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## PIEDMONT POST

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING THE CITIZENS OF PIEDMONT

## **Piedmont Candidates Election Results**

By Jay Russell

With 7,746 votes cast by Piedmont voters for the November 3 General Election, nearly final results are shown below. Piedmont once again led the voting in Alameda County with a turnout of 85.6 percent of the city's 9,045 registered voters. Results are as of 4:53 p.m. Tuesday, November 10.

City Council (2 seats available)		
Jen Cavenaugh (Incumbent)	5,745	46.69 %
Conna McCarthy	4,668	37.94 %
Connie Herrick	1,456	11.83 %
Nancy Bostrom	360	2.93 %
Write-in	75	0.61 %
School Board (3 seats available)		
Cory Smegal (Incumbent)	5,116	30.14 %
Veronica Anderson-Thigpen	3,957	23.31 %
Hilary Cooper	3,011	17.74 %
Jason Kelley	2,861	16.85 %
Jason Kelley Hari Titan	2,861 1,977	16.85 % 11.65 %

Results become official on December 3. Arriving mail-in ballots have to be postmarked by election day, November 3, but can be counted until November 20.

## Fire Dept. adds 2 firefighter-paramedics to its ranks

By Allyson Aleksey

At a City Council meeting last week, Fire Chief Bret Black introduced the department's newest firefighter-paramedics, Chad Walker and Daniel Martinez.

Walker, a Southern California native, joined the U.S. Coast Guard after high school, and was assigned as a rescue swimmer on a high endurance cutter based in Alameda. The largest cutters were previously used by the Navy as gunboats, destroyer escorts, and seaplane tenders. Walker graduated from Long Beach State, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics.

While in the Coast Guard he was deployed to various regions of the globe, from South America to Alaska. After leaving the

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Coast Guard, he was with the Lake Almanor Fire Department in Plumas County in Northeastern California for five years.

"[Working there] takes a special type of paramedic that has to do everything possible to keep a critical patient alive in time to

See Firefighters on page 32



Firefighter Chad Walker



Firefighter Daniel Martinez



President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

## 2020 General Election outcome vaults Biden and Harris to White House

By Allyson Aleksey

An unorthodox election resulted in unusual wait times for election results across the country. It took approximately four days for Electoral College results to become final. At approximately 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 7, Joe Biden, the Vice President with Barack Obama, and Kamala Harris, a U.S. Senator from California, were officially announced as the nation's next President and Vice President.

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters does not issue precinct-by-precinct results until it certifies the election 30 days from election night, December 3.

Countywide results showed strong support for the Democratic candidate Biden, with 548,073 votes in the county (80.61 percent).

Biden's running-mate, Kamala Harris, made history as the first woman and first woman of color elected as Vice President. Harris, a native of Berkeley, has served as a Deputy District Attorney in Alameda County, and was elected in 2010 and re-elected in 2014 as California Attorney General. Harris ran against Biden in the bid for the Democratic nomination for president. Sen. Bernie Sanders won the democratic primary in Alameda County and in California on March 3, 2020.

In other election results, Democrat incumbent Barbara Lee easily won re-election to Congress with 91 percent of the vote. Her opponent, Nikka Piterman, is a former Piedmont resident.

In the State Legislature, incumbent Nancy Skinner easily won a second term in the State Senate. She represents Pied-

mont in the 9th district. Skinner received 85 percent of the vote, defeating Libertarian candidate Jamie Dluzak.

Buffy Wicks, Piedmont's representative in the State Assembly (District 15), was winning comfortably. She easily defeated opponent Sara Brink for the seat with nearly 83 percent of the votes

In 2016, 75.42 percent of voters cast the ballots in Alameda County. Hillary Clinton won 78 percent of the votes, and Donald Trump won 14.

The number of registered voters in Alameda County grew by 80,000 from our years ago.

In the last two decades, Alameda County registered voter turnout in presidential elections has fluctuated between a high of 78 percent in 2008 and a low of 74 percent in 2012.

## Piedmont Pool bond passes with 68% margin

By Allyson Aleksey

In a nearly final count of ballots from the November 3 General Election, Piedmont strongly supported Measure UU, the \$19.2 million bond proposal to rebuild Piedmont's swimming pool at the Recreation Department. Results from the Alameda County Registrar of Voters office at 4:53 p.m. yesterday, November 10, show that 5,301 voted Yes, a 68.44 percentile, and 2,445 voted No.

The ballot measure needed a two-thirds approval to pass.

In total 7,746 Piedmonters voted representing an 85.63 percent turnout of voters, the highest percentage of voters per capita in Alameda County. Four years ago Piedmonters also voted with an 86 percent turnout.

Supporters and organizers of the measure have proposed that the three existing pools be replaced with two larger pools to meet resident needs: a warmer recreation pool with areas for safe water play, swim lessons,

therapeutic swim, and physical rehabilitation; and a wider and deeper pool for recreation, physical education, water aerobics, water polo, swim team, and lap swimming. The new pool facilities, restrooms, and related areas would conserve energy and water, comply with state and federal disability and safety standards, and provide restroom access for those using the tennis courts.

Organizer of the Yes on Measure UU expressed their gratitude to the community and campaign.

"The passage of Measure UU is definitely cause for celebration," said Councilmember Betsy Andersen, who has been championing the need for a new community pool for six years. "I believe the success of Measure UU is due to the extraordinary leadership of Amy Aubrecht, Anne Callahan, Vince Saunders and the incredible team of volunteers they brought together to help with this campaign. The goal of Measure UU has always been about build-

ing community, and I am excited for our residents to have a wonderful reason to come together and be involved in the rebuilding process."

Campaign assistant treasurer Margaret Hiller was also gratified with the results.

"I believe that we are very close to the end of the counting process, with 7746 votes counted thus far. I am very grateful to all of the members of the community who worked tirelessly on the campaign, and to all of the voters who recognized the need to make this investment and voted in favor of Measure UU. The future looks bright for swimmers of all ages in our community," she said.

Mayor Bob McBain, a supporter of Yes on Measure UU, said the passage of the bond is an incredible achievement.

"The two-thirds vote threshold is a very high bar, and it speaks volumes about the commitment and the energy put forth by the UU campaign committee," he

## **PINION**

### Letters to the Editor



### A few words of praise from our readers

As the *Piedmont Post* enters its 23rd year of publication as the community's newspaper, some kind words have been received from our readers. A sampling is printed below.

#### Editor:

I appreciated your article about the teachers' union agreement which spurred lots of conversations about the different options for reopening the schools. Thanks so much for your excellent reporting.

-Jenny Feinberg El Cerrito Avenue

#### Editor:

We've gotten the *Post* weekly for years and years, and it's always the highlight of our week. Especially this year, it's been such a blessing to have.

With gratitude, -Liz Mosbaugh Cambridge Way

#### Editor:

Congratulations. We can't believe it's been 22 years since we received out first issue of the Piedmont Post. We've enjoyed watching the Post grow into a Piedmont institution...a must read for the community. Thank you for all the years of reporting on our town's news.

Here's to another 22 years and beyond. Cheers.

\_Sheryl and Bob Wong Manor Drive

We moved out of our home of 34 years recently. We have enjoyed the Post so much and are grateful to you for including our children in the local news! We wish you continued success. You are a true asset to the community.

-Paula & Jack Sawicki Blair Avenue

I continually enjoy Wednesday evenings when the Post arrives. You do a great service to our community. The Post is enjoyable, informative and helpful for understanding issues facing our special place. Our ability to communicate is essential to our democracy.

A special thanks for the coverage of the Scout controversy.

-Roger Eliassen Scenic Avenue

#### Editor:

The longer I live in Piedmont, the more I appreciate the Post, our own newspaper. It is the glue that holds this unique community together.

Tom Gandesbery San Carlos Avenue

### Designing new pool a challenging engineering problem

Editor:

Now that Measure UU [appears to be passing], we are faced with a very interesting and challenging engineering problem: designing a pool that will meet the neighborhood's aquatic needs for the next 50 years within the constraints of the City Climate Action plan and the State 2035/2050 goals.

Very few pool design companies have the skills to analyze and optimize the complex trade-offs between the various available energy technologies and the pool size in area and water volume. Piedmont has an opportunity to innovate and show the way for other communities.

We would like to call on the engineering skills within the members of the community to get together with the goal of making back-of-the envelope calculations on various options, based on data gathering and scientific calculations. This would help the City Council make decisions on how to proceed.

You can connect with us by email at: piedmont.green.pool@ gmail.com

–Bernard Pech Garrett Keating Tom Webster

## Letters to the Editor

### Thanks from City Council candidate Editor:

Thank you, Piedmont, for your wonderful support and votes. My heartfelt gratitude to everyone who took the time to talk with me, read my website, watch me on the various Zoom forums, and consider me for the Council seat. All of you made this such an incredible experience for this first-time candidate.

Although I am disappointed the election did not turn out the way I had hoped, I am committed to public service and look forward to offering my services in a way that will benefit our City. There is never a shortage of work to be done, so I am sure I will find a place to volunteer and contribute.

We are extremely fortunate to have Jen Cavanaugh's expertise and energy for a second term.

See Letters on page 30

#### *Piedmont Post* news racks at 2 locations

Newsstand copies of the Piedmont Post are available at Mulberry's Market, and Piedmont Shell at Grand & Wildwood Aves. Copies of the paper may be purchased for \$1 at all locations during business hours. Weekly delivery to homes in Piedmont and online access is available by subscription. Call 922-8711 for information. Or go to piedmontpost.org/subscribe.

### PIEDMONT POST

1139 Oakland Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611 Phone: 922-8711 • email: news@piedmontpost.org Publisher & Editor: Gray Cathrall

**PRODUCTION** MANAGER Victor Cheng

REPORTERS Barry Eitel Allyson Aleksey Jay Russell Ed Gilligan

**SPORTS** Jonathan Comeaux B. Durham

**PHOTOGRAPHERS** Rob Yelland

Sam Deaner Brian Mahany Ken DeCrosta

**CARTOONS** Flip - Phil Witte

Editorial - T. Brian Kelly

WEB DESIGN Diana Lim Natalie Lim

**COLUMNISTS Consumer Affairs** 

Deborah Quok Education Sue Porter Sarah Shaffer

Cooking

Nina Meehan Nicky Mora Katie Pengilly

**Finance** 

T.J. Stevko **Overseas Columnist** Pat Forsyth

**Professional Services** Philip Anderson Suzanne Arca Laura Martin Bovard Jim Gardner

Seniors

**Student Writer** 

Crystal Vacker

Cookie Segelstein Ben & Leah Bloom Tim Johnson

REVIEWERS

Anastasia Edel Dance

Jaime Robles Film Chris Honoré

Music Jaime Robles Paul Hertelendy Joseph Gold

Melanie Johnston Theater Robert Lee Hall

Pets

Wine

Pierre DuMont ADVERTISING Nancy Kurkjian

510-626-2468

CIRCULATION Call 510-652-2051

### Sheltering in place? Where in the World are You?

For 22 years, Piedmont residents have made sure their travels are well documented, with photos of family members reading the Piedmont Post in far-off places throughout the world, and some

The *Post* invites families to send us photos still on your camera in a scrapbook for publication in the Where in the We on the back page of the paper.

Otherwise we are left to ask, "Where in the World Are They?" Send photos as jpg. files to: <a href="mailto:news@piedmontpost.org">news@piedmontpost.org</a>, and be sure to include a brief description of the location where the photo was taken.

### How to get news in the *Post*

The *Piedmont Post* welcomes its readers to express their opinions on any topic. Columns in the Piedmont Post are exclusive and may not be reprinted without permission.

The Post reserves the right to edit any pieces or letters submitted. Opinion pieces should be limited to 400 words, letters to the editor

Photo submissions: Please submit photos at 6 inches in width and at a resolution of 200 dpi in jpeg format.

Do you have some news? Place any photos or stories in the mailbox at 1139 Oakland Ave., or email them to news@piedmontpost.org. It's that easy. (Send us an attachment or cut and paste your text into the body of the email.)

The deadline for submitting news, photos and opinion items is Friday.



"Democracy is not neat, orderly. or quiet. It requires a certain relish for confusion."

> -Molly Ivins 1944-2007

U.S. columnist, author, political commentator. humorist

## NEWS

## Tales of past Turkey Trots: 2010



The 2010 Piedmont Turkey Trot drew in an unexpected amount of runners - more than 1,200

By Allyson Aleksey

#### Part 1 in a series

The Piedmont Turkey Trot, now in its 19th year, will be taking a brief hiatus in 2020. The trot will take a digital form because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

In its largest turnout, the Thursday morning event drew nearly 2,800 runners and joggers. Today, such a number would hardly allow enough room to remain socially distant from one another.

The trot covers a 5-kilometer (3-mile) course on Piedmont streets, a good workout for serious runners, and a benchmark for hundreds of other runners looking to improve their time. The race always begins early Thanksgiving morning, hence the motto, 'Move your feet before you eat!"

This week we are looking back to 2010 when the event brought in more than 1,200 runners. The Trot, then in its 9th year, had grown into a large social event. Piedmont residents and neighbors came together walking, jogging, dog-walking, and stroller-pushing.

That year also marked a more official trot: it was the race organizers partnered with Ford Timing to provide a professional timing service and clock at the finish line. The Piedmont Post offered a new award that year for the largest registered family in the trot. Race organizers encouraged runners to "go green," and observe sustainable practices by supplying water jugs and compostable cups to quench runners' thirsts.

The morning run was followed by refreshments and awards at the high school amphitheater.

The day before the Turkey Trot, on November 24, 2010, The Post asked residents, "Why do you trot on Thanksgiving?

Catherine Teare said it's truly the "first big party of the holiday season." Her daughter Sadie, 5, said that her family trots because they're fast. John and Gigi Orta said what they like best about the trot are the "t-shirts, seeing all our Piedmont friends, and getting icees at Mulberry's when it's over." Patty Siskind, former president of the Piedmont Beautification Foundation, said she'll be trotting because she wanted everyone out of the kitchen.

The 9th trot raised \$17,000 for the PHS cross-country and tracks teams. Richard Rowe, the founder of the event, marveled at the number of people who showed up. He set his estimates at about a hundred - and exactly 1,276 runners showed up.

Over the years, the Turkey Trot has become a treasured event for families, friends, and neighbors. It has become one of the most-well attended events in the city annually. Like most seasonal events, the trot will be put on hold this year, but ready to resume the race in 2021.

Next: The year the Trot set a record for largest turnout.

## The Turkeys are here...the lawn sign variety, of course.



William and Jack Wittich find their first PTT sign in the 2020 Piedmont Turkey Trot Challenge.

By Allyson Aleksey

Given local health directives, the Piedmont Turkey Trot will not be held live this year. However, The Trot is putting its best shank forward, and will carry on the spirit of the Piedmont Turkey Trot virtually with the Piedmont Turkey Trot Challenge – a virtual scavenger hunt.

Register online at piedmontturkeytrot.com and then run or walk the streets of Piedmont to find the PTT Sponsored Lawn signs in various gardens or businesses around town.

Snap a selfie with the sign, upload to our Instagram account #piedmontturkeytrot and be entered into a drawing for prizes.

Each Instagram posting from a registered participant is an entry into the drawing. Find all 49 sponsored signs and increase your chances to win! Prizes include gift certificates from Piedmont Grocery, Transports and more.

If you are looking to move your feet a little faster, participants may also upload their 5K time for bragging rights at their (smaller, yet mighty) Thanksgiving table.

Lawn signs will be through November 28, the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Registration is \$10. Commemorative Turkey Trot shirts can be ordered for an additional \$15.

See you on Instagram.





"When Dude spoke of pork bellies, I assumed he was speaking of commodities, not his parents."

## Piedmont Post at your door and online

The *Piedmont Post* remains available online to all subscribers, no matter where they live. To have access to the online *Post*, type <u>piedmontpost.org</u> for a Google search. The entire edition is online. You must log in and use your password. Then readers may scroll from top to bottom as if

reading the printed version from left to right. The Post has returned to print and is delivering the paper weekly to households throughout the city

each Wednesday. For inquiries, call the Piedmont Post at 510-652-2051.



## LOCAL ITEMS

## LWV event on Dec. 6 on drought and the new normal

The League of Women Voters of Piedmont will host an event on December 6 featuring Ashley Boren speaking on "California's New Normal: Drought & Deluge".

The community is invited to hear Boren, the Executive Director of Sustainable Conservation, speak about the climate and environmental challenges in California.

The event will take place on zoom on Sunday, December 6, from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

For access, the zoom link is: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/ 82722017449?pwd=dlUzMXR1WlBFenl5U2U5UXlzMzAydz09 For more information, see <a href="https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/">https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/</a> lwv-piedmont.

#### **About Ashley Boren**

Sustainable Conservation is a nonprofit dedicated to helping people solve the challenges of air and water. Sustainable Conservation brings together business, landowners, government and other non-profit organizations to steward the resources people depend on. The organization is currently focused on initiatives to increase California's water supply reliability, water quality and the pace and scale of habitat restoration.

Ashley Boren serves on the California State Board of Food and Agriculture and the UC California President's Advisory Commission for the Agriculture and Natural Resources Division. She earned a BA in human biology, MA in applied economics and MBA from Stanford University.

## **Montclair Parking Garage is** open - without contact

By Jay Russell

The Montclair Parking Garage, located at the top of La Salle Avenue in Montclair Village, announced its new payby-plate and gate-less parking system on Thursday, November

Motorists can still use the kiosk for cash or credit payment, but the garage now has the option to use the ParkMobile app for a contactless experience.

ParkMobile is like FasTrak for parking and is the same app used at all metered street parking in Oakland. Montclair Garage is the first off-street facility in Oakland to employ this parking technology.

To use the app, enter the garage code (6501) and then the parking space number and the estimated time you will be parked. If time runs out on a parking spot, the app will send a notification and your spot can be renewed from the app. New users of the app will receive the first 30 minutes free. Drivers can also use Code FreeMV on ParkMobile.io for a free day of parking at the Montclair Garage.

Unlimited monthly parking permits are available for \$100



Drivers can download the ParkMobile app for contactless payment at the Montclair Parking

per month. If you already have a monthly parking permit, just give your license plate information to the parking attendant.

To further limit contact between people, Montclair Village will no longer be offering validation of parking passes. The city and the Montclair Garage will be working during the roll out of the system to determine how individual business can best offer free parking to customers.



Some lifting required

NOV-DEC

contact@piedmontbsa.org

### Hours for the Parking Garage

Monday - Saturday: 7a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Free on Sundays)

Hours will be extended to 9 p.m. when holiday shopping hours begin. For assistance at the Montclair Garage call (510) 339-2645.

#### November 11–15

Wednesday-Sunday. November 11-15

6 a.m., 7 p.m. Nov. 10 School Board meeting

10 a.m., 5 p.m. Nov. 2 City Council meeting

11 a.m., 6 p.m. Nov. 4 Park Commission meeting

12 p.m. Nov. 9 Planning **Commission meeting** 

Due to the COVID 19 emergency, live meetings are being held virtually and NOT at City Hall. Please see the meeting agenda on how to view and participate in the meetings via internet, telephone, and other media.

For more information on future programming, call KCOM at City Hall at 510-420-3083.





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By Jay Russell

Question: Given the election day anxiety, what did you do to

Asked at Mulberry's Market on November 9.



#### **CAMILLE CREIGHTON, College sophomore**

I was definitely worried but optimistic. I coped by not looking at the TV and by getting out into nature. I just separated myself from everything going on and hoped for the

NATHANIEL CARPENTER, 10th grade I was happy because finally "somebody" is not president. I'm just surprised that he didn't win.



#### **CHRIS LAVDIOTIS, Palm Drive**

It was anxiety-inducing for sure. It was tense. I kept the faith and thought positive. I had the news on constantly and hoped.



#### **OLIVER CHAO-BIERHAUS, 9th grade** I was checking on it occasionally, but

I wasn't really that involved in it. I wasn't really worried.





#### WILLIAM BAKER, 11th grade

There was some anxiety, but there was also a level of excitement because this is the future. It is a big deal.



#### SHELDON ANDREWS, College sophomore

It was more entertaining than anything. It was nice to have it over with, it wasn't anxiety filled exactly. I am happy it is done.



The Question Man asks a prescient question each week at an unannounced location.





Tom Revelli's new shop, Montclair Sports Tennis, has a door to a patio which provides great natural light and a COVID-friendly cross breeze. Only one customer or small group is allowed in at a time.

## Montclair Sports reborn as Montclair Sports Tennis

By Jay Russell

Montclair Sports, in business since 1957, closed its doors for good on August 9, but not because of the coronavirus. Owner Tom Revelli announced his retirement after 43 years operating the store but realized he was not ready to leave the community yet. On October 1st he opened Montclair Sports Tennis, a small shop a few doors away on Mountain Blvd., up a set of stairs and at the end of

a hallway. It isn't a typical retail store connected directly to the sidewalk, but it works for Revelli.

A fixture in Montclair Village for 43 years, he has created a new shop focused on tennis equipment, to include his peerless tennis racket restringing service. The 4,000 square foot Montclair Sports, which had been in operation for 63 years, has now compressed to the 250 square foot Montclair Sports Tennis.

