

Weekly

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county over tax
exemptions**

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RACING TO ZERO

Can state's power grid handle
12 million electric cars?

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Stanford sues county over tax exemptions for residences

University calls current taxing practices 'discriminatory'

By Gennady Sheyner

Seeking to cement a tax exemption for faculty homes on its campus, Stanford University on Monday filed a lawsuit against Santa Clara County contending that these residences should be treated like

other educational facilities.

The complaint, which the university filed in Santa Clara County Superior Court, pertains to the roughly 900 dwellings in a 450-acre area behind the main academic campus. Known as the Faculty

Subdivision, it is largely bounded by Junipero Serra Boulevard, Page Mill Road and Campus Drive and includes 691 single-family homes and 222 condominiums. These residences are reserved for Stanford faculty, who like other homeowners are responsible for paying their property taxes.

But, as Stanford emphasizes in its lawsuit, there is a major difference between these homes and

most other properties: While the homeowners purchase leases for these dwellings, the university retains an interest in these properties. It enforces the criteria for eligibility and requires homeowners who stop meeting these criteria to sell their leaseholder interests within a specific period of time. Furthermore, faculty must use the property as a primary residence and they cannot perform

any home improvement projects without Stanford's permission. If they want to sublet a portion of the property, they can only do so if the tenants are students enrolled at Stanford.

The university, which is forbidden by its founding documents from selling the land, is arguing in its lawsuit that because of these

(continued on page 32)



Magali Gauthier

Rob Jordan and Shira Jordan walk with their sons at the Baylands Nature Preserve in Palo Alto on May 13, 2020.

OPEN SPACE

Palo Alto backs e-bike ban on Baylands trails

In choosing a cautious approach, city sides with conservationists over bike advocates

By Gennady Sheyner

Bicycling is serious business in Palo Alto, where elected leaders often take great pride in the city's new bike bridge, its growing network of bike boulevards and its high rate of students who bike to school.

But on Monday, the City Council defied calls from some of the city's leading bicycle advocates as it voted to prohibit e-bikes on unpaved paths in the city's open space preserves, including the Baylands. By a 5-2 vote, with council members

Julie Lythcott-Haims and Greg Tanaka dissenting, the council also asked staff to explore restrictions on bicycling in sensitive areas in the Arastradero Preserve and the Baylands.

The council vote followed a long debate that placed the city's green values on a collision course. Some argued that the city should be encouraging all kinds of bicycling, including e-bikes, to meet its sustainability goals. Others suggested that the city steer e-bikes away from the Baylands, where their speed and noise could

interfere with sensitive critters like the salt marsh harvest mouse and the Ridgway's rail.

Members of the city's advisory group, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Commission (PABAC), were squarely in the former camp. They agreed with the city's plan to prohibit e-bikes in most preserves but argued that the Baylands should be treated differently because it serves as a connector for regional bike routes and because some of its unpaved paths — including the popular Adobe Creek

Loop Trail — are wide enough to accommodate trucks.

"Given that these roads are designed for much heavier vehicles, it is unlikely e-bikes will impact these roads more than trucks," said Penny Ellson, a longtime bike advocate who serves on PABAC. "Please consider the needs of aging people who want to stay active and parents who carry young children on e-bikes, who say that the proposed ban will prevent them from enjoying

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Palo Alto looks to establish gun-free zones

Council to consider local response to Supreme Court ruling that loosened firearms rules

By Gennady Sheyner

Responding to a recent Supreme Court ruling that loosened restrictions on concealed firearms, Palo Alto is preparing to join a growing movement of cities and states looking to designate certain types of spaces as gun-free zones.

The City Council on Monday could follow the lead of Mountain View and Sunnyvale in adopting a list of "sensitive places" where firearms would be banned. While the list will initially include schools, government buildings and polling places, it could later be expanded to include other locations such as playgrounds, health care facilities and homeless shelters.

The scope of the prohibition will ultimately depend on a legal landscape that has been shifting since June 2022, when the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*. The ruling struck down the state of New York's "proper cause" requirement for carrying concealed firearms, which required applicants for conceal and carry permits to demonstrate "a special need for self-protection distinguishable from that of the

(continued on page 31)

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Reasonable minds can disagree.”

— **Martin Shell**, Stanford's vice president/chief external relations officer, about lawsuit over interpretation of state tax laws. See story on page 5.

Around Town



Courtesy Silicon Valley Ice Skating Association

TECH ON ICE ... The **Silicon Valley Ice Skating Association** held its third annual **Robots on Ice** event at the **Winter Lodge** in Palo Alto on Feb. 26. The event drew more than 150 participants of all ages to watch synchronized skaters perform, interact with humanoid robots, drive remote-controlled model cars and see a diverse bunch of robots make their way across the ice rink. Palo Alto City Council member **Greg Tanaka** spoke at the event. He described the importance of learning science, technology, engineering and math at a young age, and shared stories about his own family. **Sarah Feldman**, the co-founder of the Silicon Valley Ice Skating Association and Robots on Ice, said she was pleased with how the event turned out. “I hope people had a great time,” she said, “and hopefully young kids were inspired to go pursue careers in STEM.” She said the Robots on Ice event was designed to combine technology and ice rinks in an exciting, joyful way, with both human and robot performances for attendees to enjoy. Rover robots skidded through doughnut maneuvers, carefully engineered four-legged robots trotted carefully across the rink and some robots got on the ice and toppled over, just like humans tend to do. “I really hope that people learned something about STEM, something that would bring them joy and cause them to be curious, create something for next year’s event or find a new hobby for themselves,” Feldman said.

A MOTHER OF TWO ... A federal court document filed Feb. 23 has revealed that **Elizabeth Holmes**, former Theranos CEO convicted of defrauding investors, recently gave birth to her second child and is seeking to delay the start of her prison sentence. In a motion for release pending appeal, Holmes’ attorneys argued that she isn’t a flight risk given “her toddler and infant, her partner, her aging parents, her brother, and her partner’s parents and siblings — are all in the United States.” The court document doesn’t provide further details on the second child, such as when the baby was born. Her next court hearing is scheduled for March 17 before Judge **Edward Davila** at the federal courthouse in San Jose. Holmes, who turned 39 years old in early February, is currently scheduled to enter federal custody on April 27. Last year, she was sentenced to 11 years and three months in prison for four counts of wire fraud committed while CEO of the blood testing company that was based in Palo Alto. “Unsurprisingly, after a complex trial, there are many such issues here, any one of which — if resolved in Ms. Holmes’ favor — would require a new trial,” the Feb. 23 court filing states. Theranos disbanded in 2018, months after Holmes was indicted by a federal grand jury. In an earlier motion filed after her sentencing, Holmes’ lawyers sought their client be kept free until a higher court looks over the outcome of her trial. ■

Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 35.

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1	8	4	9	5	3	2	6	7
9	6	7	4	8	2	3	1	5
5	2	3	6	7	1	9	8	4

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Sue Dremann

A rider practices at Pagemill Pastures horse facility on July 6, 2022. A lengthy investigation concluded that the center took water from a fire hydrant without paying for it once by mistake but had not routinely been taking water illegally.

UTILITIES

City mostly clears Pagemill Pastures in hydrant-water case

Palo Alto investigation finds a tanker-truck driver took hydrant water just once and by mistake

By Sue Dremann

After a lengthy investigation into whether a Palo Alto equestrian center had been illegally taking water for years out of a city fire hydrant, the City of Palo Alto Utilities department has concluded that it occurred only one time and was inadvertent.

Pagemill Pastures, located at 3450 Deer Creek Road, a half-mile from Interstate Highway 280, was under investigation after a city employee witnessed a water truck from the center getting water from a fire hydrant near the property early in 2022. The city sought to determine if Pagemill Pastures had accessed the water illegally and, if so, for how long and how much water had been taken. In March 2022, the city informed the equestrian center that the utilities department had no record of the center having a valid permit for hydrant use or a city-registered meter.

Pagemill Pastures, a 200-acre horse-boarding facility, leases its land from Stanford University. The investigation found that Stanford Land, Buildings & Real Estate management had requested that Pagemill Pastures use its water truck for a one-time delivery of water to another Stanford Land parcel that was using a herd of goats for vegetation management.

Pagemill owns a water tanker truck with a 3,000-gallon capacity used for supplemental water deliveries to its two horse properties, one on Deer Creek Road and the other in San Mateo County.

A tanker-truck driver who works for Pagemill in both San Mateo County and Palo Alto filled up a truck from the Palo Alto hydrant instead of the hydrant in San Mateo County, Palo Alto Utilities Director Dean Batchelor said in an email.

The only problem was that Pagemill, while it has a valid water hydrant meter issued by San Mateo County, never had a hydrant meter issued by Palo Alto.

“Since the volume of the tanker truck is around 3,000 gallons (equivalent to about 400 hundred cubic feet or ccf), we estimate this was the volume of water used in this incident,” Batchelor said.

As a result of the investigation, Pagemill will need to pay the city \$34, utilities spokeswoman Catherine Elvert said.

“This inadvertent, though still illegal, access of the Palo Alto system was viewed by CPAU (City of Palo Alto Utilities) staff who correctly determined that a Palo Alto hydrant meter was not being used to measure the water to fill the truck. This is what led to the initial allegation of theft of water,” Batchelor said.

“There was coverage in the press and public outcry as this was a dry, hot time of year,” he said. “This was unfortunate because CPAU had not had time to fully investigate the issue.”

As part of its investigation, Palo Alto Utilities monitored, graphed and evaluated the daily water consumption of Pagemill Pastures and found consistent usage for its allotted horse population over the years. Wide-scale use of non-metered water by the tanker truck would have resulted in much greater fluctuations in their use of metered water over the years, he said.

“Therefore, it appears the un-metered use of water was inadvertent and does not suggest that Pagemill Pastures was knowingly (or unknowingly) using water without paying for it. Since Pagemill Pastures is the tenant at this location and the utilities customer on record, the company will be billed for this water use to rectify the situation,” Batchelor said.

Pagemill owner/manager Giselle Turchet said by phone that she had no comment on the investigation but indicated she felt vindicated by the findings. ■

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com.



PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL CIVIC CENTER, 250 HAMILTON AVENUE

This is a summary of tentative City Council agenda items. The agenda with complete titles including reports can be viewed at the below webpage:

<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/agendas/default.asp>

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA MONDAY MARCH 6, 2023 5:00 PM COUNCIL CHAMBERS & HYBRID

<https://zoom.us/join> Meeting ID: 362-027-238
Phone: 1(669)900-6833

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY (5:00-5:20 PM)

1. Adopt Resolution Honoring Roland Rivera for 21 years of service to the City of Palo Alto
2. Select Applicants for Interviews for Board and Commission Openings on the Historic Resources Board, Human Relations Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning and Transportation Commission, Utilities Advisory Commission.

CLOSED SESSION (5:20 - 6:50 PM)

3. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS City Designated Representatives: City Manager and his Designees Pursuant to Merit System Rules and Regulations (Ed Shikada, Kiely Nose, Sandra Blanch, Tori Anthony, Molly Stump, and Jennifer Fine) Employee Organization: Service Employees International Union, (SEIU) Local 521, Utilities Management and Professional Association of Palo Alto (UMPAPA), Palo Alto Peace Officers' Association (PAPOA), Palo Alto Police Management Association (PMA), International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) local 1319, Palo Alto Fire Chiefs' Association (FCA); Authority: Government Code Section 54957.6 (a)

STUDY SESSION (6:50 - 8:20 PM)

4. Comprehensive Status Update and Long-Range Planning Discussion on the Palo Alto Airport

CONSENT CALENDAR (8:35 - 8:40 PM)

5. Approval of Contract Number C23186274 With Monterey Mechanical Co. in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$1,500,000 to Provide On-Call Emergency and Critical Construction Services at the Regional Water Quality Control Plant - Wastewater Treatment Fund Capital Improvement Program Project WQ-19002; CEQA status—exempt under CEQA Guidelines sections 15301(b)
6. Approval of Construction Contract with L.D. Strobel Co., Inc. (C23186775) in the amount of \$414,486 and Authorization for Change Orders up to a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$41,449 for the Purchase and Installation of Radio Antennas for the Public Safety Building Capital Improvement Program Project (PE-15001); CEQA: Environmental Impact Report for the PSB and the New California Avenue Area Parking Garage (Resolution No. 9772).
7. Approval of a Purchase Order with Badger Meter, Inc. in the Amount of \$3,000,000 for FY 2023 to Purchase Additional Badger Water Meters and Registers for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project; CEQA Status – Exempt (existing facility)
8. Adopt a Park Improvement Ordinance for 2850 W. Bayshore Development Sewer Line Connection in Greer Park
9. Adoption of an Ordinance amending Chapter 16.52 (Flood Hazard Regulations) to Correct an Error in Ordinance 5566. Environmental Assessment: Not a Project.

ACTION ITEMS (8:55 - 10:15 PM)

10. Adopt Emergency (4/5ths vote required) and Standard Ordinances Prohibiting Possession of Firearms in Sensitive Places Recognized by the Supreme Court; Potential Direction to Staff to Develop an Ordinance Further Expanding the List of Sensitive Places; CEQA Status – Exempt Under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 5:30 PM Community Conference Room & Hybrid
<https://cityofpaloalto.zoom.us/j/99227307235>
Meeting ID: 992 2730 7235 Phone: 1(669)900-6833

ACTION ITEMS

1. Utilities Advisory Commission and Staff Recommendation That the Finance Committee Recommend the City Council Adopt a Resolution Approving the Fiscal Year 2024 Water Utility Financial Plan, Including Proposed Reserve Transfers, and Increasing Water Rates by Amending Rate Schedules W-1 (General Residential Water Service), W-2 (Water Service From Fire Hydrants), W-3 (Fire Service Connections), W-4 (Residential Master-Metered and General Non-Residential Water Service), and W-7 (Non-Residential Irrigation Water Service)
2. The Utilities Advisory Commission and Staff Request That the Finance Committee Recommend the City Council Adopt a Resolution Approving the FY 2024 Wastewater Collection Utility Financial Plan Including Proposed Reserve Transfers and Increasing Wastewater Rates by Amending Rate Schedules S-1 (Residential Wastewater Collection and Disposal), S-2 (Commercial Wastewater Collection and Disposal), S-6 (Restaurant Wastewater Collection and Disposal) and S-7 (Commercial Wastewater Collection and Disposal – Industrial Discharger)
3. Adoption of a Resolution Amending Utility Rate Schedule D-1 (Storm and Surface Water Drainage) Reflecting a 4.9 Percent Consumer Price Index Rate Increase to \$16.76 per Month Per Equivalent Residential Unit for Fiscal Year 2024
4. Approval of the Electric Utility Construction Services Contract with VIP Powerline Corp. (C23185980) for a Total Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$20,000,000 over Five Years; CEQA status –exempt (existing facilities, replacement or reconstruction)

CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE HELD IN-PERSON AND BY TELECONFERENCE

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, as amended through order N-08-21, City Council meetings will be held as hybrid meetings with the option to attend by teleconference/video conference or in person. To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can choose to participate in the meeting from home or attend the meeting in person.

Public Comments will be accepted both in person and via Zoom Written public comments can be submitted in advance to city.council@cityofpaloalto.org and will be provided to the Council and available for inspection on the City's website. Please clearly indicate which agenda item you are referencing in your email subject line.

The meeting will be streamed live on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/c/cityofpaloalto>, and Midpen Media Center <https://midpenmedia.org> and broadcast on Cable TV Channel 26. PowerPoints, videos, or other media to be presented during public comment are accepted only if emailed to mail to: city.clerk@cityofpaloalto.org at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Once received, the City Clerk will have them shared at public comment for the specified item. To uphold strong cybersecurity management practices, USB's or other physical electronic storage devices are not accepted.

