented these districts on the county board since 2014.

This story will be updated on Palo AltoOnline.com as more results come in.

Staff Writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@paweekly.com.
City Council
(continued from page 5)

current positions, however, tend to align more with the council’s slow-growth members. He and Stone had both vehemently opposed state legislation that would have required cities to permit denser housing developments in single-family residential neighborhoods. They also both opposed the council’s recent moves to scale back the city’s police auditor’s responsibilities by removing from his scope internal conflicts within the Police Department.

As things stand, the seven-member council would have four members that have been endorsed by Palo Altans for Sensible Zoning, a political action committee that favors slow-growth policies — Kou, Stone, Filsen and DuBois — with Burt as the sympathetic fifth member.

With Councilwoman Liz Kniss terming out and Mayor Adrian Fine choosing not to seek a second term, the council’s more pro-growth camp will now see its membership dwindle from four members to two: Council member Alison Cormack and Tanaka.

The race was one of Palo Alto’s most crowded and competitive political contests in recent years, with a diverse 10-candidate field that included a mix of City Hall veterans and newcomers. While all candidates expressed support for building more housing and better police oversight, they disagreed on specific policies, including on whether to support Sacramento legislation that would have increased density in residential areas.

Burt downplayed the differences between the council’s two camps and noted that just about every candidate expressed a commitment to boosting the city’s housing supply. The main difference, he said, is that candidates such as himself, Lauing and Stone, are more concerned than others about curbing office growth.

“It’s really about retaining that modest office growth and working to increase the housing,” Burt said. “Frankly, almost all the candidates ended up with similar positions on housing, and with a range of perspectives on how to do that.

“I think there’s a community consensus now — not unanimity — around moderating the rate of office growth and increasing housing growth at all income levels, as well as moderating the rate in transportation.”

Stone told the Weekly that if results hold, the city will have a council that is “truly responsive to the people.”

“It’ll be a council that’s going to listen to Palo Altans and take their concerns and their hopes into consideration to be able to make a city that really works for the people and not for outside interests,” Stone said. “I think we’re really going to be able to make a difference on moving the needle on being able to create more housing and having a focused effort on affordable housing and trying to create a more diverse and equitable community.”

The three candidates with the most progressive policies — Malone, Lee and Planning and Transportation Commission Chair Cari Templeton — fared less well on election night and were in sixth, seventh and eighth places in the early standings. All three supported more aggressive action on housing, including zone changes that would promote density in transit corridors.

Malone, who trailed by about 700 votes on Tuesday night, said her campaign remains hopeful, in as well as proud of its work.

“I think I gave it my all, and we’re hoping for the best,” Malone said.

Kou, meanwhile, was relieved by the early results, having barely missed in her first run for the council, in 2016. She said she believes her primary won in her second attempt, and all the other issues,” Kou said.

Attorney Rebecca Eisenberg and Ajit Varma, director of product management at WhatsApp, were in ninth and tenth places, respectively.

This story will be updated on PaloAltOnline.com as more results come in.

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@pawonline.com.

This map shows leading candidates for the Palo Alto City Council race in each precinct, in descending order of vote totals, as of Thursday afternoon.

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City Council race | Unofficial results as of Nov. 5, 9 am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Votes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pat Burt (13.7%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lydia Kou (12.4%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greg Tanaka (11.5%)</td>
<td>9,043</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greer Stone (11.0%)</td>
<td>8,366</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Lauing (10.6%)</td>
<td>7,928</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raven Malone (10.0%)</td>
<td>7,642</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Lee (9.7%)</td>
<td>7,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cari Templeton (9.6%)</td>
<td>5,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Eisenberg (7%)</td>
<td>3,339</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters

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This story will be updated on PaloAltOnline.com as more results come in.

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www.PaloAltOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • November 6, 2020 • Page 33
was wearing a sweatshirt that
ended at waist level. "Petition's claim should be re-
jected. No 'false' evidence was
introduced or argued at trial, and
even if it was, the prosecution
neither knew that nor should have
known it, and the evidence was
not material," Attorney General
Xavier Becerra, Supervisor Dep-
uty Attorney General Peggy Ruf-
fra and Deputy Attorney General
Gregory Ott wrote in their answer
to Zumot's petition. "Petitioner's
claims to the contrary are built
upon a selective characterization
of the evidence adduced at trial,
the prosecutor's argument, and
petitioner's defense."

Gardner's second allegation
of "false evidence" pertains
to threatening phone calls that
Schipsi allegedly received on
Aug. 24 from a blocked number.
During the trial, it was established
that Schipsi had called Palo Alto
police to report that Zumot had
called her and threatened her life
over the phone.