When the Post spoke with

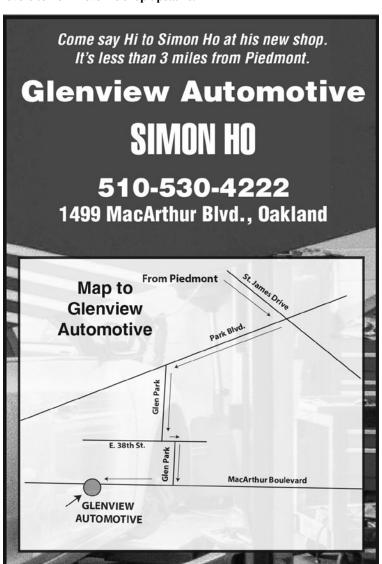
MONTCLAIR SPORTS TENNIS
FILAMIS SETTEMBRIES ACCESSORIES

SUITE 212 †

SOUTH 212 †

SOUTH 213 †

A sign for the new tennis shop at 1980 Mountain Blvd., leads tennis lovers to Tom Revelli's shop upstairs.



Revelli on March 5, a week before the pandemic, he announced the closure of Montclair Sports. Their close-out sale had great success in the beginning. "The first 10 days of the close-out sale were spectacular. Many people came in, it was one of the toughest weeks of my life emotionally. It was so touching. People shared so many nice stories, memories and thank you cards," Revelli explained.

Then the pandemic hit and the store had to change plans for its liquidation sale.

After closing on March 16, the store didn't reopen until June. Sales trickled in until the business was formally closed in August.

Strangely, the pandemic played a role in the new tennis venture. Without a store and during a shelter-in-place social landscape, Revelli realized he had few prospects of seeing the members of the community he has gotten to know over the last half century.

"COVID was a real wake-up call for me. The motivation to stay in the community and to be in town was what I was missing through COVID. I was not able to be in the community and share what it was all about. The pandemic showed me there is too much I'm missing — and that's why I am going to be here," Revelli said.

Tennis has experienced a major revival in 2020 with explosive growth worldwide. As a socially distanced sport, tennis is one of the few activities that allows people to safely get out, get exercise and be social.

"I'm respectfully busy. I will never say no to anyone, and I always try to get the rackets done in no more than a 48-hour turnaround. That's an important factor of why people want to keep it local as well," Revelli stated.

Montclair Sports Tennis is open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Revelli is there every day. "I want to let people know we are still here and we are strong. Come on in and say hello, if your racket needs a little bit of attention bring it over and I will take care of it," Revelli said.

"I wasn't ready to say goodbye and I don't think the community was ready to boot me out either," Tom said with a smile.

Montclair Sports Tennis is open for business and located at 1980 Mountain Blvd., Suite #212. It's easy to find: it's 50 feet from the old store and is upstairs at the end of the hall. For information, call 510-339-9313.

## Scouting for Food annual event is underway

For 36 years the Piedmont Scouts BSA has collected food and funds to help feed families in Alameda County. All food and funds are given to the Alameda County Food Bank. Piedmont residents were especially generous last year, donating 8,095 pounds of food and \$6,215 in cash to the Food Bank.

This year's event is moving to online donations, and the Scouts have set an ambitious goal of raising \$7,500.

Instead of a one-day annual food collection drive, this year's campaign will last for five weeks, from November 1 through December 6. In addition, every Tuesday is Giving Back Tuesday. "We hope that those who have so generously donated food in the past will give online this year to help us combat food insecurity," said Katy Kobal, Scouting for Food Chair.

Every dollar donated allows the Food Bank to purchase \$7 worth of food.

We estimate that our need has doubled in Alameda county," said Suzan Bateson, Executive Director of the Alameda County Community Food Bank. "October was our biggest month in food distribution ever. We anticipated distributing five million pounds of food. That is record-breaking,

stunning."

Pre-COVID, Alameda County had one of the highest incidences of hunger in the nation. Nearly 20 percent of residents in the county live below the poverty line. Of those receiving assistance from the Alameda County Food Bank, two-thirds are children and the elderly.

Donate online today by going to <a href="https://tinyurl.com/scouting-forfood2020">https://tinyurl.com/scouting-forfood2020</a> and turn \$1 into \$7 of food! Help us reach our goal of \$7,500! Please contact Morgan Fjord at the Scout office: 510-844-4752.

#### **About Piedmont Council BSA**

The Piedmont Council has proudly served our community since 1910 when the first troop overnight event was held in Redwood Canyon in Oakland. The council was chartered eleven years later, in 1921. Although it is one of the smallest councils in the nation, it is widely recognized for its excellence and traditions of service and quality programs.

Year after year more than 50% of the eligible youth in Piedmont participate in the council's many programs. Currently more than 1000 young people and 300 adult volunteers actively participate in Scouting in Piedmont.

## Toys for Tots accepting donations at City Hall

By Allyson Aleksey

The annual Toys for Tots campaign has begun, and Piedmont Fire Department has placed a donation box by the front doors of City Hall. Residents are encouraged to drop off new, unwrapped gifts for children in the bin during daytime hours seven days a week.

Last year, the Marine Corps Reserve, which sponsors the nationwide campaign, had 109 donation sites in Alameda County and collected 25,000 toys for kids in the county.

"With the help of Piedmont residents, we're hoping that we can see that number go higher this year," said Fire Chief Bret Black. Firefighters will empty the bin at the end of each day. If residents wish to bring a large number of donations, call the Fire Department at 420-3030 to arrange for a firefighter to be there.

The Toys for Tots drive will also be accepting monetary donations for the first time. Checks may be left with the Fire Department, but made payable to Toys for Tots, 2144 Clement Avenue, Alameda, CA, 94501.

To donate directly to the campaign using a credit card, visit <a href="https://marinetoysfortots.salsal-abs.org/localdonationform/index.html?fun\_local\_campaign\_designation=CA-Alameda&scf\_unit\_code\_supporter=CA-Alameda.">https://marinetoysfortots.salsal-abs.org/localdonationform/index.html?fun\_local\_campaign\_designation=CA-Alameda&scf\_unit\_code\_supporter=CA-Alameda.</a>

## Piedmont Tree Lighting on TV this year

Every year the Piedmont Beautification Foundation and the City of Piedmont kick off the Holiday Season with the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony in front of the Community Hall. As a result of social distancing precautions due to the coronavirus, this year's ceremony will take place virtually. But the treelighting will be broadcast on the city's TV station, KCOM (Channel 27), and will be available for home viewing on Wednesday, December 2 at 7 p.m.

The Beautification Foundation maintains, installs and removes the colorful LED lights each year. This also offers community members the opportunity of donating to the Holiday Tree Lighting Fund as a way of extending holiday wishes to their friends and neighbors.

"We've never had a virtual tree-lighting before," said Park

Commission Chair Patty Dunlap.

Lights will be installed on the 80-foot redwood tree above the Community Hall on Tuesday morning, December 1. The tree-lighting will be taped that evening and broadcast the next day. Speakers will include Mayor Bob McBain, City Administrator Sara Lillevand, Piedmont Beautification Foundation president Gayle Lambert, and former PBF president Patty Siskind.

Music will be performed by the Piedmont High School Troubadors, and a youth representative from the Make-a-Wish Foundation will assist with the tree-lighting.

Due to restrictions on the gathering of crowds, there will be no visit from Santa Claus.

But Snata's spirit will be visible with a special mailbox installed next to the tree for notes destined for the North Pole.

## SCHOOLS

## Reopening of elementary schools to begin

By Jay Russell

The return of all elementary school students to classrooms has been delayed until December 1, but Piedmont School District has moved forward with a plan for a phased return. All public schools TK-12 have the green light from Alameda County, as long as a reopening plan is submitted to the county health office and posted on the district's website.

Nine Special Education (SPED) students, including pre-schoolers, returned to the Havens and Beach elementary school campuses on November 3 for in-person learning.

Tomorrow, November 12, Ms. Cowan's SPED Learning Center will welcome back five students to Wildwood Elementary School.

Millennium High School will have a small cohort of students on campus starting November 13.

November 17 will mark a big step forward as a cohort of nine Transitional Kindergarten (TK) students will have their first day of school. This class at Beach will be the first "pilot for General Education Students."

Approximately 75 percent of elementary school students have elected for in-person learning. On

December 1 grades TK through 2nd plan to resume at all campuses. Grades 3-5 are scheduled to return a week later on December 8.

Master scheduling continues to be the major impediment to returning to campus. The scheduling of classes and teacher assignment has the status of "in progress" at elementary sites and "in development" at the middle and high schools.

Superintendent Randy Booker organized a health panel of medical professionals to allow elementary school teachers to ask questions. The panel includes Dr. George Rutherford and Dr. Jim Crawford-Jukibiak of UCSF, Alta Bates physician Dr. Sarah Handelsman, and school district nurses Carol Menz and Amy Jo Goldfarb.

The STEAM building opened Monday, November 9, and teachers will begin to set up their classrooms after a 3-month delay.

This paramount step is the first of many to get the high school prepared for education during COVID-19. All teachers will have to unpack boxes of classroom materials which have been have stored in another building.

It now appears that January 20 may be the earliest the mid-

dle and high school will be fully returning to in-person learning.

"It is unlikely that I would issue a recommendation to the Board of Education that we return to a hybrid/in-person learning model for secondary schools prior to the beginning of the 2nd semester," said Supt. Booker.

In addition to putting together the jigsaw puzzle of the master schedule for secondary schools, the district is also working on the following:

- Guidelines for arrival and departure procedures
- Planning for signage: health protocols, spacing and directional markers
- Substitute staffing for accommodated employees
- Updated daily health screener for students and staff

Three Berkeley public school opened up in experimental, small cohorts this week. They are planning a similar phased reopening to Piedmont's. Piedmont's December opening of elementary schools is slated to take place more than one month earlier than Berkeley, which plans for opening elementary schools the week of January 13. No other public schools in the county have opened or have scheduled dates of opening.

#### School Reopening Dashboard Secondary **Schools** Schools **Health & Safety** Status Status Updated Daily Health Screener for In Progress In Progress Completed District COVID-19 Liaisons Completed PPE acquired: Completed Completed Face Coverings for Students and Staff Face Shields Gloves workspaces Plexiglass for workspaces Completed Completed Reporting and Contact Tracing Triggers for Switching to Distance Completed Completed Communications Plans - COVID Completed Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols Completed Completed **School Campus Logistics** Status Guidelines for Arrival and Departure Planning for Signage: Health Protocols, Spacing and Directional In Progress In Development Handwashing, Sanitization Stations Placed Throughout Campuses Completed In Progress Master Schedule Development In Development (AM/PM Cohorts, A/B Cohorts, Teacher/Staff Assignment) Status Status Surveyed for Distance Learning Completed Accommodations (as outlined in the Labor Agreements for Hybrid/In-Person Learning Model with Completed Completed APT, CSEA, APSA Substitute Staffing for Accommodated In Progress In Progress COVID-19 Testing Contract Protocol Completed Completed for Employees Protocols and Implementation of COVID-19 Testing for Employees Completed Completed **Facilities** Status Status Cleaning and Disinfection Supplies, Training, and Protocols Completed Plexiglass barriers for office and Completed In Progress Ensuring Adequate Air Ventilation Completed Completed Ordering and Installing Signage: In Progress In Progress Status Governance Status Community Care Agreement Staff Training on the Reopening Plan In Development In Development Health Panel of Lead Medical Completed In Development Families Informed of the Reopening Plan and Public Health Components

A document updating the reopening of school was released on November 10.



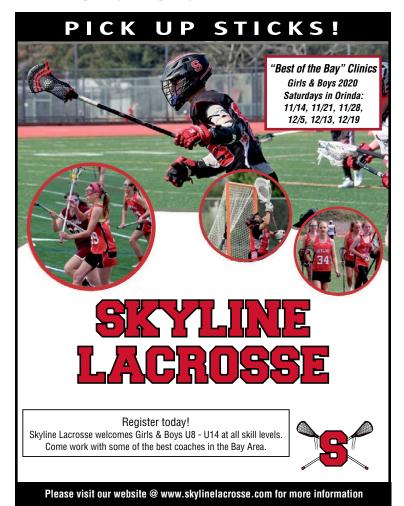
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## New STEAM building at PHS opens for teachers

By Jay Russell

Piedmont High's long delayed opening of its \$30 million 3-1/2 story STEAM building opened its doors to teachers on Monday, November 9. The new building has unrivaled views of the bay, large classrooms and the latest in technology.

While many items have yet to be installed, teachers have begun setting up their classrooms, and some are expected to begin remote teaching from their new rooms.

Rooms are available for teachers to access, set up and kick the tires on the new edifice. Computer Science teacher Flint Christensen could not wait to get into his new second floor room on the westside facing the bay and broadcast his online class on Monday. His students easily talked him into giving them a virtual tour of their new classroom with his webcam.

# The new building has unrivaled views of the bay, large classrooms and the latest in technology

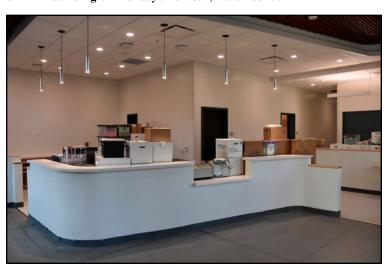
The new classrooms will be a reward for students who have been waiting since August to enter the building. While the building has abandoned the historic Mediterranean architectural design of the campus, it is first rate, on the tip of the rocket of technology and will surely make for plenty of "wows" when students come back.

Classrooms were not set up on Monday, but boxes of teachers' supplies were delivered to nearly every classroom. The new front office at the northeast corner of the building looks out onto the entrance of the school.



Staff photos

Teachers got the green light to move into their classrooms in the STEAM building on Monday this week, November 9.



The new main office of Piedmont High on first floor of the STEAM building.

The Makers Lab on the ground floor has a large retractable garage door that leads out onto a large patio. The door is large enough to allow cars into the classroom. The lab has not yet been outfitted with the equipment being paid for by the Piedmont Makers.

Before high school classes open in January, laser cutters, 3D printers and other high-tech items will be installed. A computer numerical control (CNC) may be the highlight of the lab – a

device which controls machining tools (such as drills, lathes, mills) and 3D printers by means of a computer.

A computer lab is next door, allowing students to design projects and plug the data files straight into machines in the Makers Lab.

"It feels clean and fresh, and everything looks good. It is incredibly inspiring. Just being able to come inside is really uplifting," said Christensen.

Although the solar panels on the roof have been temporarily budgeted out, the building can use some solar power from panels on patio awnings and on the windows, which double as sun shades. The windows and shades automatically close and the newest technology is on display with a hydronic cooling and heating system.

On Monday Christensen appeared to be the only teacher in the building, although math teachers Doyle O'Regan and Ian Burns plan to use their new classrooms this week.

O'Regan has been teaching in his old classroom for weeks already.

"For me, it was a no-brainer. The minute they said we can come back and teach [in the STEAM building], I said I'm there. The internet is very fast here, and it is nice to have a separation of sorts between my home and work environments," he said.

The opening of the STEAM building is pivotal to any plan for a return to in-person learning at the high school. Every teacher has been displaced by the construction one way or another, but now Piedmont High can begin to take shape. The district has already begun a phased reopening and plans to have a trial run of cohort groups on every campus before winter break.

## COVID-19 "Community Care Agreement" developed for return to school

By Jay Russell

A "Community Care Agreement" outlining COVID-19 safe practices and protocol has been developed by the Piedmont School District for all elementary school families to review and acknowledge. Prior to the return of students to Beach, Havens, and Wildwood Elementary Schools, Parent Club Presidents, school nurses, school board members and elementary school principals developed this document of accountability.

"It is essential that all members of the PUSD community pledge to maintain the health and safety standards outlined below. We ask that all Piedmont elementary school families review the following guidelines and acknowledge their receipt before returning to school for hybrid learning," the document states.

The agreement functions as a detailed summary of safe practices, community expectations, and agreed upon sources for information on the virus.

It begins with basic information about mask wearing, distancing, symptoms of infection and procedures to follow with exposure or symptoms. The agreement goes into specific requests and expectations for parents and students, crucial to know before school starts.

"Realize that the schools will have a low threshold to send students home; any potential COVID-19 symptoms will result in a child being immediately sent home from school and quarantined. Be prepared to pick up your student within 30 minutes of a call notifying you that s/he is ill. We ask families to have two friends as back-up in case parents are not available for

immediate pick up," the agreement stated.

The document instructs families to follow state and local guidelines for travel, "Avoid travelling long distances for vacations or pleasure as much as possible," it requests.

The CDC ranks social activities on a continuum of risk, this document explains activities in the categories of risk: lowest, more, higher and highest.

The mask standards section of the agreement states no gaiter style masks will be allowed nor will masks with vents. Face shields can be worn additionally but not as an alternative to masks. Masks must have a minimum of two layers.

The term "close contact" is defined as "being within six feet of someone for 15 minutes or more." These are cumulative minutes; they do not have to be consecutive.

Havens Parents Club President Lindsay Thomasson read the first draft of the agreement at the October 28 School Board Meeting and the updated version on November 10.

"I hate that we have to have this contract, and I love that we have this contract. It is about how we take care of each other and set ourselves up for success when school comes back in some way or form," said Board President Amal Smith.

The document is for elementary school families now but will be amended later and sent to all remaining families with students in middle and high school.

To read the full document, download it by clicking on: www.agendaonline.net/public/Meeting/Attachments/DisplayAttachment.aspx?AttachmentID=1245988&IsArchive=0

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A view from second floor of the 3-story STEAM building.



A lab with a with view of Oakland, San Francisco and the South Bay.





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# CHILDREN'S THEATRE

## Holiday season – keeping it simple and festive

By Nina Meehan

The holiday season is coming up fast and furious, but this year won't be like others. Out-of-town family won't be able to join us as easily. The busiest travel day of the year will be much quieter at the airports. Even picking up our ingredients from the grocery store won't be nearly as simple.

For many families, this time of year is steeped in tradition, and traditions are very hard to change.

Kids anchor on rituals and traditions. For kids, time is an endless loop that compresses and stretches based on events, emotions and experiences. My 5-year-old recently celebrated her birthday, and, two weeks after, she was busy picking out what color candle would be on her cake for her next birthday. When I explained that a year is a long time, she responded, "Is a year longer than Coronavirus

times?"

What an important reminder for us as adults. COVID-19 will eventually abate, but the events that happen during this pandemic will form the core of who our young kids are and who they will become.

As I begin to visualize the upcoming months, I'm finding myself looking for ways to keep things simple, but also festive. In that light, here are a few ideas that I am bouncing around in my head as we approach Thanksgiving:

## Stories looking back are just as important as stories looking forward.

- Read children's books by Native American authors (We love *Kamik: An Inuit Puppy Story*, and many other great books.).
- Let's learn about the practice of land acknowledgements as a family and do the research to learn more about the Indigenous People on whose land we live.

• Share the story of your own family's identity and history. You can discuss it, draw it in pictures, write it in poetry form or use music...whatever works for your story.

#### Gratitude makes life happier.

- Find ways to incorporate gratitude into your everyday life with your family. Maybe there is a gratitude jar in the kitchen that kids can put a note in at breakfast time or a nightly gratitude journal that you draw or write in with your child at bedtime.
- Create a gratitude ritual that allows kids to share and discuss gratitude with others.
- Make a gratitude mural with your family on butcher paper, drawing events, people, and ideas from the past year.

#### Silly fun is a great way to let go of what is not possible and embrace the new.

- Can your family create a Great Debate where each person is in charge of championing their favorite food from your holiday meal?
- A holiday table decorating competition where each person decorates their place setting to help express a common theme.

Our holidays may be different this year, but I wish you amazing experiences that make them bright and joyous.

Nina Meehan is CEO of Bay Area Children's Theatre, bringing new musicals into homes with its **Play On!** story kits. Learn more at https://bactheatre.org/#/play-on



## Family Sanity event on November 17

Meeting for parents of challenging teens & young adults

By Lisa Scimens

No one can say 2020 has been an easy year. For Family Sanity, the Oakland-based non-profit organization that helps parents of teens and young adults challenged by mental illness, it has been a very eventful year.

"In March we switched our in-person monthly meetings to online via zoom, like many organizations. Soon after, we started to see a lot of new members from places all over – Chicago, New York, Boston, Southern California," said founder Lisa Scimens. "Since one of the goals of the organization is to be accessible to parents all over, in a strange way the Pandemic is actually helping Family Sanity start to reach that goal."

"As the Covid crisis continues to drag on, more and more people are seeking help with mental health issues," she explained. "The isolation, having kids home all day, working from home and having older kids who have lost jobs move home are in many cases causing previous conditions to amplify in intensity. Studies are showing that anxiety rates for children and adults are at an all-time high."

Some parents of difficult teens and young adults report feeling threatened by aggressive, verbally and emotionally abusive older children. While their older kids may already be under the care of mental health professionals, the parents feel they have no privacy. They end up locking themselves in their bedrooms to escape or end up having to make phone calls from their cars.

#### **Special Event November 17**

Family Sanity will host a special online event on Saturday, November 17, at 7:30 p.m. called "Creating Healthy Boundaries for Parents of Challenging Teens/ Young Adults". Francie Burkhard, LFMT of SFDBT will be the guest speaker. She has more than 20 years of experience helping families of young people dealing with Depression, Anxiety, Borderline Personality Disorder, and many other psychiatric conditions. She will explain what DBT (Dialectical Behavior Therapy) is and why it is very successful with many conditions.