EDUCATION

Judge rules high school math policy violates state law

Judge also finds insufficient evidence that Palo Alto district has violated Title IX

By Zoe Morgan

A judge has ruled that the Palo Alto Unified School District's method of placing students in high school math classes violates state law and has ordered the district to submit a math placement policy for the court to review.

The district's high school math placement system doesn't comply with the Mathematics Placement Act of 2015, Judge Carrie Zepeda determined in an order filed Feb. 6. Palo Alto Unified was given 30 days to submit a math placement policy to the court, with a compliance hearing scheduled for March 13.

The order stems from a lawsuit parents filed in 2021, alleging that the school district's math placement process stops students from taking more advanced classes in violation of state law.

The judge agreed that the high school math system violates the Math Placement Act. The Math Placement Act creates rules only for high school math placement while leaving those requirements optional at the middle school level. The lawsuit also alleged that the district's math system disadvantages girls in violation of Title IX, but Zepeda ruled that there was insufficient evidence to support that claim.

The district's current set-up means that most kids start freshman year taking geometry, with some retaking Algebra 1, if deemed necessary. Students who pass a "skip test" in middle school

can accelerate to take Algebra 2/trigonometry as freshmen. The district's website also lists certain procedures for students to challenge their high school math placement.

The Math Placement Act requires districts to have a "multi-point, objective, fair and transparent placement process for all incoming ninth grade students." Zepeda ruled that Palo Alto Unified's current system doesn't meet that requirement.

Districts are required to take "multiple objective academic measures of pupil performance into account" when determining placement.

"The adopted math placement policy presented to the court by PAUSD has none of the objective academic measures required by the statute for proper math placement of ninth grade students," Zepeda wrote. "In practice, PAUSD does not use any objective academic measures to properly place incoming high school students in math classes."

She said that the placement policy is solely based on which class a student took in eighth grade.

The law also requires a "placement checkpoint" within the first month of school. According to Zepeda, Palo Alto currently gives a "readiness" test to figure out if students are prepared for their current class, but not whether that class is the right one for the student.

Zepeda ordered the district to

present a math placement policy to the court within 30 days; those who filed the suit will then be given 10 days to respond with any objections. The policy needs to meet various requirements, including having standardized assessments to determine placement, procedures and timelines for collecting and reporting math placement data to the school board, and procedures for students and parents to challenge a child's ninth grade math placement.

The judge also ruled that if a student completes a course that meets University of California entrance requirements in Algebra I, Geometry or Algebra II outside the district, that student can't be required to take another class at the same level in the district.

Reaction to the decision

The parents who filed the suit welcomed the judge's order, celebrating the changes that it may bring to the district's math system. Edith Cohen, the lead plaintiff on the suit, said that all four of her children experienced issues with the district's math placement process. Cohen said the system to advance in math is confusing and doesn't allow students ready for more difficult coursework to move ahead.

She called the decision "hugely important" and said that she hopes the judge's order will lead to changes in other districts with similar math systems.

The school district, for its part, attributed the issues the judge identified largely to a lack of clarity on the district's part about what its current policies entail.

"We can see that we could have done a better job of explaining and ensuring that the information regarding our ninth grade math policies were clear and accessible on our website," Assistant



Magali Gauthier

A teacher speaks to students at Gunn High School in Palo Alto on March 16, 2022.

Superintendent of Secondary Education Guillermo Lopez said.

The district has since redesigned the web page explaining the district's math program. Lopez also pointed to existing board policies on the topic, including Board Policy 6152.1, governing placements in math classes, and BP 6155, allowing high schoolers to take an exam to challenge taking a course.

Superintendent Don Austin also addressed the topic in his weekly email to families on Feb. 24, writing that the current system has students take Algebra I in eighth grade, a year ahead of many districts in the state.

"We believe that the PAUSD program provides a solid foundation for all students at an age-appropriate pace," Austin said.

Middle school math placement

The judge's order doesn't address the middle school math program, to which those backing the lawsuit also object.

The district redesigned its middle school math system in 2019, with the changes taking effect in the fall of 2020. The pilot program moves away from a "laned" structure, grouping students by ability level, to instead focus on having a shared sequence of classes that students move through together.

Students complete Algebra I in eighth grade so that they can begin geometry as freshman. Those who want to move faster can take a validation test at the end of fifth, sixth or seventh grade to skip the

following year's course, allowing them to take geometry in eighth grade. Students are only allowed to skip one grade level during middle school, according to the district's website.

Some parents have objected to the middle school skip tests, alleging that they are unnecessarily difficult, produce highly variable results and aren't transparent.

Cohen said that while the order doesn't force changes to the middle school system, she believes it will pressure the district to make changes, especially because it requires the district to report math placement data to the board.

"It will also shine a light on how senseless the whole thing that is happening before high school is," Cohen said.

Some parents spoke during the public comment portion of the school board's Feb. 28 meeting, urging the board to agendize the issue of middle school math.

Currently, 94 eighth graders have successfully skipped ahead to take geometry in eighth grade, representing about 12% of eighth graders, Austin told parents.

Proponents of de-laning middle school math note that the old system meant that sixth-graders had to pick a math pathway that would impact them throughout the rest of middle and high school.

Students mature a great deal throughout middle school, district board member Jesse Ladomirak said, adding that those three years are a "lifetime" for many kids.

"We were basically deciding where a kid was going to end up as a senior in high school when they were 11," Ladomirak said. "The new system gives those kids a chance to live that three year lifetime that happens at their own pace — to not be effectively penalized for taking a little bit longer to transition from early childhood."

Board President Jennifer DiBrienza added that middle school can be a difficult time for students and that the de-laned system allows students to be in classes with peers of the same age, who are in a similar place developmentally.

As of the Weekly's press deadline, the district had not yet filed its response to the judge's order. ■

Email Staff Writer Zoe Morgan at zmorgan@pawebly.com.



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Online This Week

These and other news stories were posted on Palo Alto Online throughout the week. For longer versions, go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com/news.

Audit reveals community college misspending

California's community colleges do not employ enough full-time faculty, and some districts are using state funds allocated for those faculty to instead hire part-time instructors, according to a newly released report from California's state auditor. (Posted March 1, 9:56 p.m.)

County seeks grant for farmworker housing

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors will seek a state grant to try to provide more housing options for farmworkers in the county, including those affected by January's mass shootings at two Half Moon Bay farms. (Posted March 1, 12:51 p.m.)

Newsom rescinds COVID state of emergency

Gov. Gavin Newsom formally rescinded California's COVID-19 state of emergency Tuesday, shifting the state's strategy around the virus from response to preventing and assuaging future surges. (Posted March 1, 9:12 a.m.)

Stanford receives \$1.35M climate grant

The Environmental Protection Agency announced \$5 million in grant funding Monday for California institutions researching the impacts of climate change on underserved communities, including \$1.35 million awarded to Stanford University. (Posted Feb. 28, 3:19 p.m.)

Trial paints picture of alleged killer

A defense witness painted a picture of a man obsessed with his work and intolerant of women in the trial of 30-year-old Francis Wolke, who is accused of murdering retired Atherton town arborist Kathy Hughes Anderson in 2018. (Posted Feb. 28, 1:39 p.m.)

Santa Clara wants to invest in child care

Santa Clara County is poised to invest millions in child care services and workforce development, with the Board of Supervisors on considering spending \$20 million to help fund FIRST 5 programs and establish a grant program to help reopen day care facilities. (Posted Feb. 28, 9:07 a.m.)

CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council (Feb. 27)

E-Bikes: The commission voted 5-2 to ban e-bikes on unpaved trails in open space preserves, including the Baylands. They also voted unanimously to have staff explore new rules to reduce speed limits for all bikes in open space preserves and to ban bikes on single-track trails in Arastradero.

Yes: Burt, Kou, Lauing, Stone, Veenker **No:** Lythcott-Haims, Tanaka

Board of Education (Feb. 28)

Employment: The board voted unanimously in closed session to reassign an unnamed employee to a teaching position for next school year, board President Jennifer DiBrienza announced when the board reconvened into open session.

Yes: Unanimous

Finance: The board unanimously approved a resolution authorizing district staff to refinance previously issued general obligation bonds. The authorization will be active for 90 days. Whether the bonds are actually refinanced will depend on whether interest rates are favorable during that time period, district administrators said. **Yes:** Unanimous

Election: The board unanimously approved voting for six candidates for the California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly.

Yes: Unanimous

Utilities Advisory Commission (March 1)

Financial plans: The commission recommended approval of the water, wastewater and electricity financial plans. **Yes:** Unanimous

Gas: The commission recommended approval of the financial plan for the gas utility and supported the alternative that would transfer 15.5% of the utility's gross revenue to the general fund. **Yes:** Bowie, Forssell, Johnston, Scharff, Segal, Smith **No:** Metz

Looking for the Public Agenda? It's on page 32 of this edition.



The City of Palo Alto Utilities and Ride and Drive Clean are offering a discount campaign on e-Bikes this March, featuring discounts on e-Bikes at Palo Alto Bicycles. Limited inventory and first-come, first-served. Sign up now! Scan the QR code at right to sign up or email us at UtilityPrograms@cityofpaloalto.org to learn more.



CITY OF PALO ALTO UTILITIES



The City of Palo Alto Utilities and Ride and Drive Clean are offering a discount campaign on EVs this March, featuring below-market prices on several new electric cars through Cartelligent. Limited inventory and first-come, first-served. Sign up now! Scan the QR code at right or email us at UtilityPrograms@cityofpaloalto.org to learn more.



CITY OF PALO ALTO UTILITIES



UTILITIES

Palo Alto utilities customers could soon see \$17 a month increase

New financial plans indicate water, wastewater and gas rates will increase in July

By Gennady Sheyner

With gas prices falling and reservoirs replenishing after recent storms, Palo Alto's leaders hope the type of skyrocketing rates that residents have experienced over the past two months will be an aberration, not a norm.

At the same time, utility customers in Palo Alto should expect to see gradual increases in most rates come July, thanks to high commodity costs and the Utility Department's ongoing efforts to refill its depleted financial reserves and upgrade aged infrastructure.

According to the city's new financial plans, the gas, water and wastewater utilities are all expected to see rate increases in July, when fiscal year 2024 begins. Collectively, all the rate changes are expected to add about \$17 to the average monthly bill, which in 2023 amounted to \$369, according to a presentation that the city's Utilities Advisory Commission saw on Wednesday night.

While high gas bills have been common lately thanks to colossal increases in commodity costs in January and February, the new fi-

ancial plans suggest that changes to water rates will have the highest impact on utility bills in fiscal year 2024. Palo Alto's long-term plan shows a 7% increase in water rates in 2024, followed by three consecutive 3% increases in the following three years. This means the median monthly residential water bill is expected to increase by \$6.90 in July.

The water rate hike is driven in part by infrastructural improvements undertaken by the city's supplier, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), and in part by local efforts to upgrade and maintain the distribution system. The SFPUC is now in the final stages of completing its massive, \$4.8-billion project known as Water System Improvement Program (WISP), which entails 52 infrastructure projects around the region focused on boosting seismic safety for the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System.

Palo Alto is one of more than two dozen cities that get its water through Hetch Hetchy and, as such, is responsible for its share of payments for the infrastructure

improvements and the debt service costs.

"This has resulted and will continue to result in large increases in the annual debt service costs assigned to wholesale customers like Palo Alto," a report from Lisa Bilir, senior resource planner at the Utilities Department states.

Another major component of the water rate increase is the escalation in distribution costs, which includes the costs of paying for main replacements and performing seismic upgrades at two local reservoirs. While the city plans to tap into the water utility's reserves to avoid a higher rate escalation, the combination of growing costs and decreasing water sales (thanks to local conservation efforts) are prompting the city to seek higher rates.

Wastewater bills will also continue to rise, thanks to the colossal effort by Palo Alto and its partner cities to upgrade the Regional Water Quality Control Plant. On wastewater bills, customers can expect a series of cumulative 9% increase between 2024 and 2028, which will push the average resi-

dential bill from the current level of \$44.62 to \$48.64 in 2024 and, ultimately, to \$65.53 by 2028.

The Utility Department's new plans also show an 8% increase in gas rates, which would add \$5.20 to the median residential bill. That change, however, assumes that supply costs will remain steady between 2023 and 2024. Because utilities staff are forecasting that the city's cost of buying gas could in fact drop by about 36% from the sky-high levels of this past winter, local bills could decrease by 13% in the next year, according to staff projections.

Jonathan Abendschein, assistant director in the Utilities Department, said Wednesday that the recent quotes that the city has been getting from the gas markets show no indication that the market prices will reach a level similar to this past winter. He warned, however, that the projections can change.

Electricity bills, which also spiked during the last year, should remain relatively unchanged, according to Utilities Department staff. The city plans to slash in half the "electro rate hydro adjuster," a charge that it tacked on to bills last year to account for the drought's impact on the city's hydroelectric sources.

But while such a change would normally lead to lower bills, the department is also looking to raise the "base rate" by 14%, leaving bills more or less at the level where they are now.

The Utilities Advisory Commission endorsed the financial plans for all four utilities at its Wednesday meeting. The commission also supported a proposal to lower the amount of revenues that the city would transfer from its gas utility to its general fund in the coming year. While Measure L, which voters approved in November, authorizes the City Council to move 18% of gross revenues from the gas utility to the general fund, which pays for most basic services, the new proposal would limit the transfer to 15.5%.

That reduction, according to staff, obviates the need for a higher gas rate increase. If the city transfers 18% of the gas revenues, it would need to raise rates by 9% and 10% in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, respectively. With 15.5%, the increases in the two years would be 8% and 7%.

Commissioner Phil Metz was the only member of the commission who voted against the gas financial plan because it proposed transferring money from the distribution fund (which supports the system's operation) to pay for high commodity costs. The financial plans for the water, wastewater and electricity plans all received the commission's unanimous endorsement and will now go to the City Council's Finance Committee for review before moving on to the full council. ■

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly.com.