"If the jury had seen the video
footage from the cafe, and the
telephone records regarding the
August 24 call, a unanimous con-
viction was most unlikely," Gard-
ner contends.

The state Superior Court reject-
ed the argument, noting that the
petition ignores the "detrimental
inferences that could have been
made had Petitioner proved de-
finitively that Endeman made the
call on Aug. 24."

"For example, emphasizing the
victim had a friend make the call
tends to show she was so fearful of
the petitioner, and so desperate for
a restraining order, that she would
go to great lengths to obtain it."
the court found. "From such ac-
tions the jury could have also
drawn conclusions regarding the
petitioner's personality and dis-
position which would have nega-
tively impacted the defense case."

The state response to Zumot's
petition points to other evidence
that prosecutors presented at the
trial, including records docu-
menting the heated exchange of
text messages between Zumot and
Schipsi on the night before the
murder, testimony from Schipsi's
friends about Zumot's threatening
behavior and forensic evidence
indicating that she died from
strangulation.

"The totality of the relevant
circumstances points overwhelm-
ingly to the petitioner's guilt," the
response states.

Orrick, however, concluded
that the false evidence cited in
the Gardner petition was "mate-
rial because it obviated the need
for the jury to grapple with the
parties' conflicting timelines of
events and to assess the credibil-
ity of numerous witnesses, nota-
bly Zumot."

"Further, there was no tactical
reason for trial counsel to fail to
present and debunk evidence that
directly bore on Zumot's alibi de-
fense and his credibility as a wit-
tness," Orrick wrote.

Webby said the District's At-
torney's office disagrees with the
ruling and is preparing to retry
the case.

"We need to get the case to
trial within the timeframe or-
dered by the court," Webby said
in an email. "We will work with
CDCR (California Department of
Corrections and Rehabilitation)
to make that happen."

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner
can be emailed at gsheyner@
paweekly.com.
Buying During a Pandemic? Here’s What You Need to Know

While the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed real estate transactions for some people, housing markets in many areas of the country are showing a strength and resiliency unimagined earlier in the spring. It is critical to understand the pandemic’s impact on real estate, from simple touring a home to the ability to close transactions.

“Whether you are new to homeownership or have been a homeowner for years, this is an unprecedented time. We want to ensure that during this pandemic we can provide essential tips from REALTORS® for their clients, so they have a safe and hassle-free experience,” said Mary Kay Groth, president of the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS®. “As the situation continues to evolve, SILVAR encourages all parties to a transaction to follow CDC guidelines to protect their health and safety.”

Below are some important tips on buying a home during the pandemic:

What Buyers Need to Know:

Home tours look a little different – Where in-person showings are offered, potential buyers can expect quicker tours. They will need to follow COVID-19 Rules and Guidelines and take extra precautions, such as removing shoes, using hand sanitizer, and refraining from touching items in the home. Many REALTORS® also are guiding buyers through virtual home tours.

Interest rates are low – Interest rates remain at all-time lows and home prices are rising or holding steady. As more people file for unemployment, however, mortgage lenders have tightened lending standards. Potential buyers can prepare for homeownership by understanding their budget, building a good credit history, and getting prequalified for a mortgage. Some lenders allow borrowers to lock in interest rates for limited time periods.

Don’t expect a discount – Home prices in Santa Clara County are holding steady, with majority of prices higher from one year ago. The median sales price of many cities in Santa Clara County are exhibiting double-digit percentage increases year-over-year. Days on market for most cities are down to single digits, a sign that homes are selling quickly. The sales-to-price ratio average is 102 percent.

Expect delays – Those terminating a lease should leave some wiggle room, even an extra month or two, between moving out of a rental and into a new home in case of an unexpected delay. Hiring moving crews may prove challenging, so buyers should give movers as much notice as possible ahead of their scheduled move.

Information provided in this column is presented by the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS®. Send questions to Rose Melly at rmelly@silvar.org.

Answers on page 21.

This week’s SUDOKU

Answers on page 21.

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  - chef’s kitchen
  - separate family room
  - dedicated private office
  - detached bonus room
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  - close to schools and parks
  - beautiful, tree-lined street
  - quiet yet centrally located near transportation
- 1075 Forest Ave:
  - four bedroom, three bathroom
  - 2033 ft.² of living space (approx.)
- 1089 Forest Ave:
  - three bedroom, one bathroom
  - 912 ft.² of living space (approx.)

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