Tickets are \$20 for a family or \$10 for individuals. It is free for those having financially tough times. Tickets are available by clicking on <a href="https://www.familysanity.">www.familysanity.</a>

org. The event is co-sponsored with Willows in the Wind and SF Parent Support Group/NAMI SF.

#### **New Partnership**

This past Fall Family Sanity joined in a partnership with Willows In the Wind. Founded by Jan Rao 13 years ago, Willows provides an all-parent volunteer staff offering three monthly parent support groups for parents of teens currently in residential treatment programs, or those considering this higher level of care.

"Partnering with Family Sanity has enabled us to broaden offerings to parents in need. Together we have been able to expand the number of meetings held monthly, as well as collaborating on guest speakers and industry specific events," said Rao.

### **New ways to Support Family Sanity**

Family Sanity is a 501c3 organization that relies on dona tions for its existence. Like most non-profits, fundraising has been difficult in the age of Covid. Founder Lisa Scimens, who is an artist, decided to get creative in order to raise money. In the past, she has sold some of her paintings for the benefit of Family Sanity. But since art shows aren't happening in 2020, she decided to create an online store called Dancing Artist Designs, www.dancingartistdesigns.com. In the virtual store, she sells home décor items, tote bags and art cards all made using designs from her paintings and photography. All profits will be used for Family Sanity.

Founded in 2013 by Scimens, a former Piedmont resident, Family Sanity hosts two monthly parent support groups via zoom, as well as several special events each year. To find out more or to donate, see <a href="https://www.familysanity.org">www.familysanity.org</a>.

## FUN4KIDS Event Calendar

By Jay Russell

#### Children's Fairyland

Outdoor Park

Before it gets too cold take the little ones over for a day of wonder at Fairyland. To ensure safety: puppet shows, Toddler Storytimes, live performances and rides have been put on pause. All tickets are reduced to \$8. The slides are open, along with most Storybook sets. Kids can run up and roll down the Jack and Jill Hill, while Gideon, Pixie, and all their other animals are ready to see the return of families. The cafe will be open for snacks. Picnickers are invited and social bubbles are marked with circular chalked areas throughout the park. The park is open Wednesday to Sunday.

#### Oakland Zoo

Outdoor Zoo

Mandatory reservations and safety precautions are new at the zoo. The zoo was shut down from March- July and was the last to reopen in the state. Take the kids for a safe day at the zoo with limited capacity and universal mask wearing. Starting Nov. 20, the zoo will have nighttime visits for the brand new "GLOWFARI" -a wildly illuminating lantern festival. This brand-new, family-friendly experience features hundreds of larger-than-life animal lanterns throughout the Zoo. Book reservations now.

#### Museum of Children's Arts (MOCHA)

Daycare and Distance Learning Assistance

MOCHA has started an "Equitable Pod" program at the museum for parents that need daycare and want their kids to be in a fun environment during distance learning. Staff members will assist kids in logging into their virtual classes and answering questions. Classes consist of 10-12 kids per stable pod aged 5-12, masks and social distancing are required throughout. An hour lunch time and two break times will let kids have a chance to run around and play games outside. The class runs from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and additional after-care is available until 5:30 p.m.

#### Blackhawk Car Museum

Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

This museum, founded in 1988 by Ken Behring and Don Williams, is well worth the 25-mile drive to Danville. The main attractions are the classic and rare cars. Not to be missed also are the exhibits titled Into Africa, Spirit of the Old West and Into China. Kids will see not only a showroom with more than 100 classic, near priceless cars, but a top floor showroom with incredible one-of-a-kind vehicles. Marvel at a 1886 Benz Patent Motorwagon, the first gas powered vehicle. Salivate at the 1937 Rolls-Royce Phantom III Sedanca DeVille "Copper Kettle", and the 967 Shelby Mustang GT500 "Eleanor" driven by Nicholas Cage in the movie Gone in 60 Seconds. Also included are 30-foot long safari touring cars.

#### More Info:

#### Fairyland

699 Bellevue Ave, Oakland • (510) 452-2259 www.fairyland.org

#### Oakland Zoo

9777 Golf Links Road, Oakland • (510) 632-9525 www.oaklandzoo.org

Museum of Children's Arts -equitable pods 1221 Broadway LL-49, Oakland • (510) 465-8770 www.mocha.org/equitablepods

#### Blackhawk Museum

3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville (925) 736-2280 • www.blackhawkmuseum.org

## Piedmont 8th grader launches campaign to help Loved Twice

During the month of November Bosco Lorin's Charity League boys team is collecting gently used baby clothes to be donated to Loved Twice, a non-profit that collects baby clothes for newborns in need.

Residents with clothes they would like to donate can drop them off at 235 Greenbank Avenue. To arrange for a pickup of clothing to be donated, contact Loren at <a href="kielennemurray@icloud.com">kielennemurray@icloud.com</a>.

To learn more about Loved Twice, see: <a href="https://lovedtwice.org">https://lovedtwice.org</a>.

## STREET SWEEPING SCHEDULE - 2020

#### November 11 - 20

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
		11 (Holiday)	12	13
No street swee	eping this week.	, <b>,</b>		
16	17	18	19	20
1-Odd	2-0	3-0	<b>4-O</b>	5-O

E = Even Street Numbers

O = Odd Street Numbers

**Streets, by Zones** — \*Indicates streets where even & odd numbered sides of the street are both swept.

ZONE 2 Ashmount Arrovo \*Cavanagh Bonita Crest Cambridge Crocker (West of Grand) (South of LaSalle) Cambridge \*Croydon Circle (East of Grand Ave. Estates EVEN ONLY) Florada Estrella Glen Alpine Grand Hampton (East of Sea View) and Cambridge Huntleigh ODD ONLY) Indian Grand \*Indian Gulch Inverleith Terr. & Rose) Greenbank La Salle (West of Grand) \*La Salle Ct. Holly Pl. Lafayette Howard Lexford Kingston \*Marlborough Ct. Lake Muir \*Sandringham Pl. Linda Lorita Sandringham Rd. Lower Grand (Between LaSalle & Manor Crocker) Monticello Selborne Moraga (West of Highland) Somerset Sotelo Nace Oakland \*St James Cir. (West of Grand) St James Dr. Olive \*St James Pl. Park Way Trestle Glen Tyson Bonita) \*Valant \*Parkside Wildwood Gdns, Ramona Wistaria Ronada Rose Sunnyside

ZONE 3 Arbor \*Artuna (North of Park Way) Blair (below Highland) Bonita (South of Park Way) Cambridge (East of Grand, ODD ONLY) Carmel (Between Wildwood Dale Dracena El Cerrito Fairview (Between Cambridge Grand (between Wildwood & Cambridge, EVEN ONLY) Greenbank (East of Grand) Highland (North of Mountain) Highland Way Hillside Hillside Ct. Jerome \*Keefer Ct \*Larmer Ct. Latham St. \*MacKinnon Pl. Magnolia Nova Oakland (between Grand & (Between Monticello & Highland) Park View Park Way (between Bonita & Highland) Ricardo San Carlos Sylvan Way Vista

**ZONE 4** \*Abbott Way Alta Bell Bellevue Blair (above Highland) \*Blair Pl. Calvert Ct. Craig Dormidera Dudley \*Dudley Ct. \*Echo Lane Hagar Hardwick \*Langdon Ct. Littlewood Maxwelton Mesa Monte Moraga (East of Highland) Mountain (West of Sharon) \*Nellie Oakland (between Highland & Scenic) Pacific Pala Park Way (between Highland & Pala) Scenic Sharon

\*Sharon Ct

ZONE 5 Annerlev Boulevard Way Caperton Crocker (North of LaSalle) Crofton Farragut Guilford Hampton (West of Sea View) Harvard Highland (South of Mountain) King Lakeview Lincoln Mountain (East of Sharon) Oak Oakmont Palm \*Park Lane Park View (between #241 & Winsor) \*Piedmont Ct Poplar Way Portsmouth Prospect Ranleigh \*Requa Pl. Requa Rd. Richardson Sea View (between Mountain & La Salle) Sheridan Sierra Wallace

Warfield

Winsor

Wildwood

## Street sweeping tips for residents

Waldo

To help Piedmont's Department of Public Works keep the streets free of leaves during the fall and winter months, residents are asked to observe four rules:

- 1. Do not put branches in the street, even small branches! They damage the street sweeping equipment.
- 2. Do not sweep debris from your yard into the gutter sweep only leaves that fall naturally into the street
- 3. Sweep leaves into narrow rows outside the flow line of the gutter. Do not put them in piles. The street sweepers cannot pick up piles of leaves effectively.
- 4. If you want to rake your leaves, you can now add them to your weekly unlimited green waste cart. If you don't have enough room in your cart, call Republic Services (1-800- 320-8077) and request free compostable bags to place with your green cart on garbage day. Do not bag them and then empty the bags on the street on sweeping day.

The Post will publish the weekly street sweeping schedule from now through February, 2021.



### **PPD Blue**

EXCERPTS FROM THE PIEDMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT LOG

#### OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 6

#### This Week by the Numbers

- 1 Stolen vehicle
- 1 Catalytic converter stolen
- 1 Arrest
- 3 Auto Burglaries
- Residential Burglaries
- 5 Attempted Residential Burglaries
- 6 Complaints of a gas-powered leaf blowers
- 14 Automatic license plate readers triggered by stolen vehicles or plates

#### Friday, October 30

1:10 p.m. Pacific Ave. **Vandalism.** Report of vandalism of Black Lives Matter sign.

3:54 p.m. Hillside Ave. Complaint of a band playing music. Officer finds high school musicians having concert for parents. Music is not audible from street. Band will wrap up by 6:00.

5:44 p.m. Grand Ave. Report of a man sleeping on porch; he usually sleeps across the street at the church.

6:04 p.m. Ramona Ave. ALPR triggered by tan 1997 Nissan Maxima

6:09 p.m. Highland Ave. **Vandalism** at Piedmont bank. An ATM's trim cover was removed and replaced with another. No "skimming" device was found. Estimated repair is \$400.

8:35 p.m. Blair Ave. Report of low hanging power lines; PG&E notified.

11:25 p.m. Oakland Ave. Report of a loud group at Havens playground. A group of adults were dispersed.

#### Saturday, October 31

12:33 p.m. Jerome Ave. Report of a Ford F350 knocking over sign for resident parking.

2:18 p.m. Dudley Ave. Report of a car with two men sitting inside. Officer advises it is an Uber driver.

8:53 p.m. Ramona Ave. **ALPR** triggered by grey 2016 Audi Q3.

10:19 p.m. Pacific Ave. Noise complaint of house party.

10:30 p.m. Crocker Ave. Second call about loud group at Crocker Park; possible fight. 20 juveniles run away upon officers' arrival.

#### Sunday, November 1

1:35 a.m. Park Blvd. **ALPR** triggered by gray 2016 Audi Q3.

9:21 a.m. Park Blvd. **ALPR** triggered by 2001 tan Chevy Tahoe. Officers attempt to pull it over, but vehicle flees. No pursuit.

9:27 a.m. Winsor Ave. **Attempted Residential Burglary.** Suspects in black Cadillac Escalade with front end damage attempt to steal tools; witnessed by neighbors.

9:30 a.m. Magnolia Ave. Attempted Residential Burglary. 3 people in black Chevy SUV without plates unsuccessfully try to kick in front door, and then flee.

10:03 a.m. Jerome Ave. Report of a gas-powered leaf blower.

10:24 a.m. Magnolia Ave. Residential Burglary. Garage door kicked in, Around \$2,400 in tools stolen

11:19 a.m. Woodland Way. **Residential Burglary.** White Cannondale mountain bike stolen; \$550 loss.

11:55 a.m. Mountain Ave. **Attempted Auto Theft.** Door lock broken and ignition damaged.

4:13 p.m. Grand Ave. **ALPR** triggered by black Porsche Cayenne stolen out of Denver with felony warrant.

5:39 p.m. Scenic Ave. Attempted Residential Burglary. 3 subjects in black SUV walk up to house under construction; try to break in. They ran away upon seeing people inside. (See 9:30 a.m.)

6:18 p.m. Grand Ave. **ALPR** triggered by 2008 black Porsche Cayenne. (See 4:13 p.m.)

8:33 p.m. Pacific Ave. **Auto Burglary.** 2 windows smashed and \$1100 in power tools stolen from gray Dodge truck.

#### Monday, November 2

1:30 a.m. La Salle Ave. Arrest. Woman in suspicious silver Honda contacted. Officer discovers \$2,500 warrant for arrest out of San Francisco, due to failure to appear in court for possession of burglary tool, receiving stolen property and vandalism. Arrested and transported to a hospital for COVID check and then to Santa Rita Jail.

8:10 a.m. Park Blvd. **ALPR** triggered by 2005 white Ford F-250.

10:17 a.m. Lake Ave. **Residential Burglary.** Report of door kicked in **See PPD Blue on <u>page 30</u>** 

#### PICK OF THE WEEK (1)

• Blanket for two: no crime.

Monday, November 2

8:26 p.m. Artuna Ave. Report of multiple blankets on grass at Dracena Park; possibly someone sleeping. Officer finds 2 people hanging out on blanket.



## ELECTION NEWS

## PHS seniors active in grass roots work to get out the vote in National Election

By Allyson Aleksey

Three Piedmont High School seniors organized Teens4Biden and directly helped get out the vote. Their group was one of 34,000 official Biden organizations throughout the U.S.

After a delay of four days as votes were being counted throughout the U.S. on and after election day, November 3, Biden was declared winner based upon the official Electoral College count on Saturday morning, November 7.

"The mission of our club was to create a space for students who may not be eligible to vote, but still want to make a difference in the upcoming election," explained Piedmont Class President Audrey Edel, who led the formation of Teens4Biden.

It was an idea she had in July. She asked two classmates, Toshi Troyer and Laney Tellegen, to join her in her endeavor as co-presidents of the club.

With the help of civics and U.S. history teacher Hillary Freeman, who advised the club, the three were able to garner support throughout the high school. The club officially met for the first time in September.



Toshi Troyer

Members of Teens4Biden volunteered as campaign workers doing phone bank work. Political phone banking is the process of reaching out to voters for canvassing or to encourage undecided voters to participate in an upcoming election. It is often carried out using call center software, via commercial phone banks or voluntary phone banks

"I think the beauty of phone banking together [as a club] was that we were able to share our experiences," Edel explained. She added that it wasn't uncommon for to encounter people who were combative.

"I was inspired by the perseverance of my peers," she said.

In addition to phone banking, the club participated in two letter-writing initiatives, including 250 letters sent to Iowa voters. Letter writing campaigns can be effective advocacy tools by which a group of constituents voice their opinions about specific issues.

But the pinnacle of the club's efforts was a "Bay Area for Biden" forum they sponsored on October 25. Prior to that Edel participated in national event host training, learning how to host an official event. Their event



Audrey Edel

in October was approved by the national organization within 12 hours.

Edel, Troyer and Tellegen assembled an impressive group of speakers for the form, led by Piedmont resident Jeff Bleich the former U.S. Ambassador to Australia, and Piedmont Mayor-Elect Teddy Gray King. Student speakers included Stanford sophomore Maya Guzdar, Princeton freshman Josh Rogers, son of Federal Court Judge Yvonne Gonzales Rogers, and PHS senior Seth Elkins, all of whom had been doing grass roots political work this summer and fall.

"They spoke about their different experiences in the election, and they all had really fascinating stories," Edel said. "It was a really beautiful moment and I was impressed with the speakers. It inspired everyone in the club to make even more calls and to do everything they could for the campaign."

Edel spoke of her excitement and that of her colleague after victory was declared by Biden on Saturday morning

"It was a tense four days waiting for final results," she said. "A lot of people couldn't sleep and were very, very anxious."



Laney Tellegen

## Surprising defeat for real estate transfer tax (Measure TT)

By Allyson Aleksey

A majority of Piedmonters voted No on Measure TT, the real estate transfer tax.

The most recent results show that 4,026 voters, or 52.25 percent, voted no, and 3,679 voters, or 47.75 percent, voted yes on the measure.

Votes are still being counted at the Alameda County Registrar of Voters, but No on Measure TT jumped to a lead of 51 percent during the evening of November 3, Election Day.

The measure would have increased the real property conveyance tax from the existing

rate of \$13 per \$1,000 of transfer price, to \$17.50 per \$1,000 of transfer price.

The measure was heavily opposed by both the National and California Realtors Associations, the only known opponents. The tow trade associations spent \$16,239 to defeat the measure.

"We did not anticipate that we would face a well-organized, well-funded opposition," said Piedmont Mayor Bob McBain. "We deliberately did not run an expensive campaign or a large-scale campaign, as we did not want to compete with Measure UU [the city's pool bond]."

McBain added that funds

from the proposed real estate transfer tax would have brought in substantial funds to the city. The city attorney's impartial analysis of Measure TT estimated that revenues from the tax would have generated approximately \$948,462 of additional revenue for the city. The City Council has stated its intention to put increased revenues from the proposed tax, if approved, towards facilities maintenance.

Votes are still being counted at the Registrar. Official certification of votes is expected the first week of December, 30 days after election night.

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## **State Proposition results**

By Allyson Aleksey

The following is each state proposition briefly explained, with results as of 4:53 p.m. yesterday, November 10. Not all proposition outcomes have been finalized and official results may not be released by the Alameda County Registrar of Voters until November 30.

On election day, November 3, 2020, California voters were asked to make decisions 12 propositions.

California had by far the most spending aimed at changing minds on ballot initiatives, with over \$708 million in contributions, compared to \$121 million in the next most-contested state, Illinois. The most expensive measure of the year was California Proposition 22, the App-Based Drivers as Contractors and Labor Policies Initiative, with large funding from both Uber and Lyft.

PROPOSITION	DESCRIPTION	RESULT
Prop. 14	Issues \$5.5 billion in bonds for state stem cell research institute	Leaning yes
Prop. 15	Requires commercial and industrial properties to be taxed based on market value and dedicates revenue	NO
Prop. 16	Repeals Proposition 209 (1996), which says that the state cannot discriminate or grant preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, education, or contracting	NO
Prop. 17	Restores the right to vote to people convicted of felonies who are on parole	YES
Prop. 18	Allows 17-year-olds who will be 18 at the time of the next general election to vote in primaries and special elections	NO
Prop. 19	Changes tax assessment transfers and inheritance rules	Leaning yes
Prop. 20	Makes changes to policies related to criminal sentencing charges, prison release, and DNA collection	NO
Prop. 21	Expands local governments' power to use rent control	NO
Prop. 22	Considers app-based drivers to be independent contractors and enacts several labor policies related to app-based companies	YES
Prop. 23	Requires physician on-site at dialysis clinics and consent from the state for a clinic to close	NO
Prop. 24	Expands the provisions of the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) and creates the California Privacy Protection Agency to implement and enforce the CCPA	YES
Prop. 25	Replaces cash bail with risk assessments for suspects awaiting trial	NO

#### Democracy is not a spectator sport!

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KNOW THE ISSUES. BE PART OF THE CONVERSATION.

## Piedmont couple heads to Arizona to help with poll watching in national election



Jason and Jennifer Alderman at 5.15 a.m., at the start of a long Election Day, November 3, 2020.

worked on other campaigns and

for a while lived and worked in

usually do: phone banking, tex-

ting campaigns, mailings. But it

didn't feel like it was enough. As

much as we love California, where

we've lived for the past 20 years,

we understood that the state is a

lovely bubble that won't decide the

election: the battleground states

would. Arizona was the nearest.

This year, we did what we

Washington, DC.

By Anastasia Edel

The record turnout at the 2020 presidential election – some 160 million Americans have voted by mail and in-person – attests to the high stakes of these elections. In Piedmont, a city known for its strong level of political engagement, residents hosted events for their candidates in the months leading up to the elections. They did phone banking, donated money, and covered their lawns with campaign signs at a higherthan-usual density.

One Piedmont family decided that this time around traditional means wouldn't be enough. The week before the Election Day, Jennifer and Jason Alderman of Palm Drive headed to Maricopa County in the battleground state of Arizona to help work the polls.

The Aldermans are widely known in the closely knitted Palm Drive community. Over the years they've hosted many local attractions, including the iconic popcorn machine for Palm Drive's trick-or-treat extravaganza, and the outdoor movie theatre during the 4th of July celebrations. For a narrower audience, there are rounds of knockout Kansas bourbon.

When the Aldermans relocated to Oregon for a year in 2015, they were missed by kids and adults alike.

Their 2020 election sojourn to Arizona set an example. Like many Americans, I've been asking myself what else could I have done for this election. Having watched the birth and death of democracy in post-Soviet Russia, the country of my birth, I feel the urgency of the present moment in America. The Aldermans answer to the existential "what to do?" question was simple: get on the (battle)ground. On November 5, following their return from Phoenix, when the anxious nation was still waiting for final election results two days after the General Election, I talked with Jennifer Alderman about her and her husband's experience in Arizona.