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Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

POLICE CALLS

Palo Alto

Feb. 11-24

Violence related

300 block University Avenue, 2/10,

10:35 a.m.; battery

3600 block El Camino Real, 2/11,

11:53 a.m.; battery

700 block Loma Verde Avenue, 2/11,

2:29 p.m.; battery

1100 block Welch Road, 2/12, 4:09 a.m.;

battery on emergency personnel

1100 block Welch Road, 2/12, 6:38 a.m.;

battery on emergency personnel

Fabian Way, 2/12, 11:17 a.m.; battery

4100 block El Camino Real, 2/12,

8:15 p.m.; assault on firefighter

Embarcadero Road, 2/12, 9:25 p.m.;

unlawful sexual intercourse w/ minor

3300 block Thomas Drive, 2/19,

5:37 p.m.; assault w/ deadly weapon

Theft related

Burglary 5

Credit card forgery 3

Embezzlement 1

Fraud 3

Grand theft 8

Identity theft 3

Petty theft 6

Shoplifting 10

Theft undefined 2

Vehicle related

Display unlawful registration 6

Driving w/ suspended license 2

Hit and run 4

Parking/driving violation 4

Theft from auto 13

Theft of vehicle parts 6

Vehicle accident/injury 3

Vehicle accident/no injury 5

Alcohol or drug related

Driving under influence 2

Drunk in public 1

Possession of drugs 3

Miscellaneous

APS referral 1

Court order violation 2

Disorderly conduct 4

Disturbance/annoying phone calls 1

False report of emergency 1

Found property 8

Located missing person 3

Lost property 2

Medical aid 1

Mental health evaluation 6

Non-consensual distribution of intimate images 1

Outside warrant arrest 5

Property for destruction 1

Public nuisance 3

Stalking 1

Suspicious circumstances 9

Trespassing 1

Vandalism 4

Menlo Park

Feb. 21-28

Violence related

1100 block Merrill Street, 2/24, 7:54 p.m.;

child abuse

1200 block Willow Road, 2/25, 6:11 p.m.;

robbery

700 block Laurel Street, 2/28, 1:33 p.m.;

battery

Theft related

Burglary 4

Grand theft 4

Petty theft 6

Vehicle related

Auto recovery 1

Auto theft 1

Bicycle theft 1

Driving w/ suspended license 1

Hit and run 2

Stolen catalytic converter 2

Theft from auto 1

Vehicle accident/injury 1

Vehicle accident/no injury 2

Vehicle tow 1

Alcohol or drug related

Drug activity 1

OBITUARIES

A list of local residents who died recently:

John Merrill Dorman, 81, a longtime resident of Menlo Park who worked at the Cowell Student Health Center at Stanford University and edited the Journal of American College Health, died on Feb. 26; **Gertrude Marie Goodale**, 99, a fine artist and longtime resident of Atherton, died on Feb. 24; **Nancy Margaret Snideman**, 80, a former resident of Menlo Park who was known for her volunteer work with seniors and disabled people, died on Feb. 18; **Edith Maxine Frost**, 89, a longtime resident of Mountain View who served as president of the Mid-Peninsula Widows and Widowers Association, died on Feb. 14; **Denise Lynn**

Bernadette Haley, 69, a former resident of Redwood City who taught poetry and French, died on Feb. 11; **Wilbur Erskine Mattison Jr.**, 100, a former resident of Menlo Park who worked at the Menlo Medical Clinic and was a professor of medicine at Stanford, died on Feb. 9; **Helen Sweyer**, 98, a longtime resident of Woodside who founded the Save Rural Woodside organization, died on Feb. 8; **Rodger Scott Rickard**, 90, a longtime resident of Woodside who coached basketball and tennis at Stanford University and helped found the Positive Coaching Alliance, died on Feb. 8.

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

Miscellaneous

APS Referral 1

Coroner case 1

Disturbance 2

Located missing person 1

Lost property 1

Mental health evaluation 1

Vandalism 2

Warrant arrest 2

Bob Rosenberg

1949 – 2023

Bob was universally described as having a ready smile and happy eyes that made the people around him feel seen and loved. A kind soul who was generous with his time, knowledge, and resources, he was unwaveringly patient and steadfastly positive.



Bob lived with lymphoma for the past five years. He was cancer free when he died of a lung infection at Stanford Hospital on January 16th, 2023. He was brave and courageous throughout numerous treatments, maintaining an incredibly positive attitude and deep faith in his medical team all while sharing his journey through his honest, eloquent writing. He was truly an inspiration.

Born in New Rochelle, New York in 1949, Bob was a graduate of Cheshire Academy and Pace University. He left the bitter winters of New York in 1974 in search of sunshine and love. He found both in California, the very day he arrived in San Francisco, at the Renaissance Faire in Novato whereby fate and fortune he met the love of his life, Claudette Bergman. They married in 1978 and raised two incredible children. Summers were spent in Tahoe with family and dear friends. Spring and Falls were spent making memories in Carmel and Oregon. Winters were spent in basketball gyms!

Nothing brought more joy to Bob than attending his son and daughter's basketball and volleyball games. More recently, he was the number one fan of his grandchildren's basketball and water polo games. He cheered on his granddaughter's team at their CIF NorCal quarterfinal water polo game on November 15th, 2022, which would be his last game to attend.

His sports fandom expanded beyond family pursuits. He and Claudette were Stanford men's and women's basketball, and women's volleyball fans for decades.

Bob founded Gr8work Builders in 1977 and enjoyed a long career as a contractor helping people create their dream homes. He was an active member of P.E.A. and NARI, serving as president for both organizations. He first volunteered as a firefighter in 1974 with the La Honda Fire Brigade and was chief of the L.H.F.B. for sixteen years. He was a construction captain for Rebuilding Together for twenty years. Bob devoted hundreds of hours to these organizations and was awarded the Mid-Pen Media Center's "Local Hero" award in 2019. San Mateo County recognized Bob in 1991 in a resolution honoring him for years of service to the community.

Predeceased by parents, William and Jeanette Rosenberg; sister, Carol Rosenberg; grandson, Quinn Rosenberg; son-in-law, Kevin Gillett; in-laws Claude and Marion Bergman; brother-in-law, Russ Vanderhurst.

Survived and loved by his caring wife, Claudette; sister, Amy Farrell (Chris); brother, Fred Rosenberg (Vicky); son, Shanan (Sarah); daughter, Erin Gillett. Baba to five amazing and beloved grandchildren: Paedrin and Kingsley Gillett, and Walt, Clyde, and Gus Rosenberg. Uncle Bob to six nieces and nephews. He is forever loved by his constant and adoring four-legged companions, Mina and Ziggy.

If you'd like to make a donation in Bob's name, please consider stjude.org, rebuildingtogether.org, or greenfoothills.org. A memorial service and reception will be held on March 31st. For more information visit crippenflynn.com

PAID OBITUARY

Eleanor Ross Crary

May 2, 1928 – December 24, 2022

Eleanor Ross Crary, resident of Portola Valley, passed away peacefully on Christmas Eve, at the age of 94, after a lengthy time of failing health.

Eleanor was born in San Francisco on May 2, 1928 to Ruth Carson and Charles J. (Jud) Crary. Her father, a Palo Alto banker, was famed for giving the young Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard their first loan after a brief meeting. A handshake sealed the deal. Her mother, Ruth, was the granddaughter of John D. Daly, well known Peninsula dairy owner and businessman. Eleanor was proud that after the 1906 Earthquake, he delivered milk to the children of San Francisco and opened his ranch to those left homeless. His ranch became Daly City.

The Crary family settled in Palo Alto, then a small college town of 13,000. Eleanor was the youngest of the five Crary children. The family lived in a white colonial house on Coleridge Street, just a block from Walter Hayes School, where Eleanor spent her elementary years before going to Palo Alto High School.

Her summers were spent at the redwood cabin in Woodside that her parents had built on Old Honda Road, back when it was still unpaved. Her childhood summers were a time of great joy and freedom, of riding her horse and swimming in nearby Searsville Lake each day, in lieu of a shower, when the springs ran dry. Those summer days cultivated a lifelong passion for nature, Redwoods, native plants and conservation.

Shortly after graduating from high school, Eleanor followed two of her older sisters, and brother to Europe to join Moral Re-Armament (MRA.) Her beautiful singing voice and musical talent were put to good use directing choruses and performing in musicals. She loved her years abroad, which included stays in Germany, Switzerland, England and Kashmir, just after the India and Pakistan partition. She relished the opportunity to meet and live with friends of diverse nationalities.

In the early 60's, Eleanor returned to Palo Alto,

taking a job at the Stanford bookstore. A colleague, noticing Eleanor's intelligence and love of learning, urged her to go to college. So, in her late thirties, she enrolled at UC Berkeley completing a B.A. in History in 1970 (Phi Beta Kappa) and her M.A. in Library Science in 1971.

She was quickly hired by the Alameda County Public Library system as a library administrator where she enjoyed working for many years until her retirement. There she met her lifelong companion, fellow librarian, Luanne Gilbert. They shared many interests including literature, music, and especially the natural world. Their love of travel took them up and down California, to the south of France, to Baja California and the Southwest — to any place where wildflowers were in bloom. High in the Berkeley hills, they planted a beautiful sunny garden filled with Mediterranean and California native plants.

Eleanor shared her passion for native plants and her administrative skills by volunteering as a docent at the UC Botanical Garden for 17 years beginning in 1971. She maintained a strong interest in and supported many environmental and social causes. Eleanor loved her fifty years in Berkeley, especially the diversity, the prolific classical music, and the great restaurants.

In 2010, Eleanor moved to the Sequoias in Portola Valley where her sister Jean and husband Dr. Bill Clark, lived. She settled into the peaceful atmosphere of the Sequoias, just four miles from the redwood cabin of her youth.

Eleanor will be remembered by her family and friends for her keen intellect, enthusiasm and often wicked sense of humor.

She is survived by her nephew Bruce Clark and his wife Deborah Clark of Novato, CA; niece Carolyn Clark Clebsch and her husband Bill Clebsch of Boulder, CO; nephews John and Kent Nowell of London, UK; nine grand-nieces and nephews; and twelve great-grand nieces and nephews.

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Illustration by Julie A. Hotz for CalMatters

RACE TO ZERO

Can California's power grid handle a 15-fold increase in electric cars?

By Nadia Lopez

IN SUMMARY

Despite expecting 12.5 million electric cars by 2035, California officials insist that the grid can provide enough electricity. But that's based on multiple assumptions — including building solar and wind at almost five times the pace of the past decade — that may not be realistic.

As California rapidly boosts sales of electric cars and trucks over the next decade, the answer to a critical question remains uncertain: Will there be enough electricity to power them?

State officials claim that the 12.5 million electric vehicles expected on California's roads in 2035 will not strain the grid. But their confidence that the state can avoid brownouts relies on a best-case — some say unrealistic — scenario: massive and rapid construction of offshore wind and solar farms, and drivers charging their cars in off-peak hours.

Under a groundbreaking new state regulation, 35% of new 2026 car models sold in California must be zero-emissions, ramping up to 100% in 2035. Powering these vehicles and electrifying other sectors of the economy means the state must triple its power generation capacity and deploy new solar and wind energy at almost five times the pace of the past decade.

The Air Resources Board

enacted the mandate last August — and just six days later, California's power grid was so taxed by heat waves that an unprecedented, 10-day emergency alert warned residents to cut electricity use or face outages. The juxtaposition of the mandate and the grid crisis sparked widespread skepticism: How can the state require Californians to buy electric cars if the grid couldn't even supply enough power to make it through the summer?

At the same time as electrifying cars and trucks, California must, under state law, shift all of its power to renewables by 2045. Adding even more pressure, the state's last nuclear power plant, Diablo Canyon, is slated to shut down in 2030.

With 15 times more electric cars expected on California's roads by 2035, the amount of power they consume will grow exponentially. But the California Energy Commission says it will remain a small fraction of all the power used during peak hours — jumping from 1% in 2022 to 5% in 2030 and 10% in 2035.

"We have confidence now" that electricity will meet future demand "and we're able to plan for it," said Quentin Gee, a California Energy Commission supervisor who forecasts transportation energy demand.

But in setting those projections, the state agencies responsible for providing electricity — the California Energy Commission, the California

Independent System Operator and the California Public Utilities Commission — and utility companies are relying on multiple assumptions that are highly uncertain.

"We're going to have to expand the grid at a radically much faster rate," said David Victor, a professor and co-director of the Deep Decarbonization Initiative at UC San Diego. "This is plausible if the right policies are in place, but it's not guaranteed. It's best-case."

Yet the Energy Commission has not yet developed such policies or plans, drawing intense criticism from energy experts and legislators. Failing to provide enough power quickly enough could jeopardize California's clean-car mandate — thwarting its efforts to combat climate change and clean up its smoggy air.

"We are not yet on track. If we just take a laissez-faire approach with the market, then we will not get there," said Sascha von Meier, a retired UC Berkeley electrical engineering professor who specializes in power grids. The state, she said, is moving too slowly to fix the obstacles in siting new clean energy plants and transmission lines.

"Planning and permitting is very urgent," she said.

The twin goals of ramping up zero-emission vehicle sales and achieving a carbon-free future can only be accomplished, Victor said, if several factors align: Drivers must avoid charging cars during evening hours when less solar energy is available. More

'What you're saying to me is "We're working on it, and we have no idea when we will make the system better." ... It's very concerning.'

—PHIL TING,
CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY MEMBER,
SAN MATEO COUNTY

than a million new charging stations must be operating. And offshore wind farms — non-existent in California today — must rapidly crank out a lot of energy.

To provide enough electricity to meet total demand, California must:

- Convince drivers to charge their cars during off-peak hours: With new discounted rates, utilities are urging residents to avoid charging their cars between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. But many people don't have unrestricted access to chargers at their jobs or homes.
- Build solar and wind facilities at an unprecedented pace: Shifting to all renewables requires at least 6 gigawatts of new resources a year for the next 25 years — a pace that's never been met before.

- Develop a giant new industry: State officials predict that offshore wind farms will provide enough power for about 1.5 million homes by 2030 and 25 million homes by 2045. But no such projects are in the works yet. Planning them, obtaining an array of permits and construction could take at least seven to eight years.
- Build 15 times more public chargers: About 1.2 million chargers will be needed for the 8 million electric cars expected in California by 2030. Currently, about 80,000 public chargers operate statewide, with another estimated 17,000 on the way, according to state data.

(continued on page 16)

Race to zero

(continued from page 15)

- Expand vehicle-to-grid technology: State officials hope electric cars will send energy back to the grid when electricity is in high demand, but the technology is new and has not been tested in electric cars.
- Increase electricity production by up to 42% in 2035 and, under a recent scenario, as much as 85% in 2045, according to California Energy Commission estimates. Generation capacity — the maximum that must be installed to meet demand throughout a given year — would need to triple by 2045.

Day and night charging

Climate change has already stressed California's energy grid, especially during hot summer months when residents crank up air conditioners in the late afternoon and early evening.

Providing electricity during those hot summer evenings — when people use the most — will be a challenge, said Gee of the California Energy Commission.

"That's what we're particularly concerned about," he said. "We have enough electricity to support consumption the vast majority of the time. It's when we have those peak hours during those tough months."

The total electricity consumed by Californians is expected to surge by 96% between 2020 and 2045, while net demand during peak hours is projected to increase 60%, according to a study commissioned by



Magali Gauthier

Wendy Zhao, head of growth at Ford Pro Charging, speaks to Gov. Gavin Newsom before he plugs a charger into an electric Mustang Mach-E SUV in the parking lot outside the Ford Greenfield Labs in Palo Alto on Jan. 26, 2022.

San Diego Gas & Electric.

Southern California Edison worries that if drivers charge during late summer afternoons, electric vehicles could strain the grid, said Brian Stonerock, the utility's director of business planning and technology. Edison's service area includes the desert, where customers rely on air conditioning, and their peak use times are when solar power is less available as the sun goes down.

Concerns about the grid "are quite a big deal for us," he said. "We don't want people to be confused or lose confidence that the utility is going to be able to meet their needs."

For many drivers, charging during the day or late at night is

not a problem: Most electric cars have chargers that can be automatically turned on after 9 p.m. But for some drivers, especially those who live in apartments or condominiums, charging during those hours may not be an option.

That's because — unlike filling a gas tank — charging an electric car takes much longer. Drivers may not have a reliable place to park their cars for long periods of time during the day while they work or late at night when they're home. To encourage daytime charging, Victor said the state must drastically boost the number of fast chargers and workplace stations.

Fast chargers — like the Tesla superchargers available at some

public spots — can juice up a battery to 80% within 20 minutes to an hour. But most chargers are a lot slower: A level one charger, often supplied by manufacturers, could take between 40 to 50 hours to fully charge an empty battery. An upgraded, level two charger can take four to 10 hours, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"A lot of the increase in demand is going to come from electrifying transportation and it's really going to hinge on when people charge. That's a behavioral and technological question that we really don't know the answers to," Victor said.

The California Public Utilities Commission in 2015 ordered state's investor-owned utilities — San Diego Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas & Electric — to transition its residential customers to rate plans that offer lower pricing during off-peak hours.

For instance, in the summer when energy is the most expensive, PG&E customers pay about 55 cents per kilowatt-hour during peak hours, more than double the 24 cents during off-peak times, according to PG&E spokesperson Paul Doherty.

These time-of-use rates have been a "highly successful" strategy, Doherty said. Most PG&E customers take advantage of the lower pricing: On average, between 60% to 70% of electric vehicles in PG&E's service area are charged during non-peak hours.

But not all state leaders are convinced that discounts alone will convince electric car owners to lay off charging in evenings.

"Moving forward into the future, it seems to me that the strategy is putting more and more stress and responsibility on the customer," Assemblymember Vince Fong, a Republican from Bakersfield, told state agencies at a joint legislative hearing in November. "You've got

an electricity grid that is leaning on customers to do more, instead of, actually, as a state, generating the power we need to keep the lights on."

For PG&E customers, charging an electric vehicle when rates are lowest — between midnight and 3 p.m. — is roughly equivalent to paying about \$2 for a gallon of gas, Doherty said. But as rates keep rising, charging a car could cost more than filling a gas tank.

"The cost of electricity is trending so high that it represents a threat to California meeting its goals," said Mark Toney, executive director of the advocacy group Utility Reform Network.

A rush to replace natural gas and nuclear plants

California will soon lose major sources of electricity: the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant and at least four coastal natural gas plants. Combined, nuclear power and natural gas provide nearly half of the total electricity consumed in California.

To replace them, the state Public Utilities Commission has ordered utilities by 2026 to procure 11.5 gigawatts of new renewable energy resources, or enough to power 2.5 million homes.

A new state mandate requires 60% of California's power supply to come from renewables by 2030 — nearly double the amount of 2022.

And by 2045, solar and wind combined must quadruple, according to the California Energy Commission. That's about 69 gigawatts from large-scale solar farms, up from 12.5 gigawatts, plus triple the amount of rooftop solar and double the amount of onshore wind power.

California's target to build at least 6 gigawatts of solar and wind energy and battery storage a year for the next 25 years is daunting, given that in the past decade, it's built on average just 1 gigawatt of utility solar and 0.3 gigawatt of wind per year. In the past three years, the pace sped up, with more than 4 gigawatts added annually, state data shows.

Solar farms face big obstacles: insufficient materials for energy-storing batteries and a need for more transmission lines, especially in the Central Valley, a prime place for solar, said Shannon Eddy, executive director of the Large-scale Solar Association.

There's also some "not-in-my-backyard" pushback in the desert and other rural communities. San Bernardino County outlawed solar farms on more than a million acres, and two projects were rejected in Lake and Humboldt counties.

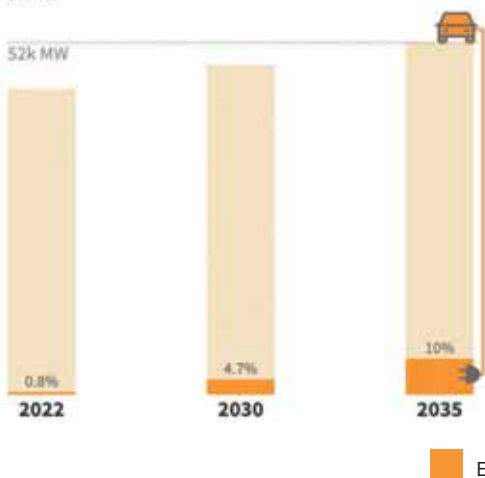
To speed clean energy projects, Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Legislature enacted a controversial new law allowing state agencies to usurp control from local governments for siting solar, wind and some battery backup projects.

How will more electric cars affect California's grid?

More electric vehicles means more strain on the grid, but the state Energy Commission projects that they still will use a small fraction of California's total electricity.

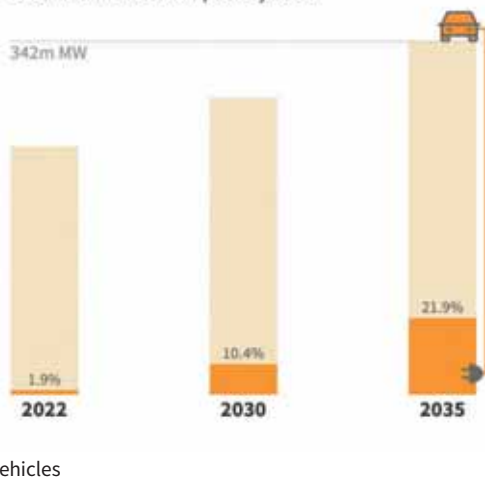
⚡ Peak hours

The grid is most stressed at **peak hours** — on hot summer evenings when demand is high and less solar energy is available. Based on the state's modeling for future years, officials expect electric vehicles by 2035 will account for about 10% of the total system hour load — how much electricity utilities need to provide — during those peak times.



📅 Annually

Annual consumption also is important to track. That's because rates that encourage charging during off-peak hours will mean that the percentage of total power that electric vehicles use annually will be considerably larger than the percentage for just peak hours. The state projects that electric vehicles will account for almost 22% of baseline annual consumption by 2035.



Graphic by Erica Yee/CalMatters

Alex Breckel of the Clean Air Task Force, an environmental advocacy group, said the state's clean-power goals are achievable. Still, he said, new generation, energy storage, distribution systems and transmission lines will take substantial time to deploy.

The state must ensure that the transition to clean electricity protects the environment, is affordable and equitable, and avoids delays and siting issues, Breckel said. That's why California needs a robust clean energy deployment plan and to assign a lead agency rather than relying on piecemeal strategies, he said.

"Is the state on track to achieve its clean energy goals? Right now, there's no one who can give you a definitive answer. More transparency on a plan that goes from here to there every year where we can track progress will really help answer that question," Breckel said.

Several lawmakers say the state isn't moving fast enough.

Assemblymember Phil Ting, a Democrat from San Mateo County, lambasted state agencies at the November hearing, saying they have no clear way to speed up new clean energy projects.

"What you're saying to me is 'We're working on it, and we have no idea when we will make the system better' and there's nothing that you're telling me that we could do as a state to make improvements," he said. "Your answer is absolutely not appropriate. ... It's very concerning."

Ting expressed frustration that state leaders were "going backwards" by extending the lifespan of Diablo Canyon to 2030 and some fossil fuel plants. Fearing emergency brownouts like those that hit the state in 2020, Newsom and the Legislature last summer allowed some natural gas plants that were supposed to go offline this year to keep operating past 2023, and perhaps much longer.

Offshore wind farms 'offer the promise of a lot of clean energy at the time of day and season when we need it most.'

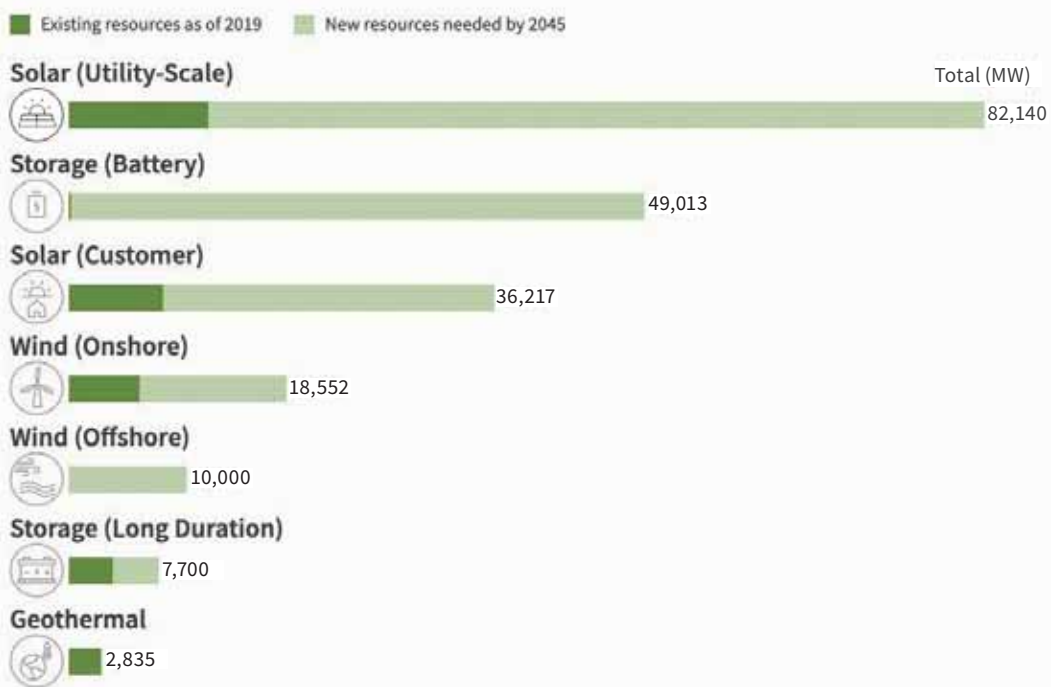
—ADAM STERN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
OFFSHORE WIND
CALIFORNIA

Assemblymember Luz Rivas, a Democrat from the San Fernando Valley, said low-income communities near the gas plants will continue to suffer the most if the state keeps extending their retirement dates.

"We can't forget about the costs

California needs three times more power capacity to reach 100% clean energy by 2045

An initial analysis suggests the goal is technically feasible but only with a sustained high pace of construction: 6 GW annually for the next 25 years. Over the last decade, the state has built on average 1 GW of utility solar and 0.3 GW of wind per year.



Graphic by Erica Yee/CalMatters

Although the state has existing hydroelectric generation, nuclear, and biomass resources, they are not included in this chart because no new buildouts of those technologies are included in the state's model. The model assumes some existing natural gas capacity will be retained for cost and reliability reasons during the transition to clean energy. Source: 2021 SB 100 Joint Agency Report, Energy Commission.

that low-income communities like mine will bear from this," Rivas said. She said "many disadvantaged communities across the state bear the brunt of impacts" of pollution from fossil fuels and climate change's extreme heat.

Siva Gunda, a member of the California Energy Commission, acknowledged that the state "needs to do better to make sure we are on course to retire the fossil-fuel generation and not burdening communities."

Gunda said the commission will have a report for legislators later this year. "You're absolutely right that we need a long-term strategy for making sure we can get through the peaks with clean resources," he told legislators.

Hinging hopes on wind farms

California is betting on giant wind farms in the ocean to strengthen the grid and meet its renewable energy goals.

The state's ambitious offshore wind targets build off President Joe Biden's 2021 pledge to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind nationally by 2030. Newsom hopes to add between 2 to 5 gigawatts of offshore wind off California's coasts by 2030. Ultimately the state aims to produce at least 25 gigawatts from offshore wind by 2045 — the boldest commitment any state has made. That could supply electricity for 25 million homes.

Last Dec. 6 was a historic day:

The first-ever auction of wind leases in waters off California was held, with 43 companies leasing 583 square miles in five areas off Morro Bay and Humboldt County. These deep ocean waters have the potential to produce more than 4.5 gigawatts, enough to power about 1.5 million homes.

That sounds promising, but the state is hinging its hopes on an emerging sector that doesn't yet exist in California — and vast regulatory and technological hurdles lie ahead.

California will need expanded ports, and developers must first submit detailed plans about a project's cost and scale before facing extensive environmental reviews.

Adam Stern, executive director of the industry group Offshore Wind California and former executive director of the Palo Alto environmental nonprofit Acterra, said the planning and regulatory process alone could take five to six years. Installing the massive turbines — with blades bigger than a football field — and constructing transmission lines and an onshore production plant would take another two to three years, Stern said.

"It's a huge challenge," Stern said. "It's going to require a lot of coordination and a lot of investment and a lot of collaboration across different types of stakeholders, government industry, non-governmental organizations and labor unions."

Current offshore wind turbines off the East Coast are fixed to the ocean floor in shallow waters. But

California's turbines would be the first in the nation to float on platforms anchored by cables in waters reaching about half a mile deep.

This new technology won't be cheap. The cost of producing the energy averages about \$84 per megawatt-hour, more than most other sources of energy, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Still, offshore wind's potential is huge. Wind power tends to be stronger in the ocean than on land, making it valuable during times when renewables like traditional wind and solar can't produce enough energy. Winds off the coast are also strongest in the late afternoon and evening, which is exactly when — particularly in the summer — electricity demand surges.

Offshore wind farms "offer the promise of a lot of clean energy at the time of day and season when we need it most," Stern said. "Even as hard as this is going to be, I have a lot of optimism that we can pull it off."

A million chargers and vehicle-to-grid technology

As electric cars surge, so will demand for public chargers. California has about 838,000 electric cars and plug-in hybrids. By 2030, about 1.2 million chargers will be needed for 8 million vehicles, according to a state report. Currently, only about 80,000 public chargers have been installed statewide, with another 17,000 on

the way, according to state data. The goal is 250,000 by 2025.

Mostly, private companies are responsible for installing them, although state grants help. A standard level 2 charger could cost between \$7,000 to \$11,000, while direct fast charging costs about \$100,000 to \$120,000 each, according to the California Energy Commission.

California is deploying new chargers with funds from a \$8.9 billion investment for electric vehicle incentives from this year's budget. Those dollars are being used for 170,000 new chargers.

In addition, California also received \$384 million in federal funding this past year to help it construct a 6,600-mile statewide charging network and deploy 1.2 million chargers by 2030, according to the California Energy Commission.

"Every major automaker in the world is now making electric vehicles and we need to make it possible to charge everywhere in the state for everyone," said David Hochschild, who chairs the California Energy Commission.

Securing the stability of the grid also requires a huge investment in energy storage, which can help provide energy during peak demand times. One method is called vehicle-to-grid integration, where energy can be reabsorbed by the grid when the vehicle is parked.

So far, the only projects that exist in California are for buses. San Diego Gas & Electric and a battery company deployed a first-of-its kind project with buses that have battery capacity five times greater than an electric car's.

The technology is still in the early stages, has not been tested with other electric vehicles and it's unclear when it will be ready.

Rajit Gadh, director of UCLA's Smart Grid Energy Research Center, said challenges exist.

Some car owners may not want to use the technology because they worry that it could affect their car battery's life. While studies have not reported battery damage, convincing consumers could be a slow, difficult process, he said. Utilities will have to sway them with cheaper rates and other incentives for it to work.

As with many of the problems related to energy and electric vehicles, "It's a matter of time, education, awareness and incentives," Gadh said. ■

Nadia Lopez covers environmental policy issues for CalMatters, a nonprofit and nonpartisan news organization bringing Californians stories that probe, explain and explore solutions to quality of life issues while holding leaders accountable. Email her at nadia@calmatters.org.

About the cover: California expects to rapidly boost sales of electric cars over the next decade, but will there be enough electricity to power them? Images courtesy Getty Images. Cover design by Douglas Young.