#### Q. Is it the first time you've gone out of state during an election?

A. Yes.

#### Q. How did your decision to go watch the polls in Arizona come about?

A. Jason and I have always been politically engaged. In fact, we met during a senate campaign in Pennsylvania back in 1992, where we both worked as campaign staffers. Over the years we in Arizona? A. As a poll watcher, you're

Q. What exactly did you do

either inside the room observing the voting or outside checking on the line and ensuring there's no voter intimidation. Jason did that on November 2nd and November 3rd. I volunteered at the field offices of the Biden campaign, supporting the poll watchers by providing information, literature, and credentials. We also continued with the get-out-thevote effort through election day, calling on the Biden supporters who had not voted yet - we actually went to their houses - making sure that every person who wanted to vote had access to voting and an opportunity to be part of the process.

#### Q. What struck you the most about your experience there?

A. Lots of people care deeply about this election. I am from Pennsylvania and I remember what it is like, to be the swing state. There was a lot of passion and it wasn't one-directional. We don't see it very often in the Bay Area, but the tension was palpable in Arizona. We heard about people in huge pickup trucks

bonding that happens in a campaign; you very quickly feel a part of something bigger. It was nice to reconnect with that part of our lives again and remember how rewarding political activism can be. It's a very particular thing, very unique.

In Arizona, poll watchers were mostly local, with a significant contingency from Northern California and Los Angeles, people who came to the same conclusion that we did. If you want to make a difference, you have to go to a place where decisions are made.

Another really wonderful thing was to witness so much encouragement for participation and it wasn't conditional on who you supported. Every time a person came in and it was clear they were a first-time voter, all the poll watchers and poll workers would cheer and clap.

We appreciated the difference between living and working in a community that is mostly of one mind politically and being in a place where you can feel the split and the tension.

Q. Did Jessica Alba indeed show up at a Maricopa County polling station?



Actress Jessica Alba encourages voters at Maricopa County on November 2, 2020.

In August Jason accessed the Democratic campaign there and asked what would be the most meaningful thing for us to do. They told us they needed poll watchers in Maricopa County. So, we took time off and booked our flights—Jason left first on October 28th and I joined him on

#### Q. I know you've been very careful with social distancing and other pandemic-related measures. How did your travel

A. It was a calculated risk. We have not travelled out of state since March, but I felt very strongly that I wanted to be able to wake up on November 4 and know that I had done everything I could to make sure this presidential election turned out right. When I think of my grandchildren asking me 'what did you do for this election?', I wanted to have an answer.

You can say that we both felt the weight of history. So, we put on our N-95 masks and went.

with Trump flags, and impromptu parades in the outskirts of Phoenix. You could feel the difference.

## intimidation?

A. Neither of us did, though Jason had one silly experience. Arizona has a law that prohibits official campaign signs or any other electioneering within a 75-foot perimeter of the polling station; outside, candidates put up a lot of signs. A man in a pickup truck drove up and asked Jason, 'What is a Biden sign doing there?" Jason explained that the sign was outside the perimeter, after which the man drove off with the words, "I can't vote here. I am for freedom."

#### Q. What were your favorite moments?

A. I loved the atmosphere and the sense of camaraderie with other campaign volunteers. For Jason and me, it was like going back to the times of our youth, when we both worked as campaign staffers. There's a very fast

A. She did! She was making the rounds in Phoenix for the Democratic Party, encouraging voters and thanking the many volunteers, including those at Jason's polling station and my field office. Celebrities, just like regular people, feel the urgency of an electoral campaign.

#### Q. Do you feel the elections were fair? There has been a lot of talk about electoral fraud.

A. Arizona had both early voting and mail-in voting in addition to in-person voting on election day. There were many, many ways to access the process. We had an incredible historic turnout and engagement. Claims about fraud are coming just from one side and have not been supported by any evidence. On election day, Jason and I left the house at five in the morning and worked all day until the polls closed. We saw nothing suspicious.

#### Q. What do you think about the outcome of these elections and the country's future?

A. Before the elections, the polls helped us hope for a real clear message that this country would send: what this president is doing is not okay. That didn't happen. We didn't come together and didn't offer a resounding rejection. This is really hard to swallow, and is excruciating to wait for the final results. I am optimistic that Joe Biden will win, but this optimism is tinged with sadness about what such a close outcome says about a lot of our countrymen.

#### Q. Can we be healed as a nation?

A. You're asking the 10-million-dollar question. I choose to believe that there is a way to get to a better common understanding. As a country, we have yet to figure out how.

On Saturday November 7, twoand-a-half days after I interviewed Jennifer, Joe Biden was elected America's 46th president. In his victory speech, Biden promised to be the president of all Americans, regardless of how they voted, offering a message of unity, healing, and common purpose. His Vice President, Kamala Harris, spoke equally eloquently and passionately about restoring decency, science, and truth. For many of us. November 7th turned out to be the best day of 2020: American democracy has survived. In many ways we, as a nation, owe our deliverance to people like the Aldermans. Democracy is an act, as Rep. John Lewis famously said.

Anastasia Edel is a Piedmont resident and the author of Russia: Putin's Playground, a concise guide to Russian history, politics and culture. Her writing has appeared in The New York Review of Books, The New York Times, Project Syndicate, and others.



Jason Alderman in his required face covering as a poll watcher in Maricopa County.

## **SPORTS**

## Piedmont High football opens 1st week of practice

to player and player to player,"



Piedmont High senior running back Brian Cain putting in work during Monday's practice.

By Jonathan Comeaux

Monday, November 9 was a day unlike others since last March for Piedmont student-athletes. It marked the start of football practice at Witter Field, their first official preparation toward the start of the 2021 season in January.

Just after 3:45 p.m., the sounds and voices ringing around the hills surrounding Witter Field felt more than just a mere practice. For the varsity football team, the customary "P-I-E-D-M-O-N-T" jumping jack routine seemingly carried extra volume, an increased meaning.

It was, for many coaches and players, a time to be re-united with friends. Upon the final "M-O-N-T" of jumping jacks, one would think a game-winning touchdown had just been scored after the enormous sound of celebration grew on the field.

The boys were back, finally.

coaching staff.

PHS offensive line coach Derrick Lyons enters his third year on the

And despite masks, pods, and no footballs to pass or hand off, they were overjoyed in making the most of it.

"We're all excited, right? You can sense it. Our online Zoom meetings paid off and built a lot of anticipation toward today. They understood the functional movements, the formations, the language of our systems, everything. The chemistry is there; they've been around each other on-camera for the last eight months, so to put it on the field was exciting for them," said head coach Jerome Johnson.

Along with breaking kids into pods, protocols are for strict non-contact guidance between players, coaches, while everyone on the field must always have a

"Everyone must bring a mask, can't share water bottles, or towels, and remain in their own pods with social distancing and no-contact between coaches



explained Johnson. Despite having no-contact

guidelines, coaches were still instructing players on proper form on tackling by leading with their shoulder, keeping their eyes up, and using natural arm movements to simulate a tackle.

"Even though we were social distancing, it still feels like football because we can adjust how we train them to keep the right frame when going for a tackle or bracing for a hit," added Johnson.

Walking back and forth was newly hired Athletic Director Bradley Smet, making sure students-athletes and coaches are checked in when entering the grounds, while also reminding players to keep masks properly adjusted and to maintain non-contact orders.

In addition to charging from the field up to Witter's concourse, Smet's maintaining a clear field for students by telling non-PHS guests that they must leave immediately.

"One thing we're constantly reiterating is the safety protocols. It's the little things like reminding them to keep their mask up, stay in their pods, and as funny as it sounds, telling high school kids to keep their hands to themselves," said Smet with a laugh.

"It's the first day; right now it's important to repeat just how important it is to keep these things in mind until it's second nature to them," he added.

As for practice, defensive line coach Mike Kennedy observeed, "They need work, but we'll get better.'

That's about what one would expect from a varsity football team entering its first official day of offseason workouts, let alone eight months of no action.

"Luckily the AD was down here to keep everyone in order. It was different, but still good and productive. We need to get in shape. They've been running around with each other but there's nothing like getting in football shape. We just need to work through the kinks," said defensive coordinator Ryan Porter, entering his third year on the staff.

"If you watch the amount of injuries that have piled up in the pro-game and the lack of preparation they had prior to starting the season; you have the potential at all levels of competition to have



PHS head coach Jerome Johnson (left) chats with defensive line coach Mike Kennedy.

serious injuries if you don't have time to get that base-training in," Porter added.

Due to COVID, football is starting 3 months later – in the winter. Monday's practice was during a chilling 50 degrees. This means that muscle issues could become more rampant.

"You muscles have to warm up, so if you try to burst off and do all these other football moves, you could pull a muscle or tear something. Now stretching is even more important, even lifting and being able to condition is more important," said Johnson.

Football practice is schedule Monday through Thursday starting at 3:45 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. at Witter Field, meaning the field is closed to the public from 3:30 p.m. on through closing due to additional teams also returning to practice this week.

More photos on page 15.



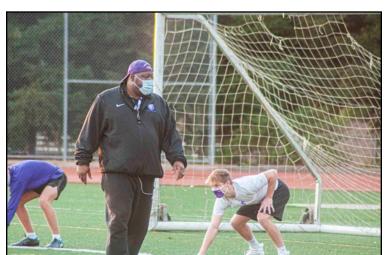
**Piedmont High Athletic Director Bradley Smet views football** practice at Witter Field.



Piedmont High's receivers group, led by senior Alex Hilton (right).



PHS offensive coordinator Jarmar Julien works with quarterback Tommy McNeal on his footwork.



PHS' new JV head coach Daniel King works with linemen on stance and snap response.

### Pac 12 Football

### Cal, Stanford suffering through COVID-19 woes

By Jonathan Comeaux

The Pac-12 Conference football season heads into Week 2 with University of California football program relinquishing a game on its schedule due to the COVID-19 breakout within its athletic department. Meanwhile the Stanford Cardinal took a tough 35-14 loss to No. 11 Oregon last weekend. And Stanford has its own virus troubles.

A rough break for Cal, they canceled its season-opener against the Huskies and will not make up the game given the conference provided no bye weeks to programs due to their shortened

The Golden Bears are set to have a nationally televised game at Arizona State in Tempe on Saturday. ASU is coming off a narrow 28-27 loss to No. 20 USC after allowing a dramatic Trojans comeback.

Cal head coach Justin Wilcox hasn't gained a final word as of Tuesday morning.

"We're trying to get more clarity on that," Wilcox said. "If they tell us there's a chance we could play, we're going to practice. We're going to continue to work at it. The only way to look at it is to be optimistic. That's the only way to look at it. Until they tell us otherwise, that's what we're doing."

Cal's entire defensive line is still under quarantine after not being able to field 53-players for Week 1. Wilcox is hopeful to know more by Wednesday and feels it's important to properly condition players ahead of a com-



Photo courtesy of SF Chronicle

California head coach Justin Wilcox is unsure if players will get cleared in time for this week's game against Arizona State on Saturday.

petitive game.

'The first thing would be to be cleared by our medical team to play," said Wilcox. "Their conditioning would be taken into account. More practices, the better. All of those guys want to practice right now. They'd like to be with us, but they're just not able to be. They're looking for answers during quarantine. They're trying to do their best to keep up their condition the best they can if we get information that leads to them being back with us."

Even if the game is played, Cal's ramp up to the season certainly doesn't bode well for a program that has aspirations of winning the Pac-12 North.

Stanford is set to play the Colorado Buffaloes, which won a high-powered 48-42 contest against UCLA in Week 1. The

Cardinal has its own COVID-19 worries with QB Davis Mills, WR Connor Wedington, and DE Trey LaBounty missing due to

Stanford head coach David Shaw mentioned on Tuesday that a fourth player is also entering the virus protocol.

"We still have four COVID-related situations that we're waiting to be resolved," said Shaw. "We'll see how that gets resolved, whether or not those young people will remain isolated or be able to work back. So it's not in our hands, but we'll work with whatever comes our way there."

Shaw would not elaborate on the availability of any players, meaning it seems likely that each could miss their Week 2 contest.

"This is professionals doing their jobs in order to keep our communities safe," Shaw said. "I don't want to get into the inner workings. There's a lot of communication from the medical professionals and the county. We'll just wait for them to let us know what's going on, and the rest of us will prepare for Saturday.'

Stanford's quarterback situation with Mills has pushed junior Jack West and Tanner McKee into the lineup. Shaw said that he expects a rotation of both quarterbacks in Week 2 if Mills is unavailable.

"We're very pleased with these two guys and if Davis does not come back, I would anticipate seeing both of them perform again," Shaw said.

West made his second college start against Oregon in Week 1, completing 13 of 19 passes for 154 yards. McKee finished three of seven for 62 yards.

For Colorado, they are likely looking at the meeting eager to lock down its second win.



Photo courtesy of LA Times

missing Week 1.



## Witter Field now closed to public after 3 p.m.

By Jonathan Comeaux

With the high school sports season opening, Witter Field will not be open to the public from 3:000 to 9:30 p.m. on weekdays.

With high school class scheduled to reopen in January, the school has begun opening up the field for its student-athletes. Football will have the field from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., followed by girls' lacrosse and then boys' lacrosse.

Additionally, baseball and softball teams will return to their respective fields adjacent to the football field.

New Athletic Director Bradley Smet will be on scene for much of the time to assure a smooth return to action for the school's teams.

"I've gotten some unhappy responses by residents, but it's important to keep our field clear in order to stay safe and responsible for our students and coaches. It's a very exciting time for us, and I'm ecstatic to be helping out," said Smet.

Strict check-in protocols are ongoing for students, staff, and media members in order to enter Witter Field, meaning an often sight is the new AD getting his steps in from the field, up the bleachers; running to either of Witter's entrances for screenings.

This week has been very busy; I'm excited for it though. We've got a bunch of teams starting this week. Football started Monday, water polo is working out of the pool, boys basketball, volleyball, softball, and baseball are starting this week. Just being at school is a terrific change for these student-athletes," said Smet.

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## Page, Laine and "Daisy" Avagliano

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## U.S. Soccer returns for friendlies vs. Wales, Panama

By Jonathan Comeaux

The United State Men's National Team is finally scheduled to return to action tomorrow, Thursday, November 12 for its first contest since February 1 with an international friendly against Wales Four days later, Monday, November 16, it wil play Panama in Austria.

Given both the games are in

Europe, it seems likely for manager Gregg Berhalter to feature a heavy EU-based team.

Against Wales, the States have played the Welsh side just once back in 2003, where the U.S. won 2-0. The opposition, Wales, has lost just once in their last five matches but it will be interesting to see if they feature superstar Gareth Bale given Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho's com-



 $Photos\ courtesy\ of\ USS occer.com$ 

U.S. Men's National Team manager Gregg Berhalter prepares for his first games since February 1 with matches against Wales on Nov. 12 and Panama on Nov. 16.



Photo courtesy of BBC

Although Wales could be without Gareth Bale, they will still be favored to win.



Photo courtesy of The Athletic

17-year old Gio Reyna should be at the forefront with Christian Pulisic and Josh Sargent out.

ments on being careful with him.

With two of the U.S.' leading attackers out, Christian Pulisic (hamstring) and Josh Sargent due to travel restrictions in his district of Germany, it appear likely that we'll get a healthy look at several of the United States' young talent.

Here is taking a look at the possible lineups:

Attack: With Pulisic and Sargent out, it's possible we'll get 20-year old Tim Weah at striker, 17-year old wonderkids Gio Reyna in the No. 10 CAM role and Valencia's Yunus Musuh on the wing. Ulysses Llanez could also appear on the wing, while

Konrad de la Fuente, Nicholas Giacchini, and Sebastian Lletget could get starting minutes.

**Midfield:** Juventus' Weston McKennie is the rock in the middle, put Tyler Adams next to him and you got a pair of Central Mids who can take over on defense and offense.

Backline: On defense, John Brooks and Tim Ream make up a strong combination at centerback. Barcelona's Sergino Dest should start at right back and Antonee Robinson of Fulham on the left. It's also possible we'll see Bayern Munich 20-year old Chris Richards.

Goalkeeper: Expect Zack Steffen to start and Ethan Horvath backing him up. We could see Stefen against Wales, then Horvath to get time versus

Prediction time, we're going 2-1 loss to Wales, and a 2-1 win against Panama.

The Welsh are clearly superior, and a defense with Ben Davies, Tom Lockyer, James Lawrence, and Chris Gunter will be hard to get past. Its attack of Daniel James, Tyler Roberts, and speedster Rabbi Matondo should be enough for Wales to come out on top

### Alex Morgan makes debut for Tottenham

5th high-profile player from US National Team to join FA Super League



Photo courtesy of Yahoo Sports

Alex Morgan made her FA Super League debut for Tottenham on November 7. It was her first match in 445 days after becoming a mother.

By Jonathan Comeaux

U.S. Women's National Team superstar and former California Bear Alex Morgan recently made her debut in the UK as a new member of Tottenham Hotspur FA Women's Super League team as of November 7. It marked her first game since giving birth to a daughter in May.

It was a total of 445 days since she last played a competitive match on August 21.

"It just feels good to get back on the field for the first time in more than a year so happy about that. Obviously not too happy about the result, but I just had to start to get some minutes and build from there. So, I'm pretty happy that this is, you know, good starting point," Morgan said following the Spurs' 1-1 draw with Reading, via CBS Sports.

Crossing the pond over to England from the United States' National Women's Soccer League could be a statement of the uncertainty surrounding the NWSL's 2021 season. Right now, the American league has been stalled due to COVID-19.

Morgan joins four other World Cup champions on short-term deals on professional teams in England. Manchester City recently signed Sam Mewis and Rose Lavelle, who was a star in the U.S. 2019 Women's World Cup victory. Manchester United, meanwhile, added teammate Christian Press—formerly of Stanford – and Tobin Heath.

Morgan is anticipated to return at the end of Tottenham's 2021 season and the same most likely for Mewis and Lavelle. Each signed a one-year deal with mutual options for an additional year.

Lavelle still has a contract for OL Reign of Tacoma's NWSL organization after getting traded from the Washington Spirit with the understanding that she would eventually return from Manchester.

It's a similar situation for Press and Heath, signing a one-year deal with Manchester United while their NWSL teams, the Utah Royals FC and Portland Thorns, retaining the rights to each once the 2021 season is over.

Mewis has made six appearances and scored twice for Manchester City, while the 25-year old starlet Lavelle has scored one in four games.

Over at United, Press and Heath both scored their first goal for the Red Devils in their third appearances for the club in a 4-2 win over West Ham.

Saturday, November 14 will make a great day for U.S. Women's Soccer fans with Manchester United squaring off with Man. City. Morgan and Tottenham will play Bristol City.

For those interested in watching, Women's Super League games are televised on NBC Sports Network and streamed on the NBC Sports app or NBC-Sports.com.



Photo courtesy of Sports Illustrated

U.S. women's star Rose Lavelle (left) also plays for the Super League's Manchester City.



Photo courtesy of BBC

Christen Press, former Stanford Cardinal, signed a one-year contract with Manchester United.

Photo courtesy of Pintrest

The Berry Creek Falls viewing platform in Big Basin State Park sustained extensive fire damage, in addition to the drainage area of the waterfall.

## Big Basin State Park – Berry Creek, Silver Creek waterfalls sustained "extensive damage" in fire

By Jonathan Comeaux

California State Parks' senior environmental scientist Joanne Kerbavaz said in recent weeks that Big Basin Redwoods State Park's canyon where Berry Creek Falls, Silver Creek Falls, and the Golden Cascade flows has endured "extensive damage" due to the CZU Complex Fire which burned from August 16 to September 22.

"The entire Berry Creek drainage burned over and there is extensive damage to the viewing platform and railings and trails," said Kerbavaz.

State Park officials reiterated that the entire park is not anticipated to re-open for at least a full year given they are still cleaning up damages and downed trees while further assessing the grounds.

"Bridges are out, trees are down across trails, hazard trees are being identified. Access is extremely difficult," said Kerbavaz.

Former State Park official and current volunteer Michael Grant added that the winter time will bring more obstacles like landslides, meaning there is no way Big Basin would be able to re-open early.

"My guess is that rains will have to put out the hot spots," Grant said. "Winter winds and landslides will topple fire-damaged trees. Hazard trees not knocked down by wind and landslides will have to be dealt with. Park staff will have to determine the safety of trails and infrastructure. They will have to be repaired, trails will have to be cleared, and then the parks will think about reopening the park."

Kerbavaz and her team discovered in October that Big Basin's tent cabins at the Huckleberry Campground were also scorched. Additionally, she mentions that some redwood trees were not structurally sound enough to withstand blazes.

"Yes, Huckleberry burned," said Kerbavaz. "The cinderblock bathroom survived. There's a lot more fallen redwoods here than the other areas. Many were already structurally compromised, many with cavities. For some of these trees, this fire was the final straw."

At the nearby Butano State Park, Kerbavaz points out that the fire enabled Knobcone tree pinecones to sprout seeds because its cones are dependent on excess heat "Knobcone pines are fire-dependent, where it takes a temperature of over 350 degrees to open the cones," Kerbavaz said. "They're getting a huge advantage now to reproduce from seeds on the bare ground."

Although Butano's campsites were not considered damaged, the park is still considered unsafe and won't re-open soon given the area operates its own water system with the help of Little Butano Creek.

"Entry into the burned areas is still unsafe," Kerbavaz said. "Second, Butano operates its own water system. The intake along Little Butano Creek was destroyed by the fire. The campground restrooms and water spigots are not functional."



Photo courtesy of California State Parks
Nearby Big Basin, Butano State
Park is also expected to be closed
for the foreseeable future due to
damages.



Tent cabins at Big Basin's Huckleberry loop were also destroyed.

Photo courtesy of Tripadvisor

### 1st Week of Football Practice

See article on page 12



Alex Hilton (left) works out with Jack Youkstetter (right).



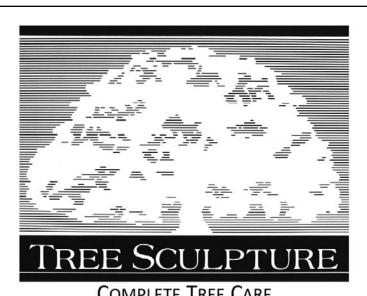
Coach Jerome Johnson talks things over.



JV line coach Dick Carter gets practice started with his group of players.



Varsity offensive and defensive lineman Mason Kimball (right) during



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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Aurora Playhouse sound designer discusses how pandemic shifted the profession

By Allyson Aleksey

"Aurora Connects" is Aurora Theatre Company's weekly live broadcast, an "online salon and virtual happy hour." A broadcast goes live every Friday at 4 p.m. on the theatre company's You-Tube channel

In the most recent episode of the series, hosts Josh Costello and Dawn Monique Williams, Directors of Aurora, are joined by sound designer Elton Bradman. Listeners will learn more about Bradman, his background, how he got started in music, and what continues to inspire him. He will also discuss some of his favorite shows he's worked on, and how the pandemic has affected his work.



Sound designer Elton Bradman

Bradman's recent composer and sound design credits include UC Berkeley's radio play Snowflakes, Or Rare White People; Shotgun Players' Kill Move Paradise; Marin Theatre Company's How I Learned What I Learned and The Who & The What: African-American Shakespeare Company's productions of Black Eagles, A Streetcar Named Desire, and Richard III; ACT's Medea and TiJean and His Brothers; Bay Area Children's Theater's production of A Year with Frog & Toad; Santa Cruz Shakespeare productions of Comedy of Errors and Pride & Prejudice; Faultline Theater Company's Where the Boys Are; and Skeleton Crew at Geffen Playhouse.

The episode is available to watch now at <a href="https://www.aurora">https://www.aurora</a> theatre.org/auroraconnects.

## **Cutting Ball commissions** play by Obie Award-winning playwright, Charles Mee

By Allyson Aleksey

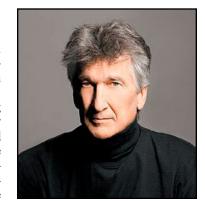
San Francisco's Cutting Ball Theatre presents Utopia: A Virtual Play, available to stream until November 15.

Commissioned by Cutting Ball, Utopia is a new play by Charles L. Mee, the Obie Award winning playwright of Big Love and a pioneer of American experimental theater. The show envisions the world as it could be through the eyes of a 9-year-old girl who is people-watching in a café while munching on croissants and wrestling with the question, "how do you make a life?"

Performed by nine of the Bay Area's finest actors, accented by fantastical designs, animated artworks, and choreographed dance, Mee's newest play transforms the simplest moments of a mundane day into a surreal and colorful ride through fantasy, self-expression, connection, and community. Utopia is a poetic and genre-defying dreamscape that audiences can stream from home.

The play is directed by Ariel Craft with Maya Herbsman in collaboration with RAWdance and Creativity Explored.

Upon purchasing streaming



Award-winning playwright Charles Mee.

access, viewers have seven days to watch Utopia. It can be viewed on your computer, your tablet, or even your television through an Apple TV, Amazon Fire, or Roku device.

To experience *Utopia*, you will need a Vimeo account, which is free to create

Visit <a href="https://vimeo.com/">https://vimeo.com/</a> ondemand/cbtutopia?utm\_ source=San+Francisco+Playhouse+Email+List&utm campaign=821100fdf0-act-one-artnovember-2&utm\_medium=email&utm term=0 f48dd1dbbd-821100fdf0-95687278&mc\_ cid=821100fdf0&mc eid=c94f943dd5 to purchase the digital play.

## Election is over, but Berkeley Rep's It Can't Happen Here available until November 13



The cast of Berkeley Rep's production of the Sinclair Lewis classic, It Can't Happen Here.

By Allyson Aleksey

Berkeley Repertory Theatre's production of It Can't Happen Here will be available to stream until this Friday, November 13. Berkeley Rep artistic director Tony Taccone reimagines Sinclair Lewis' award-winning novel, which was written in 1935 during

Lewis' darkly satirical novel

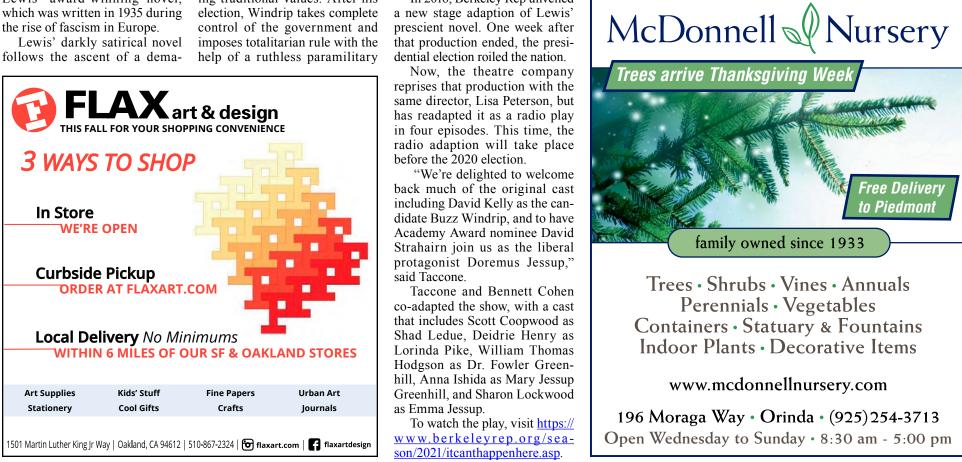
gogue who becomes president of the United States by promising to return the country to greatness.

The novel describes the rise of Berzelius "Buzz" Windrip, a president who foments fear and promises drastic economic and social reforms while promoting traditional values. After his force in the manner of European fascists such as Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

The novel's plot centers on journalist Doremus Jessup's opposition to the new regime and his subsequent struggle against it as part of a liberal rebellion.

In 2016, Berkeley Rep unveiled







Oakland Symphony musicians perform Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land."

## Oakland Symphony performs Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land"

By Allyson Aleksey

The musicians of Oakland Symphony gathered virtually to perform Woody Guthrie's iconic folk song, "This Land is Your Land." The video was originally recorded in celebration of Independence Day 2020, and is now available online, to coincide with the Presidential Election.

Following the success of the video release of "Lean On Me" in June, 2020, the symphony is offering Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land," with the musicians putting down their instruments and singing the rarely performed last verse.

"We present this to our Oakland community and beyond, said Music Director Michael Morgan, "with the hope that music is a

great healing force for our world. This is a song of inclusion when we need it most, and is a reaffirmation of how we want this country to be,"

All sound editing, mastering and video editing were done by Bruce Chrisp. You can watch the performance at <a href="https://www.oaklandsymphony.org/this-land-is-your-land/">https://www.oaklandsymphony.org/this-land-is-your-land/</a>.

## Cal Performances hosts evening with Yo-Yo Ma on Nov. 27

By Allyson Aleksey

Cal Performances will host an evening with world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma on Friday, November 27. The event is part of the *Cal Performances at Home* project that brings the arts into your home.

Ma has performed as a soloist with orchestras around the world. He has recorded more than 90 albums and received 18 Grammy Awards. In addition to recordings of the standard classical repertoire, he has recorded a wide variety of folk music such as American bluegrass music, traditional Chinese melodies, the tangos of Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla, and Brazilian music.

A pre-concert conversation with Ma and Cal Performances Executive Director Jeremy Geffen will take place at 6:30 p.m.



World renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

and the streaming premiere will begin at 7 p.m.

To view the event, click

on: <a href="https://calperformances.org/events/2020-21/recital/">https://calperformances.org/events/2020-21/recital/</a> an-evening-with-yo-yo-ma/.



## SF Jazz presents Afro-Cuban All Stars through Nov. 15



The Afro-Cuban All Stars from a performance at SF Jazz.

By Allyson Aleksey

SF Jazz is making past performances available to audiences during a time of audiences sheltering in place due to COVID-19.

This week's offering features the Afro-Cuban All Stars, and will be available to stream until Sunday, November 15.

The enduring spirit of the Buena Vista Social Club in Havana, Cuba, was felt and heard in this superb performance, originally filmed in May 2019. After gaining international fame for reviving the classic sound of Cuban jazz, tres master Juan De Marcos, a founding member of

Cuba's Sierra Maestra, first gained notice in the U.S. as founder of Havana's Buena Vista Social Club.

De Marcos built the Afro-Cuban All Stars into a sensational showcase for Cuba's most prodigious young musicians, drawing on both classic Cuban styles and contemporary timba rhythms.

All proceeds from this concert are split evenly between SFJAZZ and the featured artists as a way to provide much-needed support for performing musicians during the time of COVID.

To watch the on-demand stream, visit <a href="https://www.sfjazz.org/sfjazz-digital/rent-afro-cuban-all-stars/">https://www.sfjazz.org/sfjazz-digital/rent-afro-cuban-all-stars/</a>.



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## The Musical Gourmet

## A funny look at history

By Joseph Gold

NOVEMBER 3, 2020. It's the day after the recent election. Many presidents have been elected on November 3, but the date has tremendous archaeological importance. Perhaps the name Carter means something. No, not Jimmy.

On November 3, 1922 Howard Carter discovered the tomb of King Tut. That was the most famous archaeological discovery of all time, and it gave birth to some famous music. Herein is an amusing incident.

The entertainment industry was quick to capitalize on the fame. It was the roaring 20s and entertainment, like the economy, was booming.

Almost immediately, composer Harry von Tilzer and entertainer Sophie Tucker wrote and recorded the song "Old King Tut". But the most famous recording of this song was in 1923 by the popular duo of Billy Jones and Ernest Hare, known to radio audiences as The Happiness Boys. Old King Tut was also a dance band standard. In recent years the song was used in the TV program *Boardwalk Empire*.

But it is the version by Jones



The Death mask of King Tutankhamun of Egypt

and Hare which created a comedy of errors.

I was given a small treasure trove of historical 78 RPM recordings back in the mid 1960s. Among these treasures were some Edison recordings. As you know Edison was the inventor of the phonograph and later was involved in a major lawsuit with Emil Berliner who invented an improved gramophone. Edison lost the lawsuit. The winner renamed his record empire and proclaimed his legal victory.

Thus was born the Victor Talking Machine Company.

Knowing that my father grew up during the roaring 20s, I decided to play some of the records for him. I was sure that he would enjoy the good memories. So...I started with Old King Tut. My father was delighted and started to reminisce about working in a barber shop. Then I played the song on the flip side of the record. It was the novelty number, Barney Google, named for the cartoon strip of the same name.

The song had a catchy melody and amusing words. But as soon as the song began, my father flew into a rage. He said that Barney Google was the worst song ever written in the history of music! I think he stomped out of the room.

My sister and I looked at each other in disbelief. Our intentions were good. When my father calmed down, he explained his reaction. The song had a catchy melody, but the problem was that if you heard it once, that was enough. He explained further by telling us that across the street from my father's barber shop was a record shop. In order to popularize record sales, the record shop installed a large speaker facing the street. They played Barney Google all day, every day, which might explain why my father so strongly disliked hearing it years

My good intentions backfired big time. However, my sister and I found it rather funny. If you listen to these two songs, be forewarned: listen to them one time

## No Time to Rest! exhibit runs through Dec. 22 at SF MOMA

By Allyson Aleksey

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SF MOMA) will unveil its newest exhibition today, entitled No Time to Rest!

No Time to Rest! is a fivepart program of films by women showing the possibilities of resistance and activism. The show critiques power structures, reclaims historical narratives, seeks bodily autonomy and reframes the act of representation in direct confrontation with patriarchal, racist, and capitalist legacies.

The exhibition features artists Eve Fowler, Jeanne C. Finley, Kelly Gallagher, Ja'Tovia Gary and Lynn Hershman Leeson. It is co-curated by Rudolf Frieling, SF MOMA's Curator of Media Arts, and Gina Basso, Manager of Film.

You can stream the first part of the program today, for free, until November 17. The first program is a 31-minute single channel video, written and produced by Fowler.

Fowler's art practice uses photography, painting, and film to explore the power of words and language and the strains of deep cultural biases in gender politics and queerness.

In this collaborative film, Fowler makes a series of studio visits with women artists in New York and Los Angeles, capturing



Eve Fowler is a featured artist in No Time to Rest!

each in the midst of their creative process. The gestures and actions of art production, such as shaping clay and pouring paint, are paired with the artists' reading passages from Gertrude Stein's 1910 text Many Many Women, including this passage: "Each one is one, there are many of them. Each one is one. Each one is that one the one that one is." In this documentation, Stein's language gains new life and power for its self- determination, resistance, and solidarity.

To watch the first program in the five-part series, visit <a href="https://www.sfmoma.org/">https://www.sfmoma.org/</a> program-one-eve-fowler/.

## SF Chamber Music Society concert on Nov. 20, 21

By Allyson Aleksey

The Chamber Music Society of San Francisco will present an intimate and interactive online concert, "Rhythms of the Heart," on Tuesday, November 20, and again on Thursday, November 22.

Renowned Bay Area cellist and San Francisco Conservatory of Music professor Jean-Michel Fonteneau will join the chamber's talented quartet of Natasha Makhijani, Jory Fankuchen, Clio Tilton, and Samsun van Loon for an unforgettable program of the music of Dvorak, Brahms, Marsalis, and Arensky.

'We are dedicated to bringing chamber music to life in intimate and personal ways, so we carefully curate an experience that captures the imagination with ing secrets about the musicians' hear directly from the artists and <u>ets-124949821279</u>.



The quartet of Chamber Music Society of San Francisco: Samsun van Loon (left), Natasha Makhijani, Clio Tilton, and Jory Fankuchen.

lives and their creative process," said Chamber Music Society violinist Natasha Makhijani.

The program will transport audience members to a highly polished performance with an interactive angle. Listeners will

composers.

The concert will be at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, November 20, and at 6 p.m. on Sunday, November 22. To purchase tickets, visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ rhythms-of-the-heart-tick-

## **Large California Printmakers** exhibit opens Nov. 15

The California Society of Printmakers' 106th Annual Exhibition will open this Sunday, November 15 at the Piedmont Center for the Arts and will be on display through December 5.

As part of the wide range of art offered at the Center throughout the year, the Society of Printmakers exhibition is an annual show. It highlights a variety of printmaking techniques and the ways its member artists use many techniques to create unique and meaningful works of art.

The Society's mission is to support the integrity of traditional printmaking while providing a community for artists exploring new directions in contemporary print methods. To that end, the Society organizes exhibitions, artist talks, demonstrations, lectures, residencies, and produces a journal publication.

Gallery viewing will be by reservation this year, within a safe and socially distanced setting. Gallery dates and times are:

Sunday, November 15, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Saturday, November 21, 11 a.m. − 3 p.m.

Saturday, December 5, 12 noon - 2 p.m.Entry will be in 30-minute time periods, with a maximum of 10 visitors per period. Masks are required. To see the exhibit and

California Society of Printmakers 106th Exhibition Piedmont Center for the Arts 801 Magnolia Avenue Piedmont, CA 94611

> NOVEMBER 14 -DECEMBER 5 2020



## **MOVIES FOR ADULTS**

### The Hurt Locker



A scene from Kathyren Bigelow's The Hurt Locker.

Movie review by Chris Honoré

"War is the force that gives us meaning," wrote journalist Chris Hedges. And perhaps he's right. Whereas life can be mundane, war is the crucible wherein all is intensified. Survival is not only paramount but tested and tested again. Given the scale of the carnage and destruction wreaked by contemporary warfare, it remains inexplicable that war is still utilized as an extension of foreign policy.

Rather than create a broadstroke narrative about the geo-political aspects of the Iraqi war, or examine the efficacy of an eightyear policy called Iraqi Freedom, The Hurt Locker focuses on three men who are part of the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Squad of Bravo Company: Staff Sgt. William James (Jeremy Renner), whose days are defined by searching for and dismantling IEDs (improvised explosive devices). It's when he is bent over a car trunk of ordinance, wearing a 180 pound protective suit, in 130 degree heat, with Iraqis watching from rooftops or standing in front of a small shops (could one be holding a remote detonator?), that he feels most alive. His willingness to risk all puts him at odds with the two other members of his squad, Sgt. J.T. Sanborne (Anthony Mackie) and Spec. Owen Etheridge (Brian Geraghty) who are 38 days short of their rotation back to the states.

The men have been running along a precipice for almost a year and want only to be finished with their tour and go home, alive and whole. In contrast, Sgt. James views the precipice as the one place above all others that he wants to be. He is fully addicted to war.

The three characters are revealed through action and not dialogue, the audience peppered with a series of intense setups, one IED dismantling after another. Director Kathryn

Bigelow (*Point Break*) clearly understands that the audience is addicted to the adrenalin-endorphin producing moments produced by intense filmmaking.

What distinguishes *The Hurt Locker* from past films about Iraq (*Lions for Lambs, The Valley of Ellah*) is its stunning verisimilitude. It is filmed in Amman, Jordan, showing a harrowing depiction of soldiers struggling to survive in an environment fraught with peril.

If The Hurt Locker is flawed, it is in its character development. While the film is a character study focusing in great part on Staff Sgt. James, little is revealed about the man. In a brief conversation with Sanborne and Etheridge he briefly discloses that he is married and has a child. Apart from those moments, he remains remote and enigmatic. An essential emotional bridge between the audience and the character is never fully constructed. In a film so intensely personal, it is a surprising omission.

For the soldiers. Iraq is inscrutable, and like Vietnam, a culture where every civilian might be an insurgent, every street an enemy sanctuary, every garbage bag on the roadside an IED. To know how James absorbs all of that, or chooses not to, would have made the film even richer.

Nevertheless, *The Hurt Locker* remains the best film thus far about the Iraq war, defying the 20-year rule: two decades, at least, must pass before a movie can be made about a war and hope to be embraced by the audience, who has by then escaped the collateral fatigue long wars inevitably create.

The Hurt Locker (2008). Starring Jeremy Renner, Anthony Mackie, and Brian Geraghty. Directed by Kathyrn Bigelow. Winner of 6 Academy Awards including Best Picture. 2 hrs., 11 min. Rated R.



Jeremy Renner stars in The Hurt Locker.

### **MOVIES FOR KIDS**



A scene from Studio Ghibli's From Up on Poppy Hill.

## From Up on Poppy Hill a story of youthful idealism

Movie review by Chris Honoré

From Up on Poppy Hill was written by Hayao Miyazaki, father of director Goro Miyazaki, and is based on the manga story by Tetsuro Sayama. Absent the fantastical, devoid of that floating sense of the surreal so often embedded in Studio Ghibli's animated features, Poppy Hill is a touching but unsentimental coming-of-age story about a strongwilled 16-year-old girl named Umi (Sarah Bolger) who meets and becomes much enamored with Shun (Anton Melchin). He is a member of a geeky group of boys who inhabit an aging wreck of a building where they run a newspaper. He is the editor.

The story is set in Yokohama, overlooking a sweeping bay. The year is 1963, and Japan is just beginning to fully emerge from the devastation from World War II. Umi's father was lost at sea, her mother is presently studying in America, and so Umi helps her grandmother (Jamie Lee Curtis) run a boarding house. She is responsible for much of the cleaning and shopping while attending a nearby high school and struggling to keep up with her schoolwork.

In the opening scenes, we see Umi raising a flag in homage to her much missed father. She is spotted by Shun who is working on his father's tugboat.

Umi soon meets Shun and learns about his and his friends'

resistance to the razing of an old building they occupy as part of urban renewal. The struggle is between reverence for the past and the urge by officials to move toward a new, more modern Japan. The Olympics is slated to arrive in Japan the following year, 1964.

Umi decides to join Shun and friends in a campaign protesting the removal of the building. The more time she and Shun spend together the deeper their connection grows, and soon the story finds that tentative teenage romance sweet spot.

However, screenwriter Hayao Miyazaki introduces a plot curve that causes Umi and Shun deep consternation, information that they find all but impossible to resolve.

Of course, the hand-drawn animation of *Up on Poppy Hill* is as good as any work produced by Studio Ghibli, the characters are appealing, and the background images are wonderfully created. Consistent with many Ghibli feature films, the story stresses the power of goodness. In a special way the film is light and breezy and filled with youthful idealism leavened by a certain wistfulness. It is both inspirational and enjoyable.

From Up on Poppy Hill (2011). Directed by Goro Miyazaki. Written by Hayao Miyazaki. With the voices of Sarah Bolger, Anton Melchin, and Jamie Lee Curtis. Animé from Studio Ghibli. 1 hr., 31 min. Rated PG.



 $\label{thm:conditional} A \ scene \ from \ Studio \ Ghibli's \ \textit{From Up on Poppy Hill}.$ 



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## **AMERICANS IN PARIS**

### "Welcome back, America!"

While France Is in Confinement, victoire for the U.S.A.