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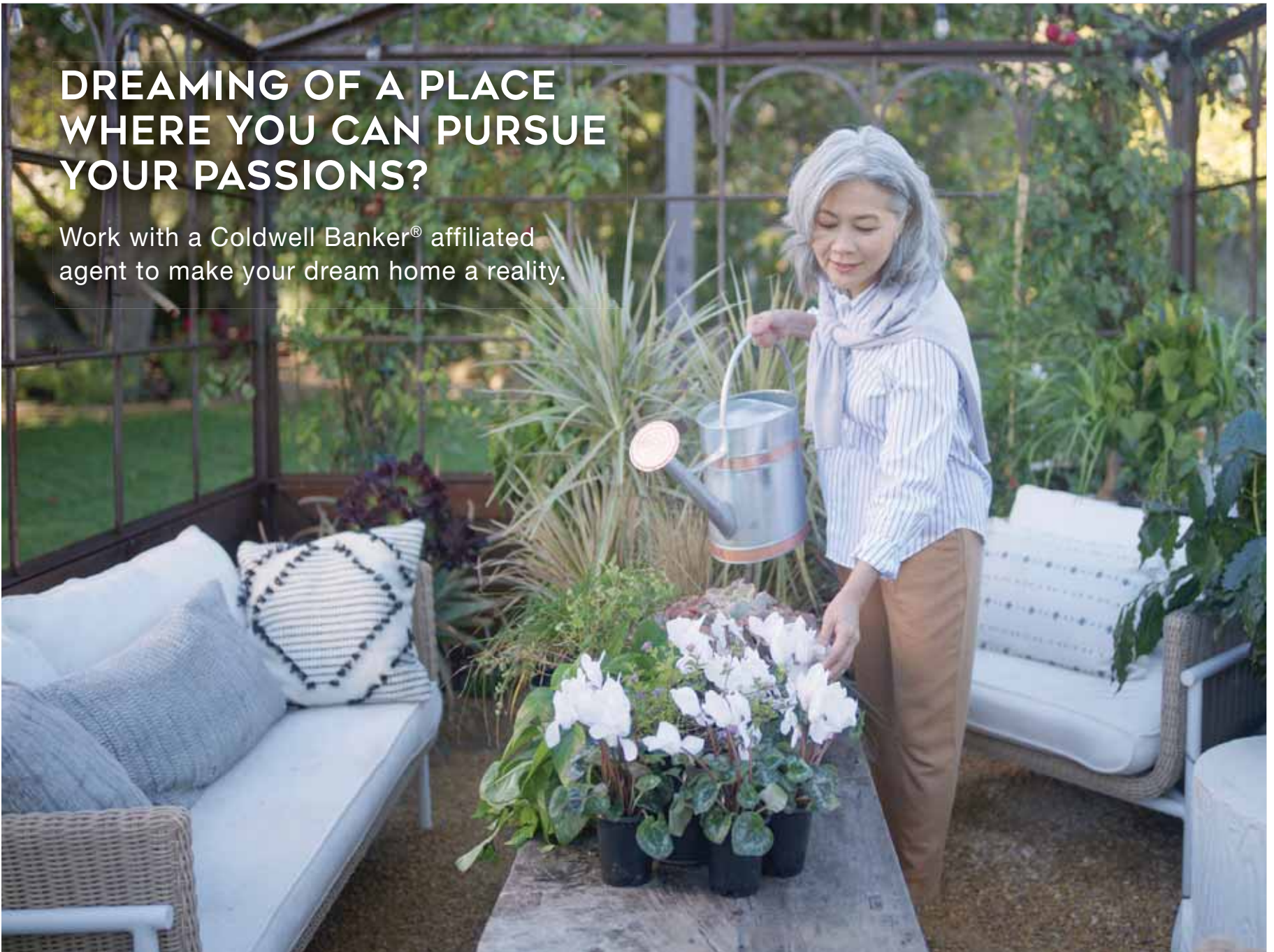
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Arts & Entertainment

A weekly guide to music, theater, art, culture, books and more, edited by Heather Zimmerman

Atherton duo offers art classes, workshops through The Joy of Drawing

Nonprofit emphasizes that anyone can learn to draw

By Grace Doerfler

For Anne Syer, taking art classes through The Joy of Drawing was a bright spot in life when the pandemic began in 2020.

Syer, 81, of Davis, began learning to draw in online classes with art teacher Caroline Mustard as a COVID-era distraction, an antidote to the isolation and loneliness of the lockdowns.

"It was the blessing of that whole time for me," Syer said. "It kept me sane, to have something wonderful to look forward to."

She's stayed active in drawing classes from the Atherton-based nonprofit ever since, attending a mix of online classes and in-person sketch walks.

The Joy of Drawing is run by Caroline Mustard and Katy Lea, two women who grew up and attended art school in Britain. They are now committed to spreading their love of art through online classes and in-person events around the Peninsula.

For Mustard, it comes as no surprise that students find community and purpose in art classes.

"Drawing is more than just a technical skill," she said. "It's a way to connect, to be in the moment, and it's very meditative."

She and her cofounder Lea said their classes are meant to be accessible to anyone, regardless of experience.

"It doesn't matter who you are," Mustard said. "Our method of teaching, we say, no pressure, no judgment — just joy."

Mustard has been teaching online art classes for 10 years, showing her students how to use both

art apps on iPads and how to draw with conventional paper and pencils. She and Lea started The Joy of Drawing together in 2018.

Mustard said that many of her students still opt for online classes even as pandemic restrictions have waned: Zoom enables her to show students techniques up close, even more so than in a conventional art studio.

Students from across the United States, as well as several other countries, participate in the online classes. Each month, Mustard and Lea pick a theme for a free drawing workshop hosted on Zoom: abstract drawing one month, portraits another.

Lea said that she and Mustard have drawn on their own art school training to develop their teaching philosophy.

"We don't assume anything," Lea said, describing how classes start with the fundamentals of how to properly hold a pencil.

Lea said part of The Joy of Drawing's mission is to help students feel capable of drawing outside of class and trying unfamiliar subjects and techniques for their art.

"If you can keep up that practice and draw everything, and look and see and get that excitement about having five minutes at a train station, you can just pick up your pencil and start drawing," she said.

Syer said she's proud of the new things she has tried in the classes.

"Before, I never thought I could draw a person, or I never thought I could draw a horse," she said. "I mean, I would have said, 'I don't

do that.' But then she (Mustard) gets you started and pretty soon you think, 'I can do that.'"

Sketch walks, one of The Joy of Drawing's in-person offerings, give students a chance to practice sketching in everyday life. They meet at locations around the Bay Area, like a local park or Stanford's art museum, and receive a drawing project to complete during the excursion. Attendees spend the morning sketching, then meet up afterward to share their work and get to know each other over lunch.

Syer said she loves going on the group's sketch walks. "It makes you so happy you can't believe it," she said.

The Joy of Drawing is now evolving to offer more in-person opportunities for local art enthusiasts: Mustard and Lea recently made their organization a nonprofit, so that people who are interested in drawing but might not be able to afford classes can take part.

The pair said they intend to focus on local libraries for new partnerships. They recently hosted a free Valentine's Day art workshop



Courtesy The Joy of Drawing

A drawing created by Caroline Mustard during a sketch walk.

at the Atherton Library, and they hope to branch out into Palo Alto and East Palo Alto libraries as well, as well as other towns around the Peninsula.

Local libraries have also begun stocking Mustard and Lea's book, "The Joy of Drawing: A Beginner's Manual," which they wrote together during the pandemic. The book contains QR codes for readers to scan, so that they can follow along and try a variety of sketching exercises as they go. There's a video that goes with each chapter, too.

As for the group classes, Lea said it's "magical" to see the

students growing in confidence and encouraging each other.

"Community is a huge part," she said. "Because everyone encourages each other and it's just so lovely and magical — it really is."

"We love what we do," Mustard said.

Syer, for one, said she'll remain a loyal student in Mustard's classes.

"As long as she teaches classes," she said, "I'll be taking them."

For more information, visit thejoyofdrawing.org.

Email Editorial Intern Grace Doerfler at gdoerfler@pawebly.com.



Courtesy The Joy of Drawing

Katy Lea, left, and Caroline Mustard founded Atherton-based art school the Joy of Drawing.

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Kepler's hosts Bernie Sanders in book talk on capitalism in the U.S.

Senator's co-author talks about intersection of politics and economics and the role of billionaires

By Kate Bradshaw

Many of the targets of Sen. Bernie Sanders' fiery viral speeches lie squarely in Silicon Valley, from the billionaires he wants taxed to the tech giants he wants to break up.

Sanders will be in Silicon Valley March 4 for the only Northern California appearance scheduled to talk about his new book, "It's OK to be Angry About Capitalism," hosted by Kepler's Literary Foundation at San Jose's California Theatre. The event, which is nearly sold out, promises a lively discussion about topics ranging from the senator's calls for health care reform to the future of work.

In their book, Sanders and co-author John Nichols, a Wisconsin-based journalist and national affairs correspondent at The Nation, explore the senator's influence over the last few tumultuous years in American politics and the unfettered ways that money drives political decision-making and is widening the wealth gap.

They lay out a vision for how the country's politics could be reshaped, offering guaranteed economic rights to all individuals in areas like health care, work and education.

This publication chatted with Nichols to hear more about the book he co-authored with Sanders and what messages it contains for

readers in Silicon Valley. This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

Kate Bradshaw: Could you start by telling me a little bit about your role in working with Senator Sanders on this book? What was that process like?

John Nichols: Well, I've known Sen. Sanders for decades and written about him a lot over the years. I wrote the afterword to his autobiography; a couple of editions of it. And then he wrote an introduction to one of my books. In the summer of 2021, we were talking, and he said he was trying to put together a book that might talk more deeply about policy issues. And he asked if I would like to help do it.

We both contributed to all the different parts of the book. It's a book about his campaigns and also about his policies. What we tried to do was to explore some policy issues that maybe haven't been dug into as deeply. One of the things that I was particularly interested in was making sure that we wrote a lot about media policy. Also, I've written some articles over the years on technological change, robotification, the new era of work in America, and so particularly in some of those areas where we're talking about work life and the future of work, I encouraged us to go deep in those areas.

Bradshaw: So the overall thesis of the book is in its title, but it's also deeper than that. Can you summarize what are some of the book's calls to action?

Nichols: At the core, the book is trying to open up a discussion in America that goes to a deeper place. Too frequently, our discussions about politics and about the economy are de-linked, and so we don't think of economic issues as being those that should be close to or at the center of our politics. Often, there's a sensibility in the United States that economics sort of happens to us, right? Like, we don't know why the stock market went up or went down. What we wanted to argue is that there are a lot of decisions made about our economy by powerful people in politics and in business that affect all of our lives, but that we don't have as much say in it as we should.

If there's a call to action, it is for people to be more engaged in these debates and more willing to make demands of our politics. One of the core demands is that we tax the rich, that we make sure that billionaires and multinational corporations pay their fair share. Another aspect of it is that when these resources come from a fairer tax system — a fairer system in general — that those resources should

be allocated in ways that create universal guarantees for people: a guarantee of health care, not as a privilege but as a right; a guarantee of access to education, not as a privilege, but as right. That's really the core call to action: for people to seize their democratic — small "d" democratic — power and demand a fairer and more just society.

Bradshaw: In this particular area's voting history, (in the 2020 primaries) there were plenty of super-wealthy precincts that picked Michael Bloomberg (a billionaire) over Bernie. And one of this book's messages is that there shouldn't be billionaires. What's Sen. Sanders' message for those voters?

Nichols: What we set out to do was write a book that talks about empowering the working class, and creating a more fair and equitable society. I think people of many backgrounds feel that is necessary and know that is good for the United States. Will there be people who resist? Of course.

Silicon Valley has a very rich political history, and it has sent some of the most creative thinkers to Congress, going back to the 1960s. Now, the district sends Ro Khanna to Congress. Khanna was co-chair of Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign and has taken

many of the issues that Bernie Sanders has raised and put them at the center of his political activism and his political service.

There's plenty of space in Silicon Valley for a discussion about how to make our politics better, and, frankly, how to make our economy better. And at the center of that discussion, there is space for a real examination of how capitalism is working in the United States. One of the things we talked about in the book is what we refer to as uber-capitalism — that's capitalism out of control, where there's very little regulation, very little guidance and frankly, very, very wealthy people do whatever they want. What we argue is that's not healthy. It's not healthy for our society, it's not healthy for our economy, or for our politics.

Sen. Bernie Sanders and co-author John Nichols are scheduled to discuss their new book, "It's OK to be Angry About Capitalism" Saturday, March 4, 7-8 p.m. at an event hosted by the Kepler's Literary Foundation at the California Theatre in San Jose. Masks required. For more information, visit keplers.org.

Read a longer version of this Q&A at paloaltoonline.com/arts.

Email Associate Digital Editor Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@embarcaderopublishing.com

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A CONVERSATION WITH MALCOLM HARRIS
MARCH 16th
7pm via Zoom

Join us as Palo Alto Weekly/Palo Alto Online Reporter Gennady Sheyner interviews Malcolm Harris on his new book "Palo Alto: A History of California, Capitalism, and the World"

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Eating Out

New eateries opening around the Peninsula

An ube cafe lands in Mountain View, Gin Bar opens in Sunnyvale and a ramen restaurant draws long lines in San Mateo

By Kate Bradshaw and Julia Brown

Mountain View is home to the newest outpost of Cafe 86, an ube-focused restaurant chain that serves a wide variety of desserts and drinks featuring the popular purple sweet potato native to the Philippines. Down the road in Sunnyvale, Gin Bar has opened at the AC Hotel Sunnyvale Moffett Park with more than 150 bottles of the spirit and a special “History of Gin” menu. And in San Mateo, Kate Bradshaw tried a new restaurant specializing in brothless ramen that’s drawing lines down the block.

A new ube-focused cafe lands in Mountain View

Cafe 86, an ube-focused restaurant chain, is continuing its expansion northward from southern California and Las Vegas. Its second Bay Area location (after Union City) recently opened in Mountain View, and its third, slated for Daly City, is on the way.

The purple sweet potato native to the Philippines experienced a resurgence in popularity during the pandemic, according to a Forbes article calling ube the “uber ingredient of 2023.”

Established in 2014, the cafe’s tagline of “ube nerds” rings true in its menu, highlighting the vegetable in a wide array of desserts and drinks, including ube truffles, ube butter bars, ube leche flan cupcakes, Halo Halo bread pudding with ube ice

cream, ube crinkle cookies, ube milkshakes and ube lattes. Haho Halo is a Filipino dessert made with crushed ice, evaporated or coconut milk and a mix of ingredients including ube jam, sweetened beans, coconut, flan and ube ice cream.

The menu also includes an assortment of sandwiches, teas, blended drinks and churros, mochi dough caramelized in butter and coated with cinnamon sugar and caramel drizzle.

Cafe 86, 738 Villa St., Mountain View; 909-465-0886, cafe-86.com, Instagram: @cafe_86.

Kajiken brothless ramen in San Mateo draws a line down the block

After hearing that there was a new restaurant in San Mateo offering aburasoba, a brothless style of ramen, I made plans with a friend to test it out.

I had heard it was popular, but even I hadn’t expected to see the line reaching down the block when I arrived just after the opening time on a recent Saturday.

Kajiken, which opened Feb. 8, offers a type of ramen served with housemade aburasoba noodles flavored with oils and sauces rather than broth. The menu includes nine preset aburasoba combinations featuring various pork preparations and a roast beef one, plus a vegetarian mushroom

aburasoba. Customers can also customize their bowl with a set of 18 additional toppings, from green onions and bamboo shoots to plum or curry powder.

Kajiken also has a Baltimore location and a number of others in Japan, Singapore and China.

By the time we had worked our way up to the front of the line, we had been waiting about 70 minutes. But once we were at the front of the line, the staff operated with friendliness and efficiency. Seated at a bar with a window view into the noodle rolling machine, the two of us ordered iced oolong tea along with the pork aburasoba and the mushroom aburasoba, respectively, each requesting the add-ons of crispy onions and a soft-boiled egg. We also split an order of takoyaki, a set of fried spherical dumplings made with batter and octopus bites, offering a crispy exterior and a chewy and soft interior.

The mushroom aburasoba came with both shimeji and king trumpet mushrooms, spinach, tofu and red onions. Following the advice of the server to mix the noodles thoroughly, I took my first bite and was delighted with the way the slightly chewy texture of the fresh noodles blended with the oils and sauces.

We more than made up for lost time by practically inhaling our generous noodle portions to make room for the next customers behind us. Looking back, we agreed that had the weather been as chilly during our wait then as it’s been this week, we might not have made it to the front of the line, but that the wait was worth it for the new experience of trying a different style of ramen.