By Patricia Forsyth

Joe Biden is President-elect, and Europe is congratulating him and vice-president-elect Kamala Harris. French president Emmanuel Macron tweeted, "The Americans have chosen their president. We have a lot to do to overcome today's challenges." Macron and Biden have not yet met; but former French president Francois Hollande welcomed the "good news for American democracy" and hailed the happy news for the planet with "the return of the U.S. to the climate agreement."

Biden made a campaign pledge to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement after President Trump exited the accord in June 2017. Our mayor of Paris, Anne Hildago tweeted, "Welcome back America! While we are about to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Paris Agreement, this victory symbolizes our need to act together more than ever, in view of climate emergency."

The United Kingdom's Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Twitter, "Congratulations to Joe Biden on his election as President of the United States and to Kamala Harris on her historic achievement. The U.S. is our most important ally and I look forward to working closely together on our shared priorities, from climate change to trade and security."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel sent congratulations and declared, "The American people have made their decision. I look forward to future cooperation with President Biden. Our transatlantic relationship is irreplaceable. We Germans and Europeans know that we have to take on more responsibility in this partnership in the 21st century."

The conflicts between Merkel and Trump were highly contentious and her remarks reflect Trump's four years of trouncing her over military costs and Europe's underwhelming contributions to NATO, particularly as it pertains to Germany, the wealthiest of European Union

(EU) nations.

"America is and remains our most important ally, but it expects us, and rightly so, to make stronger efforts to take care of our security and to stand up for our convictions in the world," Merkel added.

European analysts say it's a great day for the U.S. and Europe working together to rebuild the partnership, although Europeans should harbor no illusions. One widely acknowledged blunt assessment is that Joe Biden isn't going to change Washington D.C.'s handling of international issues overnight - because he can't. In the foreseeable future, the U.S. will be preoccupied with itself, righting the divided country and rebuilding the departments charged with conducting foreign affairs. There is no going back to seeing America as the world's sheriff as it was in the decades after the Cold War. France24 commented that while the U.S. still maintains military presence in Europe, South Korea, Japan, Afghanistan, and Bahrain, it has been withdrawing from conflict zones under a trend accelerated by Trump but initiated by Barack Obama, and most notably a move toward Asia and away from Europe.

Italy's President Sergio Mattarella sent his congratulations, highlighting the burden Biden faces as he will lead the U.S. in the fight against Covid-19. A top Italian analyst remarked, "We are witnessing the end of American imperialism with the United States no longer wanting to be the world's policeman."

An analysis from the Eurasia Group added, "With Biden, the EU can expect a much more predictable and constructive US-EU relationship on trade, NATO, Iran, the Middle East, and above all, climate change."

Trade in particular is expected to flow with much less friction than during the Trump years. Not only for climate change, EU countries welcome Biden signaling reversal of pullouts Trump ordered for the World Health



Joe Biden in his role as U.S. Vice-President with Euro Summit President Donald Tusk, 2015 in Belgium.



The U.S. has a winner. Congratulations to Joe Biden and (local girl makes good) Kamala Harris.

Organization (WHO) and the Iran nuclear agreement.

#### France in Confinement

Meanwhile here in Paris, France is under confinement (kohn feen menht) for all of November. The French nation in its entirety is on Health Emergency alert. As Covid-19 has been spiking higher day by day with cooler weather that began in September, the nation announced tighter travel restrictions to better contain the virus. These travel rules are similar, but not as strict as the March to May shutdown earlier this year.

World scientists predicted that spending more time together indoors as cold weather sets in will increase exposure and cases will spike. In the race to the bottom for the worst performing nations suffering from the spread of Covid-19, France is fifth, with 1.79 million cases and racing neck and neck with Russia at 1.8 million cases. Next is Brazil (5.66 million); India (8.55 million); and in first place in COVID cases reported worldwide is the U.S.A. with a staggering 10.1 million

Now in our second week, we are isolating at home except for essential outings: food and wine, cheese and the butcher shop, medicine, and medical appointments. People drive, fuel stations are open, and the Metro is running normally. Life goes on, and anyone needing to jog, bike, or walk the dog, may do so, But they are told to keep it under an hour and stay within one kilometer of home.

The state asks that any but crucial family matters, assisting a disabled person, or legal or official business be done remotely whenever possible. While going outside, residents must carry a written self-decree explaining why they've left the house. Mainly it's checking boxes with date, time, and signature. Michael has printed 30 copies, so I think

we'll be OK.
See Americans in Paris on next page



Photo: Mandel Ngan/AFP/Getty Images

### Americans in Paris

Continued from page 20

If caught without a trip sheet by an inquiring gendarme, one's wallet may be lighter by a €135 (\$157) fine. While the rules may seem onerous or imperial, in practice they are not. Following some initial grumbling, we accommodate for the greater good.

France's entire ICU capacity is now at 84% with 4,331 patients in Intensive Care. We have a responsibility for caring about those who are most vulnerable, family members and friends, and in protection of our own health. Business closings for health reasons have widespread support.

#### With chocolatiers and patisseries open, Parisians will not be denied.

Face masks are not fun: eyeglasses fog up and we get runny noses, but they are mandatory. A pile of varied masks are next to the keys on the way out our door. Every shop owner has dutifully posted a reminder on the main door: Masks Are Obligatory. The wait in the checkout lane is safer now with red circles on the floor for where to stand for distancing, and cashiers behind acrylic shields make it safer for everyone.

Either Michael or I shop around the neighborhood every day and we have plenty of choices for eats. With chocolatiers and patisseries open, Parisians will not be denied.

Parents are bringing the kids back to school. Either working remotely from home or commuting to a job, families can depend on the children getting playground exercise and afterschool care the full workday. We hear the happy laughing squeals from behind walled playfields as we walk by while on errands. It sounds so normal, except the streets are empty. The sidewalk cafés, bars, restaurants, movie theaters are all closed. A few resourceful eateries have figured out how to make takeout available, but not so much for the sales, which are meager.

Anything for sale -- clothes, shoes, knickknacks, chairs, lighting -- that can't be eaten or prescribed is verboten. Many a street has a shop or two that didn't survive the first confinement. The space has a quick renovation, and voila, it's a new parfumerie or fashion lunettes (eyeglasses) ris-



During the confinement the plein-air markets are on a normal schedule, Pictured is Beaumarchais at the Bastille on Thursdays and Sundays.

ing from the dust.

Museums, galleries, concerts, theater, attractions have suffered reduced patronage from Covid-19 and are closed again. Food-delivery services are enjoying a heyday business, but delivery hours had to be tweaked to curtail par-

tygoers illicitly gathering in large numbers at private homes.

The twin factoids of rising Covid-19 cases and crowded ICUs cannot be denied: social distancing and face masks are key to virus control until there's a reliable vaccine.

Patricia Forsyth and Michael Mathews moved from Piedmont to Paris a year ago September, seemingly throwing both countries into decline, although other factors may be contributing. For comments, email <a href="mailto:pkf.empower@gmail.com">pkf.empower@gmail.com</a>



Paris during confinement. Joggers and bikers may exercise individually, but not in groups.



Paris gendarmes patrol the streets and make inquiries of individuals to enforce social distancing and question the purpose of excursions during confinement.



Municipal officers on horseback patrol Paris and make inquiries of pedestrians at the Arc de Triomphe.

## **FEATURES**

## **EXPANDING A HOME'S POSSIBILITIES**

## **Creating an Outdoor Oasis**

By Rebecca L. Schnier, AIA

Remember when the word "shelter" had a heart-warming connotation? It's taken on a whole new meaning as we've all been restricted to endless hours of staying at home. Many homeowners this year are looking to maximize the multiple functions of the home while creating an oasis of calm. Often that means looking to the outdoors

Successful outdoor spaces – the harmonious relationship of patios, decks, paths and planted places – should be comfortably and easily accessible from the interior. These home extensions can provide beautiful views and offer that sense of calm, experienced from indoors and out. An

architect's sensibility toward organizing and connecting indoor spaces can be very effective in making the most out of outdoor spaces.

Creating usable outdoor space can be an excellent way to meet your space needs. It's generally less expensive than constructing an addition or doing an interior renovation. Plus, being outdoors can reduce stress and improve mood – and is the safest way to bring people together these days.

Homes in Piedmont are fortunate to have private outdoor spaces. The variety of Piedmont's topography translates into unique garden sites and accessibility issues. It's not too soon to start analyzing your outdoor space and considering ways it can best be used to expand your livable space. The design, permitting and construction process can take several months, so planning ahead is a good idea.

For a level-out small patio (see photo #1), the varying wall heights and materials, stone paving accents in wood decking, and built-in seating areas establish different use zones, and make the patio seem larger than it is. A sun shade over a seating area allows the owners to work outside in comfort. The garden vignettes were laid out with special attention paid to the interior viewpoint, arranged with the same care as hanging a painting on the wall. Built-in art pieces from the owner's private collection provide special focal points.



Photo #1: A level-out small patio with varying heights and materials appear larger than it is.



Photo #2: Garden on a downhill slope.



Photo #3: This garden is designed in part to be viewed from above.

Another garden, this one on a downhill slope, uses similar techniques to establish use zones through a variety of hardscape materials, varied height plantings and built-in seating. This garden is designed in part to be viewed from above. Fountains in both gardens provide tranquil sounds of water. (See photos #2 & #3.)

In Piedmont, outdoor space is often either uphill or downhill, and this change in level creates unique design challenges. Accessibility is key for outdoor spaces to get frequent use. On this steep downhill sloped site, outdoor space for a couple with two young children, the only way to provide suitable, easily accessible outdoor space was by adding a large deck. A pair of discreet diagonal braces support the dynamic soaring deck that overlooks Indian Gulch Creek. New French doors connect directly to the living room. The walkway along the side of the house means visitors can avoid entering the house, a benefit during the COVID pandemic. (See photos #4 & #5.)

Outdoor spaces can serve a variety of functions: cooking and dining, areas with seating for reading, working and relaxing, children's play area, hot tubs, and more. In this project along the Alameda estuary, a terraced, multi-function outdoor space was the second phase of a major home renovation.

See Outdoor Oasis on page 32



Photo #4: On this steep downhill sloped site, the only way to provide suitable, easily accessible outdoor space was by adding a large deck.



Photo #5: New French doors connect directly to the living room.







## Captain Cal's road to recovery at Oakland Zoo



Captain Cal's improvement is plain to see in a side-by photo of him in September (left) and now (right).

By Allyson Aleksey

Captain Cal, the orphaned mountain lion being treated at Oakland Zoo, is well on his way to recovery.

The cub was brought to the zoo on September 27 after Cal Fire firefighters rescued him from the destructive Zogg Fire, which burned in southwestern Shasta County. Upon discovering the lone cub, then approximately four months old, Cal Fire contacted the Shasta County Sherriff's Department, who then contacted the California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW]. CDFW Veterinarians then contacted Oakland Zoo for help in treating the young mountain lion.

Six weeks ago, Captain Cal's diagnosis looked bleak, but Oakland Zoo veterinarians remained optimistic; hospital director Dr. Alex Herman re-bandaged the young cub's feet weekly, and staff removed dead skin tissue from his wounded feet throughout his nearly two-month stay. Captain Cal came to Oakland Zoo in September weighing less than four pounds. By October 27, he was at 11-1/2 pounds, a healthy weight for a young male mountain lion.

Just two weeks ago, on October 28, Captain Cal gained some new friends - two orphaned female mountain lion cubs who were also rescued from the Zogg Fire and were rehabilitating at the zoo. They were slowly brought together, first through a partition, and then finally paw-to-paw.

Dr. Lynette Waugh noted their fast friendship.

"The [three] cubs are quite comfortable together. They regularly sleep together in a 'kitten pile' and they play together throughout the day. Being housed with the girls has improved Captain's confidence. We are so grateful he has companions. His feet are healing exponentially each time I see them. He is making great progress and showing us that his feet no longer feel as sensitive by romping around with the girls and climbing around their area," Dr. Waugh said.

Veterinary staff finally removed his bandages on November 4, and Dr. Herman noted that he is eating well, and appears happy to have his feet free of bandages.

"He is being cautious. He continues to eat well and he sleeps fine. The lab work shows that all three kittens have healthy organ systems, and there was no permanent damage from smoke," Dr. Herman explained.

Captain Cal's story has resonated with many; his journey has been covered by major Bay Area news outlets, but has spread to Europe, where his rescue was documented in Belgium by the Luxemburger Wort and in Germany by the Frankfurter Neue Presse.

Because he was orphaned at such a young age, he will not be released back into the wild. The zoo is searching for forever homes for all three cubs, who will stay together as a family, according to Dr. Herman.

Cyberthieves constantly stalk social media platforms for information they can use to commit their crimes. You can help stymie them by limiting what you share online. It's a good idea to keep your full name, address and birthday private. You might also avoid discussing your plans for upcoming vacations. And review your privacy settings periodically so that only people you know or approve can see your information.

Hackers often set up their own Wi-Fi networks in public areas, such as the computers found in hotel business centers. Ask an employee for the name of the legitimate network. And even when you use it, log off when

#### • Don't take the bait of "phishers.

Cyberthieves go "phishing" for sensitive information - usernames, passwords and account numbers - by sending communications, such as emails, purporting to be from a business or financial institution with which you often do business. They may claim your account was "suspended" or that an "unauthorized transaction" was made, and you'll be asked to click on a link that takes you to what appears to be

If you go along with this request, you could find mali-See Identity Theft on page 32



### **Piedmont Avenue** Library News



## Sidewalk pickup – how is it working?

By Ruby Long

You get a book from the library these days by going online to the library site and

checking on what's there. If you want to search for new books, there is a brief video tutorial showing how to do that: <a href="https://">https://</a> oaklandlibrary.org/blogs/from-main-library/oakand-public-library-launches-playlist-help-you-find-new-books-and-more. It was posted by librarian Rebekah Eppley last month.

Once you find what you want, request it and wait for an email confirmation that tells when and where you can pick it up.

At Piedmont Avenue Branch Library, the pick-up hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The service is outdoors. You'll find tables arranged to keep a safe distance between staff and patrons. Go up to the table and show your library card to the masked librarian who will call on a walkie-talkie to a worker inside the library. In a few minutes yours books are brought out in a sealed paper bag with your name on it.

#### About the new system

How's this new system going? Here's what some patrons said about it one Thursday morning.

"Before, they would come and choose what to take home. Now, they don't always like what I bring them," said Jackie, who was picking up some books for her two-year old twins:

Chester Pon was picking up some Chinese classic films for his mom. They chose them online, and he walked to the library pick them up. The system works fine for him.

Daniel Anker, needing the book for a class he's taking at Cal, found the current process slower and somewhat frustrating.

Susan chooses and orders her books online. She sometimes reads e-books, but says it is not the same as having the book in her hands, feeling its weight and the texture of the page.

Alison Yin was returning books and picking up some more that her  $3\frac{1}{2}$  year old son had requested. She works at home, uses audio books as background. She and her husband frequently max out their account at the library.

Abby reads for pleasure, choosing books after she compares titles online with friends. She thinks the librarians are doing a great job in the face of a daunting challenge.

Attempts were made to interview the librarians on duty, but the constant stream of patrons prevented any extended conversation.

It's not your grandma's library, but grandmas like it now.

#### **Piedmont Avenue Branch Library**

80 Echo Avenue (behind Piedmont Ave. Elementary School). For information, call 510-597-5011.

## Planning Your Finance\$

## **Defend Yourself Against Identity Theft**

You've no doubt heard reports of personal data being stolen and used for financial fraud – anything from online shopping on your credit cards to actual theft from your financial accounts. This problem won't go away anytime soon – but you can take steps to defend yourself.

Here are a few suggestions:

#### • Use multifactor authentication or other extra security options with online accounts.

Many of your online accounts offer extra security by giving you the option to prove your identity in different ways. With mutifactor authentication, you must provide at least two different factors to prove your identity when you log in to an account. This additional layer of security provides you with much greater protection.

#### • Be creative with passwords.

Create different passwords for work, financial services sites, social media and email – and give each password some length and complexity. Consider passphrases

- actual words combined with symbols and numbers (for example, "ThisIsAPassphrase!2468"), for sites that allow them.

#### Protect your computer and your key data.

Keep your antivirus software updated. And don't install bootleg or unlicensed software, which could infect your computer with a virus. Also, back up your important data.

#### • Watch out for fake websites or apps.

When making financial transactions, be sure you're on the website of your bank or financial institution - and not on a fake site established by hackers. Your financial statements should have the legitimate website, so bookmark it and use it when doing anything with your accounts. Also, be careful when downloading apps – stick with those from established providers such as Google Play or the App Store.

· Avoid "over-sharing" on social media.

## • Limit use of public Wi-Fi.

you're finished.

the company's website.



## A Life by Design By Laura Martin Bovard

## Slowing down; expressing gratitude for simplicity

By Laura Martin Bovard

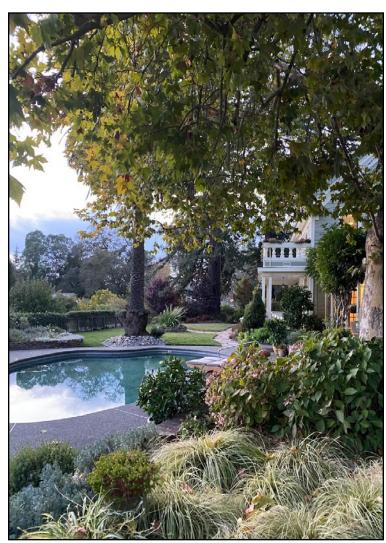
This past weekend, I said "yes" to time away to Sebastopol with two of my dearest girlfriends. Which wasn't easy. I've become a little too used to the new tempo 2020 has imposed upon me. A less fun version of me. The one who holds her breath, feels a little scared, and has shut herself off from appreciating some of the simple pleasures that are our birthright. Most notably beauty.

I've become somewhat stagnant with this imposed new structure in life by holding too still, staying too close to home, and not seeing or appreciating the blessings in my life. My colorful life seemingly dialing down to a neutral palette of gray. I don't know if you've heard but gray is over. It's so 2019. But this weekend I saw something different.

As our time at our friend's farmhouse unfolded, my body slowed down and the tempo of my "doer" energy softened. I



Beauty Moment: A table set with the farm's bounty welcomed us upon arrival



Pool: The perfect spot for a cold plunge.

could begin to feel gratitude rise to the surface for every simple moment. It happened in layers. My breath began to deepen. I started to see every thoughtful beauty moment that had been left by others for us to enjoy, things I had overlooked when I first walked in, like the marigolds on the table, the bounty of the bowls of persimmons and apples.

With every step I took in the garden, every laugh with my friends, I lightened. It occurred to me that I was seeing more color, feeling more texture, noticing the sounds of birds, and the joy of being with my friends. And just like that, gratitude for simplicity became the theme of the weekend. Pursuit of achievement fell away and I let myself unravel the weeks and months of holding my breath

Sometimes, no matter how beautiful we make our homes, no matter how much time and effort we put into selecting all these perfectionistic details, if we don't actually slow down and really connect, from the inside, we are not able to truly see the beauty we are creating.

We don't have to actually go away to reclaim the practice of settling and noticing if we commit to practices that slow us down, but it does provide a good reset. Mini-retreats can happen by heading in multiple directions here in the Bay Area, but we can also head in the direction of our own backyard or our meditation pillow. The point to be made is intention. We make all this effort to make it all so pretty, but if we don't carve out time to be with it and enjoy it, then it's kind of lost.

So then, how much of this retreat energy – of savoring simplicity and being present with beloved friends – can I bring back into my daily life? I'm thinking about how this year, for Thanksgiving, rather than rushing through all of the to-do lists and cooking with a fury, I'm going to really savor every moment. If this year has taught me anything, it is that impermanence is the constant

This November, I really am truly finding things to feel thankful for. As Dave Chappelle said in his Saturday Night Live monologue over the weekend: "I would implore everybody who's celebrating today to remember that it's good to be a humble winner.... I don't hate anybody.... You gotta find a way to live your life. You gotta find a way to forgive each other. You gotta find a way to find joy in your existence."

It's making me hopeful, the power of what we can do when take these tender moments of slowing down to find what's human about people. When we can recognize that we are wrongmaking: the wrongmaking of ourselves for not measuring up to our own expectations; wanting things or people to be a certain way that they are not. What if we could stop that and appreciate the simple joy of loving each other right where we are. Life is messy and hard, and we could all do with a reset of clearing the past and loving what is.

We have a choice. We can go deeper to find these human moments of connection to each other and ourselves. Turn off the judgment and start appreciating what is, seeing the beauty of what is. Then we can look out across the whole landscape of life and realize, I don't have to change this other person, make them what I want them to be. We have to start there. This is what we are



View: Taking time to take in the beauty, senses are heightened in the pause.

all needing now.