No reservations are accepted, and Kajiken is open Wednesdays through Mondays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m.

Kajiken, 112 South B. St., San Mateo, kajikenusa.com; Instagram: @kajikenusa.

Gin Bar debuts at Sunnyvale hotel

A new gin-focused cocktail bar has opened in the AC Hotel Sunnyvale Moffett Park.

The aptly named Gin Bar has a collection of more than 150 bottles of the spirit that focuses



Courtesy TETRA Hotel

Above: The Clover Club cocktail at Gin Bar includes gin, dry vermouth, lemon, raspberry, sugar and egg white. Below: The pork aburasoba at Kajiken in San Mateo is served with crispy onions and an egg as add-ons.



Kate Bradshaw



Kate Bradshaw

A line of customers stretches down the block on a recent Saturday to eat at Kajiken, an aburasoba restaurant in San Mateo.

on unique small-batch producers from around the state and world, according to a recent press release. AC Hotel Sunnyvale Moffett Park opened early last year and shares the property with Tetra.

The bar features a special menu called the “History of Gin,” which offers 12 cocktails arranged by the year of their debut from the gimlet in 1867 to the gin basil smash in 2008. Each of these cocktails includes Sipsmith London Dry Gin.

A full menu of wines by the glass and classic cocktails is also available. Guests can dine from the AC Lounge’s tapas menu, which includes items such as tortilla española and meatball cazuela with romesco, manchego cheese and toast. During happy hour from 5-7 p.m. daily, a selection of beer, wine and cocktails are half off. Gin Bar is open every

day from 5-11 p.m.

The new bar joins AC Kitchen, Tetra’s Nokori Japanese whisky bar, Coffee Manufactory and Adrestia restaurant as the fifth dining destination at the hotel property. ■

Gin Bar, 1235 Bordeaux Drive, Sunnyvale; 408-734-3700, Instagram: @achotelmoffettpark.

Dig into food news. Follow the Peninsula Foodist on Instagram @peninsulafoodist and subscribe to the newsletter at almanacnews.com/express/foodist to get insights on the latest openings and closings, learn what the Foodist is excited about eating, read exclusive interviews and keep up on the trends affecting local restaurants.



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Senior Focus

NEW 'AGING WISELY' SERIES

... On March 30, Avenidas senior center will launch "Aging Wisely: Your Roadmap to Long Term Care," a new series of workshops focused on long-term care planning for people of all ages. Paula Wolfson, Avenidas Care Partners manager and creator of the new program, will present the six workshops offered weekly on Thursdays through May 11. (Note: There will be no class on April 20). Each workshop will cover a different topic: exploring personal values, retirement and financial management strategies, advance planning goals, patient advocacy, the challenges of care giving, and practices for managing stress. Participants can pick and choose sessions, which are offered independent of each other. Sessions are in-person at Avenidas, 450 Bryant St. Each session is \$25 and limited to 30 participants. For more information, go to avenidas.org, click on "Classes" and search "Aging Wisely."

'INTO THE WOODS' ... The Wise Owl Players will perform a lively and dramatic reading of six classic, but lesser-known, traditional folk and fairy tales from around the world from **2-4 p.m., March 19**, in the art room at Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Created and directed by folklorist and storyteller Enid Davis, "Into the Woods with the Wise Owl Players" (not to be confused with the Sondheim musical), will include costumes, props and live music by flutist Christine Mendoza of the Nova Vista Symphony. Admission is \$15. For details and tickets, go to avenidas.org and click on "Classes."

'FIDDLER ON THE ROOF' EXCURSION ... Adults 65 and older are invited to travel with the Palo Alto JCC to **San Francisco's Golden Gate Theater** on Wednesday, **March 22**, to see a performance of "Fiddler on the Roof." The event is part of the JCC's travel and day trips program. Cost is \$80 and includes a round-trip ticket by private coach from the JCC and an orchestra seat at the theater. Participants are required to meet at 10:30 a.m. in the lower lobby of the JCC's Schultz Cultural Arts Hall at 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Participants will return to the center at 5:30 p.m. To register for the trip, contact the Customer Service Desk at 650-223-8700. If you need personal assistance, must bring an escort, or want to sit with a friend, contact Michelle Rosengaus at mrosengaus@paloaltojcc.org or 650-223-8616.

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Living Well

A monthly special section of news & information for seniors

Everybody's got a story to tell — especially these 8 women

Memoir classmates recount 80 years of war, revolution, family holidays and ugly hats in new book

By Elizabeth Lorenz
Photos by Magali Gauthier

It was a Christmas to remember: the one with the sad-looking tree. Many decades have passed since that holiday, but Susan Molloy recalls clearly how when she was a child, her father waited until Christmas Eve to find a tree, only to end up with a scrawny one. After he got home, he drilled holes into the trunk all the way up the tree so he could glue in branches and extra twigs to fill the gaps.

This childhood memory is one of many that Molloy and seven other Midpeninsula women have penned in the new memoir "Our Voices, Our Stories: A Collection of Memoirs," capturing snippets of their lives growing up in various parts of the world from the 1940s to their present-day lives as older adults on the Peninsula.

The authors, Molloy, Ann Gila, Khris Klint, Anne-Marie Lemoine, Maureen McNevin Locke, Barbara Nachman, Kinga Perlaki and Jacqueline Raine, all met in a memoir writing class at Avenidas senior center in Palo Alto, where they ended up compiling the 44 short stories in the book. The stories recount everything from living in Europe during World War II, surviving a deadly virus and living through a terrorist attack to holidays spent with family.

Each account shares one common thread: The authors wrote them to document their life stories as a legacy for the next generations of their families.

Molloy said her daughter had been asking her for years to write down some of the family stories. It wasn't until joining the class that Molloy's life stories started pouring out onto the page.

"I joined the class hoping to jump-start my efforts and perhaps learn how to write better. I've written about 25-30 stories now and have lots more to write," Molloy said. "There's a definite advantage for me to write in the class setting. Sometimes a story one of the others brings to class jogs a memory of my own or inspires me to write about a similar time or event."

Perlaki, who penned four stories in the book, said the class provides "supportive camaraderie" and constructive criticism, which helped her document memories she has wanted to write since she was in her 20s.

After living through World War II, experiencing the Nazis, then the Soviet occupation and a revolution, Perlaki said she didn't want her stories to be forgotten.

One of her stories in the memoir recounts her time as a small child in Hungary. "The Explosion of Margit Bridge," tells the story of how her brother wanted the family to take a ferry across the Danube River. When they were halfway across, the bridge they would have



Top: Teacher Barbara Nachman, center left, and students chat during a memoir writing class at Avenidas in Palo Alto on Feb. 13. Above: Anne-Marie Lemoine, left, and Kinga Perlaki are among a group of students who contributed stories written in class to a newly published book. At right: Teacher Barbara Nachman, who also contributed stories to the book, said writing one's life stories is a lot like writing fiction.



driven over exploded.

"Some of these recollections blend together," she writes. "I can recall bits and pieces, but the gaps between them are wide and full of parts unknown. Yet out of this dark abyss some scenes can suddenly emerge with such clarity and details that they could have happened yesterday."

Nachman, a former newspaper features writer who contributed stories to the book, helped launch the Avenidas Memoir-writing Workshop in 2019. As the instructor, she melds the mindset of fiction writing with teaching memoir.

"All the people in my classes benefit from

(continued on page 28)

Memoir

(continued from page 27)

how to write a memoir as opposed to writing essays. What makes memoir-writing different is it's very much like fiction," Nachman said. There are characters, settings, action. The memoir brings stories to life in a "show, don't tell" way, using all five senses.

"We're not talking about autobiography. Biography is a road, when you're born to the end. A memoir is more like a curve in the road — something that happened."

Nachman believes strongly in making sure writers use their own voices and syntax in their writing. "Their voices may be long sentences. Someone else's may be choppy. I want it to be in their syntax, the voice and personality of the writer."

Avenidas Executive Director Tracy McCloud said most people over 70 have many stories to tell, from life overseas or during a war, or how they experienced family



Susan Molloy, left, and Khris Klint, right, listen to their teacher while in a recent memoir writing session at Avenidas. Molloy and Klint are among the eight authors who contributed to "Our Voices, Our Stories: A Collection of Memoirs."

and careers over the span of seven or eight decades.

"I think it's important that we

capture those stories," McCloud said.

Each week during the class,

one writer signs up to read their work while the others critique it, offering suggestions and

Avenidas Memoir-writing Workshop

Registration for Avenidas Memoir-writing Workshop which meets Mondays from 2-3:30 p.m., is available quarterly. The class has a waiting list, but one to two spots typically open up during registration. Avenidas also has launched another writing class, Guided Autobiography. For more information, go to avenidas.org.

constructive criticism.

"The help, encouragement and advice that I have received has been a great help in my endeavor," said Lemoine, whose stories in the book comically detail her childhood in a medieval city near France's Loire Valley.

She said finding a new way to write her memoirs has been enlightening.

"It was to write them with a very personal viewpoint. In other words, it was alright to be the center of your story," said Lemoine, who recounts in the book the time her mother made her a bright-green felt hat she dreaded wearing to church.

Perlaki said documenting her stories has been one of the wisest things she's ever done. She sees great value in sharing stories.

"The one common element that emerged during in-class discussions is that we all realize how little we know about our parents and grandparents," said Perlaki. "Now we all say, 'I wish I would have asked more questions when they were alive.'"

"Class or no class, I would encourage everybody to preserve their life stories or memoirs for the benefit of their family."

"Our Voice, Our Stories: A Collection of Memoirs" is available for \$12 on amazon.com. ■

Contributing Writer Elizabeth Lorenz can be emailed at elizabethlorenz@gmail.com.

Senior Focus

(continued from page 27)

FINDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING ...

Avenidas senior center is scheduled to hold a free educational and informational workshop from **11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., March 14**, for those looking for low-income housing in Santa Clara County. The nonprofit residential housing organization **Silicon Valley Independent Living Center** will talk about their services, local housing options, what to expect when conducting a housing search, and strategies for finding housing locally in-person and online. The workshop will take place at Avenidas' Tech Plus Space at 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Registration is required. For more information, go to Avenidas.org and click on "Classes."

Items for Senior Focus may be emailed to Associate Editor Linda Taaffe at ltaaffe@pawekly.com.

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A Community for LGBTQ Older Adults



For complete schedule or info about Avenidas events, call 650-289-5400

Living Well

MARCH 2023

Calendar of Events

Mar 1

Book Club: The Paris Wife by Paula McLain, 2:30-4pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Space is limited. Call 650-289-5400. Free/\$5

Mar 2

Lunch & Learn with ClearCaptions phones, 12-1pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. RSVP required. Email register@avenidas.org. Free

Mar 3

Avenidas Rose Kleiner Center Open House, 10am-noon, 270 Escuela, Mountain View. Masks required. Free

Mar 4

Rainbow Collective Walking Group Meet-Up – Palo Alto Art Center: Under Water, 11am-1pm. Email LGBTQ@avenidas.org for more info. Free

Mar 6

Lotus Dance Fitness, 10:30-11:15am, every Monday, Avenidas@450 Bryant AND via Zoom. Enroll at register@avenidas.org. Free.

Mar 7

Mindfulness Meditation 2-3pm every Tuesday, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Drop-in Free.

Mar 8

Caregiver Support Group, 1-2pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Santa Clara County residents only. RSVP required. Call 650-289-5400. Free

Mar 9

Info Session: FREE ClearCaptions Advanced Telephone Captioning, 11am-12pm via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to register@avenidas.org or 650-289-5400. Free.

Song Appreciation: "Favorite Song to Chill To," 4pm via Zoom.

Email lgbtq@avenidas.org to join. Free

Mar 10

Mobile Photography Workshop, 4:30-6pm via Zoom. Email tmcloud@avenidas.org for log on info. Free.

Mar 13

Jane Austen Reading Club, 10:30am-noon via Zoom, every Monday. Email tmcloud@avenidas.org for details and log on info. Free.

Mar 14

Workshop: "Low Income Housing Search Fundamentals," 11:30am-1pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Space is limited. RSVP required. Email register@avenidas.org. Free

Mar 15

Avenidas Rainbow Collective presents: "Meeting People Online" with Anthony Hand, 3-4pm via Zoom or at Avenidas@450 Bryant. RSVP required. Email register@avenidas.org. Free.

Mar 16

Tinnitus Support Group, 5:30-7:30pm via Zoom. RSVP for log on info to register@avenidas.org. Free.

Mar 17

Casual Bridge every Friday, 1:30-3:30pm at Avenidas@450 Bryant. RSVP required. Call 650-289-5400. Free for members or \$5.

Mar 19

Performance: "Into the Woods with the Wise Owl Players," 2-4pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Call 650-289-5400. Tix \$15

Mar 20

Rainbow Collective Potluck Poetry, 3-4pm via Zoom. Send your poem to LGBTQ@avenidas.org #poem. Free

Mar 21

Wonder Women Lesbian Social Group via Zoom, 3pm via Zoom. Email lgbtq@avenidas.org for info.

Mar 22

Mindfulness Meditation, every Wednesday 2-3pm on Zoom. Email register@avenidas.org for log on info. Free.

LGBTQ Movie Lounge: The Menu, 6-8p, Avenidas@450 Bryant. All are welcome. Drop-in, free.

Mar 23

Book Club: The Second Life of Murielle West by Amanda Skenandore, 2:30-4pm via Zoom. Call 650-289-5400. Free/\$5

Song Appreciation: "Favorite Song to Sing with Friends" 4pm via Zoom.

Email lgbtq@avenidas.org to join. Free.

Mar 24

Workshop: "Poles for Hiking and Outdoor Exercise" with Jayah Faye Paley, 8:30am-12:30pm @Foothill Preserve. Pre-registration required. Call 650-289-5400. \$75/\$90

Mar 25

Rainbow Collective annual visit to Fioli Gardens, 1-2pm. Free admission for 1st 25 to register: email LGBTQ@avenidas.org

Mar 26

Performance: "Into the Woods with the Wise Owl Players," 2-4pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Call 650-289-5400. \$15

Mar 27

Cheers to International Whiskey Day!

Mar 28

Seminar: "Hoarding: The stuff beneath the stuff" with Emily Nagaonker, MSW, 3-4pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. Call 650-289-5400. \$15/\$20

Mar 29

Seminar: "Aging and Swallowing Changes" with Theresa Yao, CCC-SLP, 11-11:45am via Zoom. Email register@avenidas.org for log on info. Free

Mar 30

Arts and Classics Club, 10:30am-noon via Zoom, every Thursday. Email tmcloud@avenidas.org for details and log on info. Free.

Mar 31

Roadmap to Long-Term Care: Overview with Paula Wolfson, LCSW, 1:30-3pm, Avenidas@450 Bryant. RSVP required. Call 650-289-5400. \$25



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2023 Silicon Valley REALTORS® Leadership Team Installed

The Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS® 2023 leadership team was installed on Feb. 2 at the Los Altos Golf & Country Club. 2002 California Association of REALTORS® President Robert Bailey administered the oath of office to 2023 SILVAR President Jim Hamilton and 2023 C.A.R. President Chris Kutzkey installed SILVAR's 2023 officers and board directors. 2021 C.A.R. President Dave Walsh served as master of ceremonies. 2007 C.A.R. President Colleen Badagliacco led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, and 2022 C.A.R. President Otto Catrina delivered the Inspiration Message.

Joining Hamilton as lead officers are Eileen Giorgi, a REALTOR® with Christie's International Real Estate Sereno, president-elect; and Jeff Bell, broker manager of Coldwell Banker Realty Cupertino, treasurer.

The 2023 board directors are Brett Caviness (Compass), Past President; Joanne Fraser (Compass), Region 9 Chair; Denise Welsh (Christie's International Real Estate Sereno), National Association of REALTORS® Director; District Chairs Jasmine Lee (Coldwell Banker Realty), Menlo Park-Atherton District; Stacey Woods (Compass), Palo Alto District; Patricia Robison (Intero), Los Altos-Mountain View District; Tracey McNeely (Compass), Cupertino-Sunnyvale District, and Tammie Peters (Christie's International Real Estate Sereno), Los Gatos-Saratoga District; and Directors At-large Alan Barbic (Barbic Real Estate Group, Elizabeth Doyle (Christie's International Real Estate Sereno), Jimmy Kang (eXp realty of California), Sunita Merchia (Merchia Realty), Navneet Parmar (Real Estate Experts) and Suzanne Yost (Compass).

A broker associate at Compass Los Gatos, Hamilton has extensive involvement in REALTOR® association leadership at the local, state and national levels. At SILVAR, he has served as president-elect, board director, and chair of the Los Gatos-Saratoga District. He also served as 2002 treasurer and 2005 C.A.R. president and as an NAR director and regional vice president. He was president of the South Bay Association of REALTORS®, and named REALTOR® of the Year by both the national and local Associations of REALTORS®, including SILVAR in 2019 and the South Bay Association.

Recognized for their outstanding contributions at the gala were Denise Welsh (Christie's International Real Estate Sereno), 2022 REALTOR® of the Year; Caroline Wolf (Wells Fargo Home Mortgage), 2022 Affiliate of the Year; Katherine Frey (Katherine Frey Real Estate), 2022 Spirit of SILVAR Award recipient; and Selena Young (Coldwell Banker Realty), 2022 President's Award recipient.

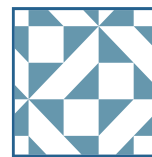
This year's Installation Sponsors were MLSListings Inc., Los Gatos-Saratoga District, Compass, Sentrilock, KW Bay Area Estates, DeLeon Realty, Christie's International Real Estate Sereno, Supra, Coldwell Banker Realty, Intero, SILVAR's Menlo Park-Atherton, Los Altos-Mountain View, Palo Alto, and Cupertino-Sunnyvale Districts, Off Price Carpet & Flooring, and TourFactory.

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



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Guns

(continued from page 5)

general community.”

In the 6-3 ruling, the Supreme Court’s conservative majority concluded that the requirement for “proper cause” violates the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution because it prevents “law-abiding citizens with ordinary self-defense needs from exercising their Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms in public for self-defense.”

The effects rippled over to California, which has a “good cause” requirement for permits for concealed firearms. Days after the Supreme Court ruling, Attorney General Rob Bonta advised all law enforcement agencies in California that the New York decision makes the “good cause” requirement for carrying concealed weapons in most public places unconstitutional.

“Permitting agencies may no longer require a demonstration of ‘good cause’ in order to obtain a concealed carry permit,” Bonta wrote in his advisory.

The Supreme Court ruling did, however, carve out an exception for “sensitive places” like government buildings, schools and polling places where a ban on firearms is backed by prior rulings and is thus legal. Now, in response to the ruling, various cities and states are testing the boundaries of “sensitive places” by adopting new prohibitions on where concealed firearms can be carried.

New York’s new state law, which includes places of worship and public transit in its list of gun-free spaces, is now going through a legal challenge in a federal appeals court after a lower court found that some of its provisions go too far.

And in early February, state Sen. Anthony Portantino introduced Senate Bill 2, which adds a slew of new restrictions on firearms and identifies places where guns cannot be carried. Gov. Gavin Newsom and Bonta issued a statement with Portantino on Feb. 1 endorsing the bill, which includes parks, playgrounds, places of worship, stadiums and libraries on its list of gun-free places.

“When a gun is placed in the wrong hands, it is deadly,” Bonta said in the statement. “The Second Amendment is not a regulatory straightjacket — we must protect our communities. The time for thoughts and prayers has long passed; we need brave and immediate action by our leaders — here in California and beyond.”

Cities are also taking action, with Sunnyvale approving in December a list of “sensitive places” where guns are banned, which includes public transit and places of worship. And the Mountain View City Council directed its staff last October to explore a wide range of new gun restrictions, including designation of locations where guns are prohibited and restriction on firearm sales near schools, parks and daycare centers.

The city had already passed in 2021 a restriction on guns on city properties. During its October discussion, Mountain View council members all said they would support stronger gun restrictions and alluded to recent mass shootings, including the May 2021 shooting at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority railyard in San Jose, where a VTA employee killed nine people before killing himself.

“I’m fed up with inaction and I think we need to do everything in our power to be protective of our community members,” then-Council member Sally Lieber said at the meeting.

Whether or not these new restrictions will actually stick remains to be seen. The city of Glendale is now facing a lawsuit over its ban on firearms on city property and SB 2, if approved by the Legislature, is also expected to face a legal challenge, according to a report from Palo Alto City Manager Ed Shikada.

Given the legal uncertainties, Palo Alto is taking a cautious approach with its proposed ordinance. Unlike Sunnyvale, which has taken a more expansive approach, Palo Alto is preparing to limit its gun prohibition to schools, government buildings and polling places — areas that

already enjoy broad legal protection under federal law.

In his report, Shikada wrote that a uniform statewide rule “would make it easier for the public to know what to expect in public and private spaces and for responsible law-abiding residents who carry firearms to understand and comply with the law.”

The “emergency ordinance” that the council will consider on Monday would kick in immediately. Concurrently, Shikada suggested that if the council wants to consider additional areas where firearms would be prohibited, it can form an ad hoc committee to weigh the risks and benefits of

the new restrictions in a confidential setting. The committee’s recommendations for expanding the list of local gun-free zones would then return to the full council for approval within 90 days.

If approved, the ordinance would be Palo Alto’s second new law in less than a year to restrict firearms. In June 2022, the council unanimously approved a law that would require new gun dealerships to obtain conditional use permits before they could set up shop in the city. ■

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@pawebkly.com.



Palo Alto Unified School District

Notice is hereby Given that proposals will be received by the Palo Alto Unified School District for bid package:

GREENE MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRE ALARM REPLACEMENT (GMFA-23)

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK: Project includes fire alarm replacement for buildings A, B, C, D, F, G, J&K, L, M, N, and Portables.

BID DOCUMENTS contain a full description of the work. Bid Documents will be available to view/download <https://bit.ly/GMFA-23> Friday, March 3rd, 2023.

A **MANDATORY** PRE-BID conference will be held on Monday, March 13th, 2023 – 10AM, at 750 N. California Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303.

Bid Submission: Proposals must be e-mailed to VMELERO@PAUSD.ORG, by **2:00 P.M.** on Tuesday, April 4th, 2023.

To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California contractors’ license(s): B, C-7, C-10

Bonding required for this project is as follows: Bid Bond 10% of the total bid. 8. Pursuant to Public Contract Code §20111.6, only prequalified bidders will be eligible to submit a bid for contracts \$1 million or more using or planning to use state bond funds. Any bid submitted by a bidder who is not prequalified shall be non-responsive and returned unopened to the bidder. Moreover, any bid listing subcontractors holding C-4, C-7, C-10, C-16, C-20, C-34, C-36, C-38, C-42, C-43, or C-46 licenses who have not been prequalified shall be deemed nonresponsive. For the current list of PAUSD Pre-qualified Contractors, visit: <https://bit.ly/PAUSDPre-qual>. To apply for pre-qualification, go to: https://www.qualitybidders.com/users/sign_up.

PREVAILING WAGE LAWS: The successful Bidder and all subcontractors shall pay all workers for all Work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to section 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are also available on the Internet at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov>. This Project is subject to labor compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1771.4 and subject to the requirements of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations – Contractor and Subcontractors must all be registered with the DIR. The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall furnish electronic certified payroll records directly to the Labor Commissioner weekly and within ten (10) days of any request by the District or the Labor Commissioner. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, Articles 1-5 of the Labor Code.

Bidders may also purchase copies of the plans and specifications at ARC Document Solutions 829 Cherry Lane San Carlos, CA 94070, Phone Number (650) 631-2310

The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive responsible bidder based on the sum of the base bid only.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. If the District awards the Contract, the security of unsuccessful bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.

All questions can be addressed to:
Palo Alto Unified School District
25 Churchill Avenue, Building D
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099
Attn: Michael Hohl
Phone: (650) 329-3927
Fax: (650) 327-3588
Email: michael@fs3h.com

Public Notices

MANSOOR FINE JEWELERS
SYNERGETIC CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN692252
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Mansoor Fine Jewelers, 2.) Synergetic Consulting, located at 530 Ramona St., Palo Alto, CA 94301, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
KIMARIE DESIGNS, INC.
909 Marina Village Pkwy, Ste 143
Alameda, CA 94501
CA
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/01/2018
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara on February 01 2023.
(PAW Feb 10, 17, 24 and Mar 3, 2023)

FROG JOG
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN692597
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Frog Jog, located at 105 N IST ST, UNIT 415, SAN JOSE, CA 95103, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
BRENDAN MCCLORY MAGUIRE
426 N 13TH STREET
SAN JOSE, CA 95112
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara on February 09 2023.
(PAW Feb 17, 24, Mar 3 and 10, 2023)

AROY MAK
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN692832
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Aroy Mak, located at 1917 Farragut Way, San Jose, CA 95133, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
SOPHIA DEBAVALYA
1917 Farragut Way
San Jose, CA 95133
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara on February 17 2023.
(PAW Feb 24, Mar 3, 10 and 17, 2023)

LITTLE LANTERN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN692023
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Little Lantern, located at 263 Margarita Ave Palo Alto, CA 94306, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
NEVA HAUSER
263 Margarita Ave
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara on January 26 2023.
(PAW Mar 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2023)

WEBSTER STREET PRESS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN692331
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Webster Street Press, located at 850 Webster St, Apt 715, Palo Alto, CA 94301284, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
PRUDENCE ELAINE BREITROSE
850 Webster Street, Apt 715
Palo Alto, CA 94301284
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara on February 02 2023.
(PAW Feb 17, 24, Mar 3 and 10, 2023)

CABINET UNKNOWN
CHAMPLEVE BOOK ARCHIVIST
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN692814
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CABINET UNKNOWN, 2.) CHAMPLEVE BOOK ARCHIVIST, located at 3223 HANOVER ST, STE 110, PALO ALTO, CA 94304, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
CABINET UNKNOWN, LLC
3223 HANOVER ST, STE 110
PALO ALTO, CA 94304
CALIFORNIA
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara on February 16 2023.
(PAW Feb 24, Mar 3, 10 and 17, 2023)

VISTA.AI
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN692419
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Vista.ai, located at 431 Florence St. Suite 100, Palo Alto, CA 94301, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
HeartVista, Inc
431 Florence St. Suite 100
Palo Alto, CA 94301
CA
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara on February 6 2023.
(PAW Feb 10, 17, 24 and Mar 3, 2023)

Notice of Availability of Annual Report

The Marie D. Millard Trust

Notice is hereby given that the annual report of the MARIE D. MILLARD TRUST for the year ended December 31, 2022 is available for inspection by any citizen during business hours at Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Ames Building, 795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, California.

Raul Goroque, Administrator
(PAW Mar 3, 2023)

To place a legal notice visit
PaloAltoOnline.com/legal_notices/

Lawsuit

(continued from page 5)

circumstances, the value of the property is split between “faculty interest” and “college interest.” The former, which pertains to about 75% of the property’s assessed value, does not qualify for tax exemptions while the latter does, Stanford contends.

The suit notes that both the faculty interest and the college interest are presently included in the local property tax assessments for these properties. Stanford is seeking a ruling that would establish that the college interest portion of the property tax bill should be exempt.

The lawsuit focuses on one particular home, 838 Cedro Way, which changed hands in 2018 and which in 2021 received a prop-

erty tax bill for \$37,217, with no reduction for the college interest. Stanford paid the bill but filed a claim for a refund of about \$9,000.

According to a letter that Whitney McNair, Stanford’s senior associate provost and executive director for Faculty Staff Housing, wrote to the Board of Supervisors in February 2022, the property on Cedro Way had a fair market value of \$2.97 million in 2018 (a more recent assessment from the county tax collector in the 2021-22 period raised the assessed value to \$3.06 million). About 75% of this value, or \$2.23 million, is considered “faculty interest” — the purchase price that the faculty member paid for the property and that is not subject to tax exemptions. The remaining 25% of the assessed value, or about \$745,000, is considered “college interest” and, as such, is entitled to the tax exemp-

tion, Stanford argued. The amount of the refund was estimated at about \$9,087.

In September, Stanford received a letter from County Counsel James Williams, informing it that its refund request was denied.

While \$9,087 may seem like a piddling amount for an institution like Stanford to fight over, the ramifications of the lawsuit could be far-reaching. Williams had previously told the Weekly that if the university pursues additional refunds based on the same claims, the county and local jurisdictions could lose nearly \$5 million annually, which includes a \$2.3 million loss for the Palo Alto Unified School District.

Stanford’s arguments didn’t sway the county’s Assessment Appeals Board, which informed the university that it has no jurisdiction over granting exemptions. Williams, for his part, had previously differentiated between the residences and tax-exempt facilities such as student dorms, libraries and academic buildings. The university, according to Williams, was not required to pay taxes on more than \$15.9 billion of its holdings during fiscal year 2021, the largest tax exemption in the county. The faculty homes, the county had argued, should be treated like any other homes in the county and assessed based on their market value.

Exemptions are an ongoing debate

Stanford is no stranger to criticism over its tax exemptions. During the university’s recent effort to approve a new growth plan, the subject came up repeatedly during public hearings and many local officials from cities around the university, including Palo Alto, made the case for requiring Stanford to make more financial contributions to their communities. (Stanford ultimately withdrew its growth proposal in 2019.)

But Stanford and its faculty homeowners are arguing that the tax exemptions at the heart of the lawsuit are necessary to fulfill its academic mission. James Sweeney, president of Stanford Campus Residential Leaseholders,



Sue Dremann

Stanford University is seeking a tax exemption from Santa Clara County for its ground leases used for faculty housing, claiming an educational exemption.

an association of faculty leaseholders, applauded Stanford’s legal action. In a letter to Stanford President Marc Tessier-Lavigne and Provost Persis Drell, Sweeney noted that recent tax assessments for newly purchased homes have been significantly above purchase prices, a departure from past practices that has created a high financial burden for homeowners.

“Campus homeowners expect to pay their fair share of property taxes, just like everyone else, based on their ownership interests. But high assessment of newly purchased homes — often more than a million dollars above the purchase prices — has led to major financial burdens and hardship,” Sweeney wrote in the Monday letter.

The practice of assessing newly purchased homes at such high values, he argued, “endangers the Founding Grant vision of a ‘residential campus,’ of students and faculty scholars.”

Martin Shell, Stanford’s vice president and chief external relations officer, said in an interview that the university’s chief aim in initiating the legal action is to obtain clarity on state laws that are currently under dispute. Shell said that the university respects the fact that Santa Clara County officials are following the law as they interpret it. This interpretation, however, doesn’t take into consideration the long-term retained interest that Stanford has

in its housing subdivision, where the property owner purchases the home and not the ground.

“Reasonable minds can disagree, and we think we have a reasonable-mind disagreement here,” Shell said.

Making sure that faculty are able to purchase homes and live on campus is critical to Stanford’s vision for education, he said. Under founder Leland Stanford’s leadership, the university “envisioned a vibrant community with students and faculty all living and learning together.”