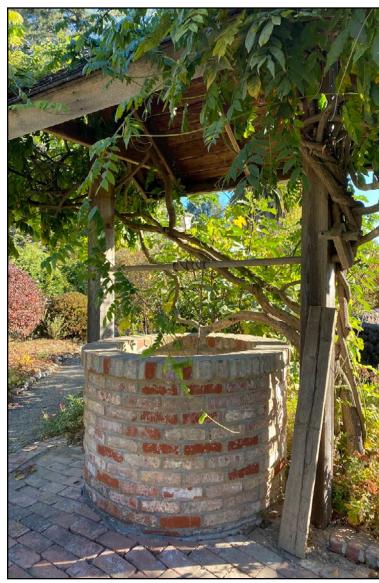
You know that expression, "Comparison is the thief of joy"? Sunday morning, I wrote in my journal, "Judgment is the thief of connection." Judgment clouds my vision and my heart, compassion expands my capacity to see and feel. Love is so much simpler and more direct.

This weekend's retreat was a reminder for me of what happens when we dial down to that slower place, set the intention for quiet reflection, get away from the chaos. Even though all the election excitement was going on at the same time, by lingering in and savoring the human connection, by lingering in and appreciating my surroundings, by slowing everything down, I remembered

not just my humanity, but everybody's humanity, including feeling deep compassion for those who don't see things the way that I see things.

This is my intention: to slow down, love what is, and connect with others in this place. Will you join me?

Laura Martin Bovard is the principal at LMB Interiors, located in downtown Oakland. Since 2002 she has helped clients create beautiful, joyful, and functional homes. Her approach to work and life has earned her firm numerous awards and recognition as one of the Bay Area's best and most sought after interior design agencies. For information see laura@lmbinteriors.com.



Wishing Well: My wish came true.

## **Covid or not, Holly Ball** returns on December 4

Members of the Cancer League have not let the COVID pandemic stop them from gathering remotely over Zoom to continue the fight against cancer. With the 47th annual Holly Ball event slated for December 4, Jenna Caldwell, the Holly Ball Chair, had to rethink the traditional in-person event that she had been planning all year.

"To say this has been a year unlike any other is an understatement," said Caldwell. "Life has changed for everyone."

For the health and safety of the community, the initial instinct was to cancel this tradition, but Caldwell was committed to continuing The Cancer League's fundraising tradition. So she and her committee came up with something that would look a little different.

"My father was diagnosed

with cancer during all of this and that's when it came to me - we can't stop the fight against cancer," Caldwall said. "So many people are avoiding their doctor's offices and are putting off the early detection screenings, making them even more at risk. While the world has changed, our commitment to fighting cancer can't."

This year's theme is: Don't Stop the Fight Against Cancer, Holly Ball 2020 virtual.

The virtual event kicks off on Friday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. with welcoming comments from Cancer League President Lucy Ridgway, followed by featured speakers Alan Ashworth, PhD, President of UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Dr. Mekhail Anwar, recipient of the NIH New Innovator Award and recipient of seed funding from The Cancer League.

Additionally, Hanna Malak, a member of the Board of Directors at Camp Okizu, will describe the work done by Okizu, a camp helping children affected by cancer to heal through a welcoming recreational outdoor camp program. Sadly, the camp recently sustained significant damage from the North Complex fires.

To maintain as much tradition as possible, the Holly Ball organizers teamed up with the Claremont Country Club to offer wonderful meals and signature cocktails to-go prepared by the Club's Executive Chef, Hans Wiegand. The Cancer League welcomes all guests to join this special event. To make a donation of any level and to purchase to-go meals, see thecancerleagueinc. org/hb2020.



Cancer League members Shirley Rexrode (left), Cancer League President Lucy Ridgway, Holly Ball Chair Jenna Caldwell, Betsy Lalli, Susan Petty and Jacque Jumper met recently to help prepare invitations to the 2020 Holly Ball, the Cancer League's signature annual fund-raising event.

### **DVERTISE IN THE POST**

## Puns of our times – to lighten up the days

In high school I had a beau-She was easy on the eyes but water here healthy?" hard on the pupils.

Police were called to a daycare center because a threeyear-old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the guy who had to quit his job at a seafood restaurant due to an injury? He pulled a mussel.

Fully sated after a lovely dinner at a German restaurant, the customers were unaware that the wurst was yet to come.

The baker's wife had 10 children. Seems there was always a bun in the oven.

She was only the whiskey maker's daughter, but he loved

Do you know why butchers make sausages? To make ends

A tourist stopped at a farm tiful but difficult math teacher. and asked the owner, "Is the woks of life.

"We have only well water."

Did you hear about the argument among some beer drinkers? It seems they were at lagerheads.

What do you call a Swedish cake that's not paid for? Stollen.

A guy was simply not well versed in writing songs, so his wife told him to refrain from it.

Cryptographers make terrible drummers. They just sit there, fascinated by all the cymbals.

Since a drummer moved in next door, there have been many repercussions.

My tennis opponent was not happy with my serve. He kept returning it.

Stir-fry cooks come from all

What do you call a group of "Oh yes," replied the farmer. boxers waiting to get into the gym? The punch line.

> I don't mind kids playing hopscotch in most places, but my driveway is where I draw the line.

> My wife loves telling jokes while she knits. She's a real

> Our Lady of Perpetual Motion Convent received a government subsidy for their fleet of minivans because they qualified as a mass transit system.

> Did you hear about the recent crimes that happened in a parking garage? They were wrong on so many levels.

> A hole was found in the nudist camp wall, but the police are looking into it.

## **Wednesday Evening Meditation Group is online**

The Wednesday Evening Piedmont Meditation Group has moved online using Zoom web conferencing during the Covid-19 shelter-in-place order. The group meets every Wednesday evening from 7:30-8:15 p.m., and everyone age 12 and older is welcome. No experience meditating is necessary. This is a secular (non-religious) group, and there is no lecture, solicitation or obligation.

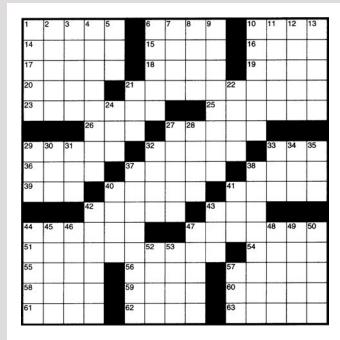
Mark Herrick, a long-time Piedmont resident, is host of the weekly meditations. "With the high stress and anxiety of the shelter-in-place order, it's easy to get cut-off and isolated from each other. It's helpful to have a place to connect with people sharing a bit of quiet, peaceful time to rest and recharge," Herrick said.

For more information contact him at: <a href="mailto:herrickmark@icloud.com">herrickmark@icloud.com</a> or (415) 706-2000.

#### **Sudoku Puzzle**

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

#### **Crossword Puzzle**



47 Refused to greet

51 Collector's items.

54 Ill-mannered

55 Cloudburst

57 Twill fabric

58 Between gigs

59 Miner's quest

60 Kitchen tool

62 Just in case

63 Love dearly

61 Tinted

56 Masterly

#### ACROSS

- "The Stranger"
- author Nursery powder
- 10 Pillow cover \_\_\_acid
- 15 October stone
- 16 Forum wea 17 Lathers
- 18 1492 ship
- 19 Keen 20 Ms. Bombeck
- 21 Sounds familiar
- 23 Of earthquakes 25 Lifting device
- 26 Kipling classic 27 Cactus' defense
- 29 "Saturday Night 32 Scrawny
- 33 Came in first 36 Mimicked
- 37 Hurl
- 38 Jaipur princess
- 39 Uncle Sam's share 40 Clock parts
- 41 Place for yodelers
- 42 Surrounds

- 44 Relaxed, in the army
- 43 Comic Charlotte
- Dean Martin's "That's

DOWN

Tearooms

- Orange Bowl locale Revealed
- Titanic signal
- Granny's remedy
- Could hear \_\_\_ Director Fritz
- Holding tight

- 10 Dependable
- 11 Shack 12 Like gymnasts 13 In a crazy way

21 Wheel part

22 Mame or Em

27 Goes vachting

28 Plays on words

29 Diet no-no

31 Irritate

35 Zilch

30 Ecol. police

32 Quite pleased

34 The Plastic \_

37 Intense meteor

40 Type of jockey

43 Hosp. workers

38 Reuben base

41 Greek letter

42 Profited

44 Bitter

45 Flatterer

33 Kids' card game

\_ Band

24 Former space lab

- 46 Boxer Griffith
- 47 Type of trapshooting 48 Beast of burden
- 49 Yard tool
- 50 Plow maker
- 52 Wind instrument 53 Auto pioneer
- 57 Health club

#### **OBITUARY**

## Betty Smith dies October 23 at age 100

Elizabeth "Betty" Smith passed away peacefully in her sleep in Piedmont on October 23,

She was born on August 1, 1920 in South Porcupine, Ontario, Canada to James J. and Margery (Cole) Jordan and was the oldest of four children. Her father worked as the mill superintendent at Dome Mines, and Betty fondly remembered life in "the Bush" where she made snowmen, ice skated and "helped Mama mind the baby." One of Betty's favorite stories was about the thrill of riding out to the powder magazine in a horse-drawn wagon loaded with dynamite.

She moved to San Francisco with her family when she was 16 and attended UC Berkeley where she earned a bachelor's degree in English. Betty worked as a secretary at Armstrong College before marrying her folk-dancing partner, Charles Smith. Betty and Charles were married for 42 years, had three children and lived in Piedmont for eight years before moving to Martinez, where they lived for many years. She also lived in Piedmont for the final three years of her life.

Betty was a longtime member of the Berkeley Hiking Club. She recalled driving up to Yosemite with other BHC members, throwing sleeping bags on the ground and climbing Half Dome the next day. Betty enthusiastically shared her love of nature with others and always knew the names of wildflowers, birds, trees and butterflies.

Betty was an excellent seamstress and cook and enjoyed being a docent at the John Muir Home in Martinez, the Martinez Historical Society, and the Oak-



Betty Smith climbing Half Dome in Yosemite National Park in 1950.

land Museum.

She is survived by her children Jordan Smith (PHS 1973) and husband Dennis of San Francisco; Katharine Smith and husband Bill of San Pablo; and Dorinda Woodley and husband John of Piedmont. She is also survived by grandsons Josh and Nate Woodley of Piedmont. Additionally, she is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Helen and Bob Barnes of Livermore, niece Carol LaLone of Livermore, and nephew Jim Herr and wife Julie of Atwater.

Betty is predeceased by her husband Charles Smith, her sister Marian Jordan and her brother James Jordan.

Betty will be buried at Sunset View Cemetery, and a celebration of her life will be held next year. Donations can be made in Betty's memory to Yosemite National Park, the John Muir Association or any other organization that supports nature.

## Look who else is coming to the White House

It's been four years since a four-legged friend graced the halls of the White House. With president-elect Joe Biden moving into his new digs come January, the White House will not only have one dog, but two dogs roaming the hallowed halls - Biden's German shepherds, Champ and Major.

What can we expect from these two fearless canines soon to call 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue home?

German shepherd dogs are the epitome of a working dog. Think of them as the blue-collar dog. Utilitarian, no-nonsense, extremely trainable, and loyal. Sounds perfect for the task at

Although German shepherds

enjoy and excel in a variety of dog sports and activities including, nosework, tracking, service animal training, search and rescue, and herding, one more activity will now need to be added to that list: Presidential Pets.

One of the most famous German shepherds got his start in the United States. Rin Tin Tin, a German shepherd rescued as a puppy from the battlefield by American soldier Lee Duncan during World War I, became a famous canine movie star during the 1920s and popularized the breed.

Champ and Major may not have their own star on the Hollywood walk of Fame like Rin Tin Tin, but no doubt they will quickly win over the hearts of Americans.

As a breed German shepherd dogs are at risk for hip dysplasia. Veterinarians consider this breed the "poster child" for the condition. If you are considering getting a German shepherd (say, in the next four years), you should talk to your vet about having your puppy screened for hip dysplasia. This is done with both a physical exam and radiographs (X-rays). While the development of hip dysplasia can't necessarily be prevented, the pain, mobility issues, and other negative symptoms of the condition can be minimized with proper diagnosis and management.

For more information, contact Trupanion, Inc., 6100 4th Ave S, Suite 200, Seattle, WA 98108.

## You know

she loves her morning walk, struggles to take her medicine on time, and is fiercely independent. We'll know that, too.







#### **WE PROVIDE:**

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- **Errands and transportation**

Start home care today. CarePiedmont.com 510.835.9362



Owners: Leah and **Benjamin Bloom** Piedmont High Class of '03

3820 Broadway, Oakland

## **How to reach City officials**

Elected and appointed officials in Piedmont are directly available to residents by phone and by e-mail.

#### **Piedmont City Council** 420-3048 Bob McBain, Mayor rmcbain@piedmont.ca.gov Teddy King, Vice Mayor 420-3048 tking@piedmont.ca.gov Tim Rood 239-7663 trood@piedmont.ca.gov Jennifer Cavenaugh 420-3048 jcavenaugh@piedmont.ca.gov Betsy Andersen 604-9864

#### **CITY COMMISSIONS**

bandersen@piedmont.ca.gov

Park Commission	
Patty Dunlap, Chair	367-0762
Betsy Goodman	547-2063
Amber Brumfiel	612-0752
Jim Horner	654-8836
Brian Mahany	594-9079
Eileen Ruby	919-6654
Robin Wu	450-0412

#### Planning Commission

i iummig commission	
Allison Allessio, Chair	415-385-3608
Jonathan Levine	655-8859
Tom Ramsey	593-6612
Yildiz Duransoy	914-5531
Rani Batra	421-3220
Douglas Strout (Alternate)	428-1296

#### Dublic Safety Committee

Public Safety Committee	
Lynne Wright, Chair	879-7078
Lori Elefant	428-1757
Jeffrey Horner	547-0233
Chris Houlder	415-298-6880
Garrett Keating	601-5180
Shanti Brien	925-984-8980

#### Recreation Commission

rect cation commission	
Steve Roland, Chair	601-8458
Jeffrey Dorman	985-1203
Vincent Fisher	760-805-4057
Conna McCarthy	333-9148
Dick Carter	367-9449

#### **CITY COMMITTEES**

#### **Budget Advisory and Financial Planning Committee**

Budget Mavisory and Pinancial Planning Committee	
Bill Hosler, Chair	595-9005
Cathie Geddeis	290-3494
Deborah Leland	325-6235
Christina Paul	219-1670
Maya Rath	652-6277
Frank Ryan	652-7245
Chris Kwei (Alternate)	703-9886

#### **Civic Improvement Projects (CIP) Review Committee**

John Lenahan, Chair	_		893-0122
Sue Herrick			530-6047
Bobbe Stehr			653-7627
Michael Henn			834-7128

Liaisons:

Patty Siskind (Piedmont Beautification Foundation) Jim Horner (Park Commission) Conna McCarthy (Recreation Commission)

#### **Civil Service Commission**

Michael Reese	206-7956
Sandra Rappaport	386-6288
Scott Lawson	325-7675
Claudia Harrison	336-3656
David Hobstetter	415-309-9884

#### **Mosquito Abatement District** Robert Dickinson

Parking Hearing Officer	
Susan Ode	420-3040

658-3464

654-3292

#### Police and Fire Pension Board

Susan Kawaichi

I dife and the Lension board	
Robert McBain, Mayor	420-3048
Teddy Gray King, Vice Mayor	420-3048
Andrew Wendel	415-531-8095
Catherine Carr, <i>Police Rep</i> .	420-3000
Brian Gidney, Fire Rep.	420-3030

### **Piedmont Pickleball Schedule**

Pickleball is once again active in Piedmont with the reopening of the courts at Piedmont Middle School, 740 Magnolia Avenue. The courts are located below the school, and are open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday.

For more information, contact the Recreation Department ta 420-3070.

## REAL ESTATE

### ISE IN *the post*

## G The GRUBB Co.

231 PARK VIEW AVENUE, PIEDMONT



#### ▶ JUST SOLD ◀

Charming 1920's light-filled home on a beloved street with tasteful updates. Finished bonus room on lower level ideal for home office or theatre room. Moments to the Grand Lake Farmer's Market, parks and Piedmont schools. A very special property! 231Parkview.com

#### 3BR • 1.5BA • Offered at \$1,395,000

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## The GRUBB Co.

312 BLAIR AVENUE, PIEDMONT



#### ▶ JUST SOLD

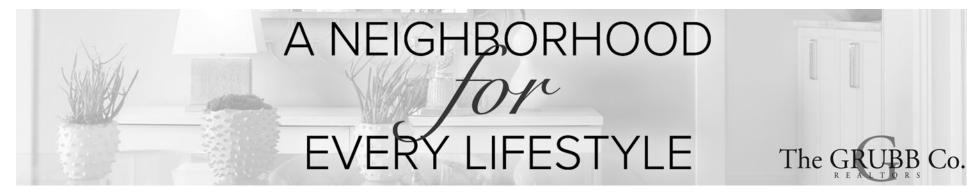
Chic Craftsman in Central Piedmont. This comfortable home has it all and the location is A+. A true chef's kitchen which flows into a very open dining room and living room and seamlessly attaches to an outdoor redwood deck perfect for outdoor dining and relaxing. Downstairs family room with level access to the beautiful garden.

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#### ▶ CALL FOR INFORMATION ◀

Romantic Mediterranean with well-maintained, public spaces and flexible floor plan. Perfectly appointed kitchen/family room that flows onto a sunny deck for quintessential CA indoor/outdoor living. Downstairs is a gathering room with fireplace, BR/BA suite and separate entrance. Lush grounds surround this lovely home.

4BR • 3.5BA • \$2,699,000



Rebecca Erdiakoff CalBRE #01808352 O: 510.339.0400/334 C: 510.418.1578 Rebecca@grubbco.com

Angela Wei Grubb CalBRE #00679667 O: 510.339.0400/202 C: 510.912.5202 Awgrubb@grubbco.com



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#### ▶ CALL FOR INFORMATION <</p>

Luxury living in this elegant light-filled condominium in the historic Bellevue Staten on the shores of Lake Merritt. Large living room with fireplace, formal dining room, master suite, parquet floors, updated kitchen, 24-hour doorman, and valet parking.

1BR • 1BA • \$788,000

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### THE HISTORY OF PIEDMONT

### **Piedmont traditions**



The Piedmont High School shield was designed in 1922.

By Gail G. Lombardi

Piedmont is a small town with deep traditions. Here are three traditions that are over 50 years old.

One of the long-standing traditions dates to the construction of the first Piedmont High School in 1921. The High School opened with an expected enrollment of 250 students. At the end of the first week, there were 360 students and 400 students by the end of the first semester. These students came from 14 secondary schools

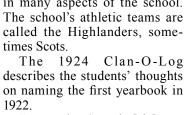
In order to create a cohesive student body, the 1922 Clan-O-Log – the year of the school's first graduation class, tells us that the



Rob Roy, as the school's mascot, began in 1959. He appeared at each football game with the cheerleaders and pom-pom girls.

This Scottish theme is still strong in many aspects of the school.

"From the Scotch [sic], we have coined the word Clan-O-



The Highland Lassies danced the Highland Fling during halftime at a 1961 Piedmont football game.

student body officers selected the school colors and the school motto. They also designed the school shield and created the Clan-O-Log that first year.

They chose purple and white as the school colors. As noted on the High School's website, "Royal purple symbolizes legality and suggests to all Piedmont students, the necessity of learning to rule their lives and ambitions by the mastery of their own thoughts and actions. White represents purity and suggests that true PHS students will strive to be pure in thought, speech, and act."

The student body officers then chose the school's motto, "Achieve the Honorable," meaning that all students demonstrate academic and personal integrity in their work.

Students worked together to design the school shield with classic symbols of a winged sandal (athletic ambitions), torch (scholastic achievement), the helmet of knighthood (bravery, courtesy, honor), Minerva (patron goddess of wisdom) and the open book that shows knowledge is open to those who will learn. These were intended to address all aspects of student life.

#### **A Scottish Theme**

The students also chose a Scottish theme. Piedmont is a highland, like Scotland. The Scots were never conquered, hence the Piedmont spirit to never give up.

Log, Clan standing for the students and Log meaning history." The yearbook was to be a record of all the students. The Piedmont Highlander is the student newspaper. Sweatshirts and T-shirts are printed with "Highlanders." The Highland Fling Spring Carnival dates to 1922, and the Alpha Clan honor society began in 1924.

The school's fight song was adapted from "On, Wisconsin" with Scottish references:



Piedmont biology teacher Leonard J. Waxdeck arranged each year to have a friend, a commercial artist, create a fanciful, distinctly original poster to promote that year's Bird Calling Contest.

We are Piedmont's fighting Scotsmen, Bold and bonny bunch! We eat thistles for our breakfast, Granite for our lunch, Munch, munch, munch. We are Piedmont's fighting

Scotsmen, Come from Highlands brown ... So fight, Piedmont, Fight till every foe is down!

In the 1960s, the Scottish Highland theme was at the High School football games. Rob Roy became the official school mascot in 1959 and was on the field during all the games. At halftime, the Kiltie Band played, and the Highland Lassies danced the Highland Fling.

Today, the words to the fight song have been changed from "fighting Clansmen" to "fighting Scotsmen." The yearbook name was changed from "Clan-O-Log" to "The Pride" in May 2018.

#### **Bird Calling Contest**

The Leonard J. Waxdeck Bird Calling Contest has been a beloved tradition since 1963 when a student approached biology teacher Leonard Waxdeck and asked, "Can we do something to liven things up around here?" Waxdeck gave the students an assignment to select a bird, give a report on that bird and give its authentic bird call. The raucous bird calls drew the attention of students in nearby classrooms who came to see what the noise was. What began as an exercise quickly outgrew his classroom and moved to the home economics classroom, a larger space. One year later it was moved to the school auditorium.