“We had a faculty residential area since the university was founded,” Shell said. “This is critically important to the mission of Stanford because it is part of our history and it is part of what we continue to do daily, with that interactivity between faculty and students.”

The university’s complaint states that the “college interest” exemption that Stanford is seeking is no different from the housing benefits that public universities throughout California have received.

“A college’s use of its property to house its faculty and staff has long been recognized by the California courts as ‘use exclusively for education purposes,’” the complaint states. ■

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly.com. Staff Writer Sue Dremann contributed to this report.

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to discuss in a closed session the status of its negotiations with various labor groups. The council will then discuss proposed improvements for the Palo Alto Airport, including accommodation for electric aircraft and consider an ordinance to ban possession of firearms in government buildings, schools and polling places. The closed session will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 6, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave. The regular meeting will follow. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 362 027 238.

COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to review the proposed financial plans for the water and wastewater utilities and consider approving a five-year contract with VIP Powerline Corp for \$20 million for electric utility work construction services. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, in the Community Meeting Room at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 992 2730 7235.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ... The commission plans to approve zoning changes pertaining to accessory dwelling units, consider adopting the city’s draft 2023-2031 Housing Element, and amend a zoning code provision pertaining to sale of firearms. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 916 4155 9499.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES BOARD ... The board plans to review its bylaws to address remote and virtual meeting attendance. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 9, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 968 0019 7512.

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PALO ALTO WEEKLY OPEN HOMES

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132 Hawthorne Avenue \$8,988,000 Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 5BD/5.5BA DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000	485 Ferne Avenue \$3,488,000 Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/2BA DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000
MOUNTAIN VIEW	PORTOLA VALLEY
113 Estrada Dr \$2,100,000 Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/2.5BA JLee Realty 650-857-1000	750 Lincoln Avenue \$4,988,000 Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 5BD/4.5BA DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000
2456 Porterfield Court \$2,988,000 Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 5BD/3BA DeLeon Realty 650-785-5822	122 Pecora Way \$3,988,000 Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/2.5BA DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000
PALO ALTO	SAN CARLOS
1030 Palo Alto Avenue \$7,988,000 Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3.5BA DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000	17 Chilton Avenue \$2,287,999 Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2BA DeLeon Realty 650-684-0887
3785 La Selva Drive \$3,298,000 Sat 1:30-4:30 4BD/3BA DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000	

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**Andrea
Gemmet**
EDITOR

A message from Editor, Andrea Gemmet

I'm Andrea Gemmet a news editor for Embarcadero Media, a small local news organization on the Peninsula that covers news for the Palo Alto Weekly, the Mountain View Voice, The Almanac and Redwood City Pulse.

It was a typically busy Tuesday afternoon in June when one of my reporters called to tell me the power had gone out in Emerald Hills and she planned to take her laptop to a coffee shop to finish working. We were still on the phone when she realized a wildfire had broken out.

In that moment, our conversation shifted. Smoke was in the air, firefighters were racing to the scene and she needed to evacuate. As she and her family scooped up their dogs and headed to safety, the rest of the newsroom team sprang into action. There was no telling how fast or how far the fire would spread, and we wanted to make sure the rapidly changing news about road closures and evacuation areas reached our readers as quickly as possible.

Being familiar with the steep, narrow, and winding roads in the area, I was worried about the havoc a large-scale evacuation might cause, and had been frantically posting emergency information on our social media channels in an attempt to reach as many people as possible.

As the Edgewood fire spread, our reporters worked the phones, our visual journalist hurried to the scene and I ended up grabbing a notebook and heading a press conference at Woodside Fire Protection District's Station 19. On the way there, I called friends to tell them that they were in the evacuation zone and needed to leave.

After more than a decade as the editor of the Mountain View Voice and more recently, The Almanac, it had been a while since I'd been out covering a fire. I vividly remembered being a pregnant reporter, eyes stinging and throat raw from the smoke as I walked all over Woodside on the sweltering day in August 2002 when wind-blown embers spread a six-alarm fire that started on the grounds of the Fleishhacker estate. Once the flames were quenched, I covered the efforts to make Woodside, Portola Valley and Emerald Hills more fire-resistant and better prepared for the next wildfire.

As journalists from this community, the work isn't always easy. These stories affect us, our families, and our neighbors. Yet, it gives us the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of local issues, and a responsibility to enhance our reporting with context. We wouldn't be able to do that without the ongoing support of our members.

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E-bike

(continued from page 5)

bicycling in the Baylands.”

Resident Mark Shull said he used to ride his bicycle through the open space preserves, all the way to Skyline Boulevard. But at 67 years old, his knees aren't what they were when he was younger, Shull told the council. He now relies on e-bikes to climb hills, and he can't understand why the council is taking aim at imposing new restrictions.

“A lot of us are trying to use e-bikes instead of cars,” Shull said. “I think that the city should support that and, yes, people do use some of the trails for commuting for good reason — because there's no alternative.”

Lythcott-Haims and Tanaka both supported his position and urged their colleagues to allow more lenient rules. Lythcott-Haims suggested allowing e-bikes at both Arastradero Preserve and the Baylands and setting a speed limit of 10 mph, though her motion to explore that policy failed to advance.

While her colleagues argued that a speed limit on bikes would be nearly impossible to enforce, Lythcott-Haims suggested that education and enforcement would be a more effective approach than an outright ban.

“My feeling is if the fee is high and the park rangers do spot

checks, we can deter the worst offenders,” Lythcott-Haims said.

Tanaka, an avid cyclist, suggested that e-bikes are a key tool for getting people out of cars and helping the city meet its goal of reducing greenhouse-gas emissions. He said he recently installed a motor on his old bike, which he regularly uses to get to Milpitas. Because a portion of the trail is unpaved, e-bicyclists will have to either switch to cars or take a street route that would add more than 10 miles to their two-way trips.

“By doing this you may be cutting off people who may be biking from Milpitas ... or people who are biking from other areas that are to the east of us,” Tanaka said. “What we're doing is going to create more traffic in our streets, more parking problems, more greenhouse gas. So I just think we need to think about this carefully.”

Prompted by state law

The policy change was prompted by Assembly Bill 1909, a state law that took effect at the beginning of this year and that established that all classes of e-bikes are now allowed on all trails unless prohibited by a local ordinance. This includes some of the more powerful e-bikes in the Class 3 category, which according to staff can help riders reach speeds of up to 28 mph. Palo Alto has historically allowed e-bikes on paved roads and trails but not on unpaved ones.

To address the new legal land-

scape, the Parks and Recreation Commission debated the new e-biking policy over a series of meetings last fall, ultimately opting to adopt a broad ban on e-bikes of all classes at open space preserves, including Arastradero Preserve and the Baylands. (The Foothills Natural Preserve already bans bikes of all sorts.)

Commission Chair Jeff Greenfield, who led the effort, said that the discussion inevitably led to “genuine passionate support for competing priorities, like transportation corridors versus enjoyment of nature, community recreation versus habitat and wildlife protection.”

“At this point, the benefit of the doubt is given to preserving this true city treasure,” Greenfield said, referring to the Baylands.

Most of Tanaka's colleagues didn't buy the argument that the e-bike ban would deter commuting cyclists, particularly after city staff noted that even with the new policies, they will still have the option of taking paved trails from East Palo Alto through Palo Alto and into Mountain View. Greenfield said the idea of keeping a Bay Trail commuter open to e-bike commuters was very important to the commission and said the shortest path on the regional trail remains open to e-bikes.

The council ultimately agreed with his commission's recommendation, which prioritized habitat protection over accommodation

for e-bikes. Matthew Dodder, executive director of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, was part of a group of environmentalist leaders who suggested that having louder and faster bikes in the Baylands could disrupt sensitive habitats. Areas like Byxbee Park and the Mayfield Slough, he said, support a wide range of species, including winter and burrowing owls, many species of hawks, migrant geese and waterfowl.

Many of these species may be “displaced by fast-moving motorized bikes interfering with their foraging and/or breeding cycles,” Dodder said.

“These areas want a quieter and more relaxed pace,” Dodder said.

Some bike advocates took issue with the idea that e-bikes would disturb wildlife and noted that there haven't been any credible studies that substantiate that claim. Yet this very uncertainty only further encouraged the council to adopt a more conservative direction. Council member Ed Lauing said the lack of information is a good reason to proceed slowly.

“We shouldn't just say, ‘What the heck let's put bikes out there.’ I say, ‘What the heck, let's just go ahead and have critters out there and people out there and let's do some more study,’” Lauing said.

He and most of his colleagues agreed that the primary function of the Baylands is as a nature preserve and that its habitat should be protected, even if that means forcing

bicyclists to take different routes. Lauing noted that bicyclists would still be able to ride on the paved roads in and around the Baylands.

“Sometimes hikers like myself stop and focus on a bird or a snake or a bug and my nose is down in the weeds,” Lauing said. “If someone comes through on a big, heavy bike, that will disrupt everything. Maybe the critter runs away; maybe I run away because I'm getting out of the way of the bike. Any bike zooming by disrupts this fundamental reason for being out there for people, quite apart from what it does to the critters.”

While they agreed that speed limits may be helpful, council members doubted that they would be enforced. Council member Vicki Veenker and Vice Mayor Greer Stone both suggested that e-bike riders will be tempted to go faster than the current speed limit of 15 mph.

The speed issue, however, isn't limited to e-bikes. Council member Pat Burt, a longtime cyclist, urged his colleague to support new policies that would apply to all bicycles and that would limit speeds to 10 mph in open space areas and restrict bicycle and horse access altogether on sensitive single-track trails in the Arastradero Preserve.

“I think 20 mph is too fast for any bike that we have in these open space areas,” Burt said. ■

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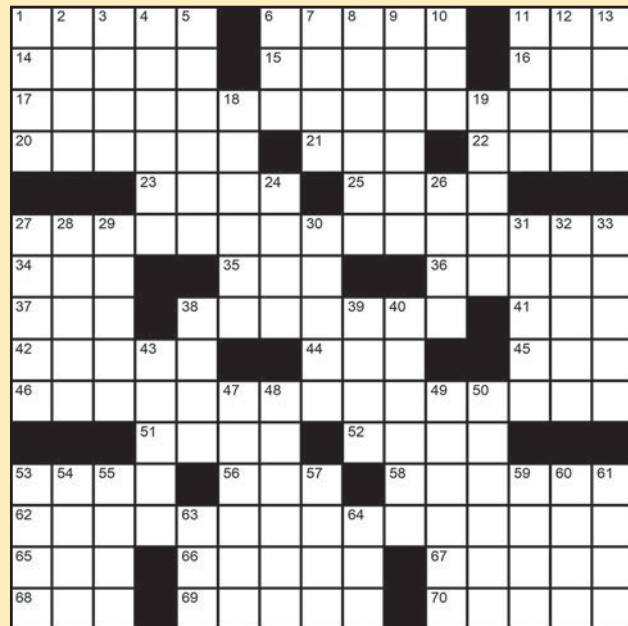
Across

1. Cherished ones
6. Suspicious
11. Biopsy processor
14. Plumed bird
15. Suffix similar to “-ish”
16. “And now, without further ___”
17. MY THEORY, PART 1
20. “We're on!”
21. Jazz Masters org.
22. Check deposit spots, for short
23. Video doorbell brand
25. “And ___ Davis as Alice” (end of “The Brady Bunch” opening credits)
27. MY THEORY, PART 2
34. “Cloud Shepherd” sculptor Jean
35. Senator Klobuchar
36. Reggae proponent
37. 151 in Roman numerals
38. MY THEORY, PART 3
41. Pugilistic wordsmith
42. “47 ___” (2013 Keanu Reeves film)
44. Dark-hued juice brand
45. “Kenan & ___”
46. MY THEORY, PART 4
51. Express mail carrier?
52. Heavy book
53. Dull pain
56. Round figure?
58. “I can't hear you!” sound
62. PART 5 (FOLLOW-UP TO THE THEORY)
65. Org. that lets you e-file
66. Like some mouthwash
67. First name in late-night TV
68. Relieved sigh
69. Got in the game
70. Cause of slick roads

Down

1. Half of an early TV couple

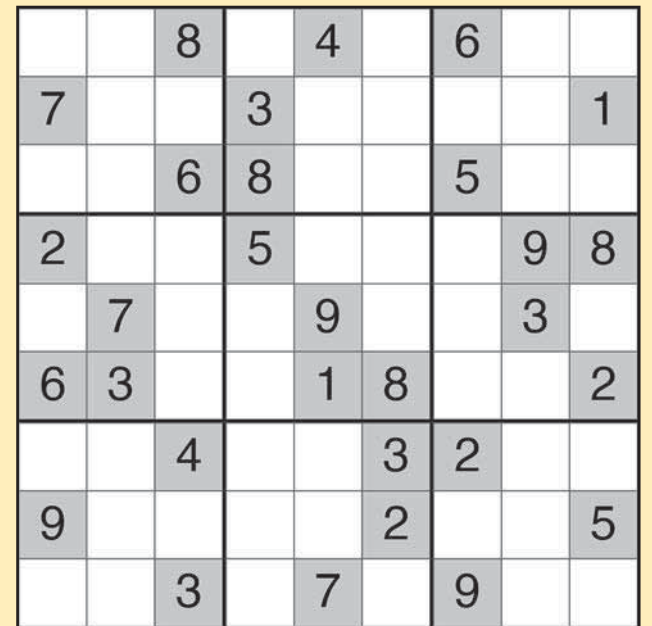
“Sports Roundtable” — it rings true. by Matt Jones



Answers on page 6.

2. 2023 achievement for Viola Davis
3. “A Farewell to ___”
4. Gain anew, as trust
5. Cigar, in slang
6. “30 Rock” creator Tina
7. “This one ___ me”
8. Mouse sound
9. Earthlings
10. Confirming vote
11. ___ person standing
12. Driver around Hollywood
13. Word after Backstreet, Pet Shop, or Beastie
18. French-Italian cheese that's milder than its similarly named relative
19. Part of Fred Flintstone's catchphrase

This week's SUDOKU



Answers on page 6.

www.sudoku.name

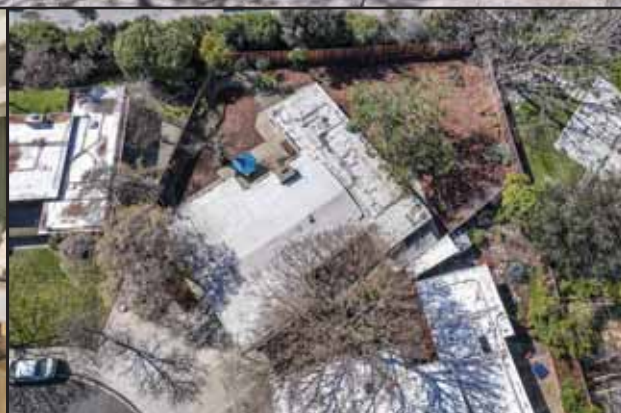
24. Like pheasant or venison
26. “Traffic” agent?
27. Mother-of-pearl
28. Russian count who lent his name to a veal dish
29. State your views
30. Kind of node or gland
31. Japanese city home to Panasonic
32. Former Phillies great Chase
33. Call at a coin toss
38. “Hold ___ your hats”
39. Frost or Dove
40. “You got my approval”
43. How checks are signed
47. Strand, as a winter storm
48. Despot
49. Spam, for example
50. “Sunny” 1990s Honda
53. Setting of Shanghai and Chennai
54. “Iron Chef America” chef Cat
55. Meat-and-potatoes concoction
57. Computer data unit
59. Real estate measurement
60. Debussy's “Clair de ___”
61. “Second prize is ___ of steak knives” (“Glengarry Glen Ross” quote)
63. 1950s singer Sumac
64. Former Pink Floyd guitarist Barrett

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