The contest evolved into a highly competitive contest with elaborate skits and (sometimes) costumes. The top winners were flown to the Johnny Carson Show in Burbank, and later the Late Night Show with David Letterman in New York to perform their bird calls. This television exposure brought international attention to the Bird Calling Contest and to the community of Piedmont. Television performances ended when Letterman retired in 2015.

Today, after 55 years, the Bird Calling Contest continues to fill the Alan Harvey Theater at the High School each spring.

#### Fourth of July Parade

Piedmont's Fourth of July Parade officially began in 1965 when Recreation Commissioner Dick (Pear) Johnson decided to start a city-wide parade. Years before, his El Cerrito Avenue neighborhood had been celebrating the 4th of July with their own bicycle parade, watermelon eating contest and water balloon toss. Johnson thought it was too quiet in Piedmont in the summer and expanded his neighborhood parade to a city-wide event on Highland Avenue, the main thoroughfare.

Over the years the parade has grown to include bands, antique cars, floats, horse patrols, unique groups including the Balloon Platoon of tubby sailors, and the all-important neighborhood entries. The post-parade music program in the park fills the lawn with picnickers, and many residents end their day at block par-



The Kiltie Band, shown in performance at Witter Field in 1961, was created in 1931.

ties. The 2007 parade celebrating Piedmont's 100th anniversary was the largest parade in Piedmont's history.

If you enjoy reading these biweekly columns on the history of Piedmont, please consider becoming a member of the Piedmont Historical Society and receiving our annual newsletter. More information on Piedmont's history and membership is on our website, Piedmonthistorical.org or contact Gail Lombardi at lombardg@pacbell.net.

Previously published in the Piedmont Post on September 12,



A giant float commemorating the City of Piedmont's Centennial was in the 4th of July Parade in 2007.



## The Piedmont **Historical Society invites** I you to become I

You will receive our annual newsletter Piedmont's History And an invitation to attend our Annual Meeting with speakers on history

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Your Membership is Tax Deductible

## PIEDM®NT CLIMATE CHALLENGE

## Challenge in November: reducing energy use at home

By Nate Redinbo

Somehow 2020 is almost over and November is finally upon us. Thanksgiving, the sun setting earlier, beautiful leaves swirling, oversleeping because your alarm clock doesn't register daylight savings – who doesn't enjoy fall? The thing that is most exciting about November for me is the Piedmont Climate Challenge. You can sign up at <a href="https://www.PiedmontClimateChallenge.org">www.PiedmontClimateChallenge.org</a> at any time, earn points, and make a difference in Piedmont's climate

This month's challenge focuses on how we can reduce energy usage in households, so I'd like to discuss energy and how it is related to climate change. As we head into the colder months of the year, this topic becomes more and more important.

The average Piedmont household uses three times more natural gas than the average household in PG&E's service area. Natural gas is an emitter of methane, an emission that traps about 84 times as much heat as

carbon dioxide over its lifetime. Natural gas powers appliances throughout our homes, and switching those appliances from natural gas to electric can radically decrease your household's impact. Some of the appliances you can electrify include gas furnaces, water heaters, cooktops, and clothes dryers.

Piedmont is a "built out" city there is very little new construction, and most building is renovations of existing homes. The majority of its housing stock is older, and older homes are far less energy efficient than newer homes. Seventy percent of Piedmont households were constructed before 1940, a percentage that is higher than any other city in the Bay Area. Additionally, many of these older homes are larger than the average Bay Area home, meaning there are more nooks and crannies for heat to leak out.

All of this means that focusing on energy efficiency is a very important part of Piedmont's climate action plan. While the words "energy efficiency" might not sound like the most exciting response to climate change, it can make a very real difference. It can also make a huge difference to homeowners' bills. According to the Department of Energy, proper energy efficiency efforts can save households 25 percent on their utility bills – hardly an amount to sneeze at.

Energy efficiency is an umbrella that covers a variety of projects. Something as simple as changing out light bulbs to improving insulation counts as an energy efficiency effort. Projects like these can also help the community as a whole, and there are often rebates that can offset the cost.

To get more information look at the City's website or e-mail me at nredinbo@piedmont.ca.gov.

Learning more about your home's energy usage and taking action can make a very real difference to your carbon footprint and our community's emissions. It may not sound as exciting as electric vehicles or planting trees, but energy efficiency is a very real solution to a very real problem we are facing in Piedmont. Improving your home's energy efficiency and switching your gas appliances to electric ones are some of the most impactful steps you can take as a resident.

Contact me if you have questions or comments and if you would like to see a certain topic covered in the newspaper.

Nate Redinbo is working in the Planning and Building Department for one year as Piedmont's Civic Spark fellow. He will be publishing a monthly article on environmental topics that affect Piedmonters.

## Piedmont COVID-19 cases now over 50

Daily new cases in Alameda County rising again

By Barry Eitel

Six more cases of COVID-19 were reported in Piedmont in the past week according to data from the Alameda County Public Health Department released on Tuesday, November 10. This comes after four new cases were reported last week.

The increase brings the total number of cases reported in Piedmont to 53 since the pandemic began in March.

Across Alameda County, new cases have been ticking up in recent days after trending downward since August 28. On Monday, November 9, 93 new cases were reported, compared to 35 reported on October 15.

On August 13, the worst day yet for the county, there were 419 new cases

Overall in Alameda County, the rolling seven-day positive percentage for COVID-19 tests is currently 2.3 percent, a notable increase compared to recent weeks

The caseload in Alameda County is now 25,110, an increase of over 900 cases from one week ago.

Alameda County has recorded 474 total COVID-19 fatalities.

In Oakland, the most populous city in Alameda County, the number of cases has now reached 9,513. In Hayward, 3,737 cases have been recorded and there have been 1,812 reported in Fremont. San Leandro has reported 1,440 and Livermore reported 1,083.

Alameda County updated its shelter in place order on October 23 that reflects the county's status as an Orange Tier county according to the state of California.

The Orange Tier, or Moderate Tier, is the second-least restrictive tier for reopening the economy and allows for activities such as indoor dining with capacity restrictions. The state placed

Alameda County into the Orange Tier on October 13.

#### Holiday health concerns

Health officials nationwide have warned about potential spikes in COVID-19 due to holiday traveling and family gatherings. On Monday, November 9, Bay Area health officers released some guidelines for celebrating Thanksgiving safely.

"The risk of spreading COVID-19 goes up when we gather with people we don't live with, and that means the holidays will be different for all of us this year," said Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County Interim Health Officer. "Alameda County residents can help ensure the holiday season doesn't lead to a wave of new cases by celebrating safely and taking the right steps to protect themselves and loved ones from this highly contagious virus."

First, the health officers recommend that holidays should be celebrated with only the people who live in a household. They said that any gathering in person should be small, brief, stable and outside. Any nonessential travel is not recommended.

Alameda County new cases per day remains too high to meet benchmarks for the Yellow Tier, or Minimal Tier. The county now is counting 3.4 cases per 100,000 people, while a county must have 1 case per 100,000 or fewer to be in the Yellow Tier. If the number of new cases per 100,000 hits 4 or more, the county would move back into the Red Tier, or Substantial Tier, according to state metrics

As of press time, 977,218 cases of COVID-19 have been recorded in California. Cases have trended upward since October 18 in the state. There have been 18,001 deaths due to the disease statewide.

## City replaces sewer flusher truck for \$336.000 New flusher truck replaces one bought in 2006

By Barry Eitel

Piedmont will receive a large new truck to flush its sewer system after City Council unanimously approved the purchase at a meeting on Monday, November

The truck, described as a flusher/jetter, is a custom Vactor Ramjet built by Owens Equipment and will cost \$336,000. The money will be appropriated from the City's Sewer Fund.

The truck is used for cleaning Piedmont's sewers when they become clogged with debris.

"The flusher truck is an essential piece of specialized equipment that cleans our sanitary sewer system," Director of Public Works Chester Nakahara told the *Post*. "Basically, it is a very powerful pressure washer that we insert and pull through our pipes to clear any blockages and flush out any debris that has accumulated in the pipes."

Currently, the City owns an International 4400 Flusher/Jetter that was purchased in 2006.

"It has served the City well and has been through rigorous use for 14 years as a vital component in our quest to meet compliance requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency Consent Decree," Nakahara said in a staff report, mentioning the Consent Decree regarding wastewater collection that involves the East Bay Municipal Utility District, Piedmont and the EPA.

The EPA Consent Decree requires that Piedmont cleans its



A new flusher truck will replace the city's current vehicle which was purchased 14 years ago.

sewer pipes regularly.

The current truck will not meet California Air Resources Board standards in the future.

"Staff carefully considered the truck make, model, and options for the replacement," Nakahara continued in the report, noting that staff even test drove various options around the Corporation Yard.

Public Works Supervisor Nick Millosovich and vehicle fleet manager Bill Higgins researched various vendors.

"Owens Equipment was able to provide a vehicle that would respond to the rigors of working in Piedmont and submitted a competitive price that included the desired features," Nakahara

The new flusher/jetter is built on a 2020 Freightliner 108SD

chassis powered by a diesel 270 horsepower engine. In the front, it is outfitted with a Ramjet hose reel while a 2,000-gallon water tank is saddled on the back of the truck.

The approved budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021 appropriated \$300,000 in the Sewer Fund to buy a new flusher truck, and Council this month approved an additional appropriation of \$36,000 from the Sewer Fund to cover the remaining cost of the truck. An extended warranty of 60 months or 100,000 miles was included at no extra cost.

The City expects the new truck to be delivered within six months.

Like other vehicles used by the City, the old truck will be auctioned off and proceeds will go back into the Sewer Fund.

## Police Dept. receives \$100,000 state grant

By Allyson Aleksey

The Piedmont Police Department recently received a \$100,000 grant from the California Citizens Option for Public Safety (COPS). The funds will be used for "frontline" uses that benefit public safety in Piedmont.

The spending plan was approved by the City Council at its November 2 meeting.

The COPS funds must be used for frontline municipal police services and must supplement and not supplant existing funding. By law, the City Council is required to hold a public hearing, apart from its usual budget hearings, to consider the written request of Police Chief Jeremy Bowers for use of the funds. In addition, funds in the amount of \$505,713 are being carried forward from prior years, resulting in total funds available

of \$605,713. These funds will need to be spent or encumbered by June 20, 2021.

Approximately \$10,000 will be used toward police safety gear and field supplies. The largest amount will go toward technology and software, including public safety cameras in the amount of \$300,000. Public safety cameras were installed in the city three years ago at the intersection of Oakland and Grand Avenue.

Another \$225,000 will be earmarked for police department facility updates, to include updating the briefing room, A/V equipment for the public safety camera system, and training. Twenty thousand dollars will be allotted for crime prevention and community engagement and will be used for social media consulting and information on the web page.

ADVERTISE IN THE POST

### **Biden Coronavirus Advisory Board Includes 3 from UCSF**

On Monday morning, November 9, President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris announced the establishment of a Coronavirus Advisory Board, the first step in their commitment to developing a national strategy to bring the COVID-19 pandemic under control.

The Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board will provide public health and scientific advice to Biden, Harris, and the transition team's COVID-19 staff.

'Dealing with the coronavirus pandemic is one of the most important battles our administration will face, and I will be informed by science and by experts," said Biden in a statement. "The Advisory Board will help shape my approach to managing the surge in reported infections; ensuring vaccines are safe, effective, and distributed efficiently, equitably, and free; and protecting at-risk populations."

The three co-chairs are Vivek Murthy, MD, the surgeon general under former President Barack Obama; Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, associate professor of internal medicine, public health, and management at Yale School of Medicine; and UCSF's David Kessler, MD, JD, professor of pediatrics, and of epidemiology and biostatistics, and former dean of the School of Medicine and

**PPD Blue** 

Continued from page 9

tools stolen. \$3,000 loss.

gered by unknown vehicle.

from Toyota Prius.

and air compressor, jack hammer and

glary. Catalytic converter stolen

5:21 p.m. Rose Ave. Auto Bur-

8:22 p.m. Linda Ave. ALPR trig-

11:30 p.m. Wildwood Gardens.

Report of a rumbling noise and then

loss of electric power. 250 houses are

vice chancellor of UCSF. Kessler served as commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration under the administrations of Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

Two other members of the UCSF faculty have also been named to the 13-person Advisory Board: Eric Goosby, MD, and Robert M. Rodriguez, MD.

Goosby, a UCSF professor of medicine, served as the interim Director of the White House's Office of National AIDS Policy in the Clinton Administration and implemented the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in the Obama administration, among other senior leadership roles.

Rodriguez, a UCSF professor of emergency medicine, works in the Emergency Department of Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center and in the Intensive Care Unit at Highland Hospital in Oakland. He has led national research teams examining a range of topics in medicine, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of frontline providers.

They will serve on the Advisory Board alongside Luciana Borio, MD; Rick Bright, PhD; Ezekiel Emanuel, MD, PhD; Atul Gawande, MD, MPH; Celine Gounder, MD, ScM; Julie Morita,

1:55 p.m. Warfield Ave.

Attempted Auto Burglary. Sus-

pects in black Chevy SUV and Black

Hummer attempt to get into resi-

dent's vehicle. Police find Chevy; it

speeds off at high speed. No pursuit.

gered by 2003 white Ford F250.

6:42 p.m. Grand Ave. ALPR trig-

8:43 p.m. Hillside Ave. Report of

MD; Michael Osterholm, PhD, MPH; and Loyce Pace, MPH.

"I wish Drs. Kessler, Goosby and Rodriguez the best as they assume these critical leadership roles," said UCSF Chancellor Sam Hawgood, MBBS, in a letter to the UCSF community. "They represent the extraordinary and relentless dedication the UCSF community has shown in meeting the challenge of the coronavirus across our patient care, research, and education efforts. Our public health mission has never been clearer nor pursued with greater determination.

"UCSF looks forward to working with President-elect Biden's administration," he said. "We remain committed as ever to our partnership with public health officials at the national, state, and local levels."

The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) is exclusively focused on the health sciences and is dedicated to promoting health worldwide through advanced biomedical research. graduate-level education in the life sciences and health professions, and excellence in patient care. UCSF Health, which serves as UCSF's primary academic medical center, includes topranked specialty hospitals and other clinical programs, and has affiliations throughout the Bay

Report of a gas-powered leaf blower. 8:18 p.m. Linda Ave. ALPR trig-

#### Thursday, November 5

10:29 a.m. Sheridan Ave. Report of a gas-powered leaf blower.

6:06 p.m. Highland Ave. Report of 2 juveniles throwing a football back and forth across Highland Ave. Also pretending to hold a rope across the road, causing cars to stop.

#### Friday, November 6

6:22 a.m. Crest Ave. Report of person trying car door handles. Officers locate a stolen white Ford F-250 with engine still warm and cell phone on seat. Car towed back to owner.

8:37 a.m. Ronada Ave. Fraud. Resident receives text from "AT&T," and clicks on link. His phone shuts down: discovers several thousand dollars worth of Bitcoin transferred out of his account.

8:44 a.m. Wildwood Ave. Report

11:15 a.m. Mountain Ave. Report of a gas-powered leaf blower.

gered by 2000 Chevy Tahoe.

of a gas-powered leaf blower.

## Piedmont school reopening plan inadequate

EXPOINT

The following letter was sent to School Supt. Randy Booker on November 10.

Editor:

While the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the delivery of a quality education to all of Piedmont's students, one group is especially adversely affected by the switch to distance learning – students with special needs. While other school districts are delivering in-person services and instruction to their special education students, Piedmont School District has failed for eight months to take action to restore the needed on-site instruction for all special education students. These students desperately need onsite instruction; they are falling behind academically and losing critical skills.

Nor can the existence of the pandemic be used as an excuse for inaction. As early as August 18, 2020, California approved onsite instruction for children with disabilities. Education Code section 43504, enacted as part of the 2020-21 Budget, specifies that schools should "offer in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible," and the State has made clear over and over again that "students with disabilities should be prioritized by the LEA and school for receiving targeted supports and services."

Indeed, the California Department of Public Health issued specific guidance on September 4, permitting cohorts of multiple high-needs students to begin meeting in person, as long as students and teachers met strict safety protocols.

The current school reopening plan, announced November 8, is inadequate: it does not address the needs of special education students as a group, focusing instead on bringing the elementary school cohort back to school. While Principal Littlefield's November 8 update does indicate that a small group of students will be allowed on campus at Piedmont High School in December, there is no indication that all the PHS special education students will be included. They should be.

Bringing middle and high school special education students, not just elementary school students, back to school would present few, if any, of the health, safety, and logistical challenges inherent in a return to school by the larger student population, as class sizes in the former group are much smaller and teacher/ student ratios are higher. For this reason, delivery of special education classes and services to all K-12 special education students should take place as soon as possible. These services are needed immediately to provide critical support for these students who are at higher risk of falling behind.

The District's failure to serve its special needs children is shameful. Students with special needs are suffering both as a result of having been denied the support they need to access their education, and from the very real anguish and depression that accompanies this deprivation. The distance learning model has failed the District's most vulnerable students, denying them the appropriate public education that is the right of every child in California.

Piedmont looks to you to exercise leadership on behalf of our community's high-needs students.

-Author's name withheld by

### Letters

Continued from page 2

A special thanks goes out to her for her kindness and camaraderie during the campaign. As our newest Council member, Conna McCarthy will continue her dedication and hard work for our City.

I would like to extend my deepest, most heartfelt thanks to all of my diehard supporters. So many of you gave me good advice, good ideas, and kept my spirits high. I can't thank you enough for getting me through my first campaign.

A big, loving thank-you to my wonderful husband Mark for his help, support and encouragement. He was my campaign committee of one and I wouldn't have it any other way. And last, a thank you to Kapo, our loyal 4-legged family member. She logged a lot of miles carrying my "Vote Herrick" sign and brought a smile to many people's faces. She'll miss the campaign trail.

I wish you all good health, a lot less stress and lots of hope as we go forward into 2021.

In community and with joyful gratitude,

–Connie Herrick

### Thanks for the mention in Will Adams' column

Editor:

All of us here at Jarvis Architects very much appreciate being recognized as one of the excellent local architects in Will Adams' Walking Piedmont column in the September 23 Piedmont Post.

We really do enjoy the beautiful historic homes in Piedmont, and the Bay Area, designed by the important architects of a hundred years ago and make every effort today to carefully maintain and update them. The artistry of historic designs is a pleasure to work with, and live in.

-Glen Jarvis, AIA

#### without power due to PG&E power

outage. Tuesday, November 3 5:35 a.m. Crocker Ave. ALPR

triggered by tan 97 Nissan Maxima.

8:10 a.m. Grand Ave. ALPR trig-

gered by same vehicle. 8:22 a.m. Wildwood Ave. Residential Theft, Fraud. Purse stolen and \$1,000 charged to credit cards.

8:41 a.m. Ricardo Ave. Auto Bur**glary.** Construction van broken into; \$2,000 in tools stolen.

**Theft.** 2008 white Ford Van stolen.

#### a man pacing in and out of the street without shoes. Officer discovers the person lives on same street and is just on his phone.

Wednesday, November 4

2:55 a.m. Park Blvd. ALPR triggered by 1996 green Toyota Tacoma. 5:43 a.m. Winsor Ave. ALPR

triggered by 2005 Ford. 9:03 a.m. Wildwood Gardens. Report of a gas-powered leaf blower.

12:16 p.m. Wildwood Ave. Black Chevy Suburban found with ignition missing and a wheel missing. Towed

3:20 p.m. Wildwood Gardens.

#### **SUDOKU SOLUTION** 8 3 5 5 1 9 3 8 7 2 6 5 7 4 9 3 8 1 3 9 2 8 5 4 6 1 3 8 2 5 9 6 4 9 4 6 1 8 3 2 5 9 5 8 2 7 4 1 6 3 7 9 2 8 3 4 1 6 2 5 3 9 8 6

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Need some extra money for the holidays? The Piedmont Council BSA is hiring people for the Christmas Tree lot. Must be 18 or older, preferably over 21. The job pays \$15/hr. and will be for approx. 3-4 weeks late Nov. to mid-December. Some lifting required. If interested, reply to: contact@piedmontbsa.org.

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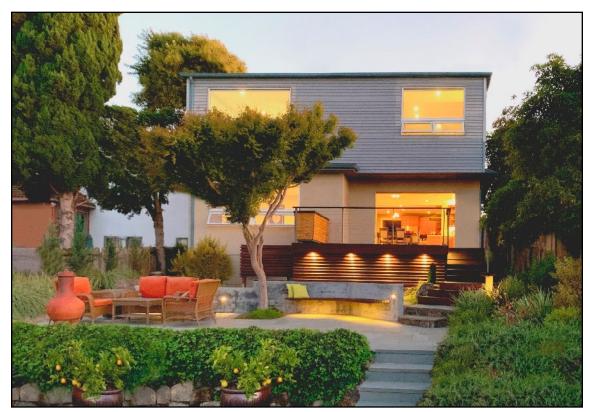
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### **Outdoor Oasis**

Continued from page 22

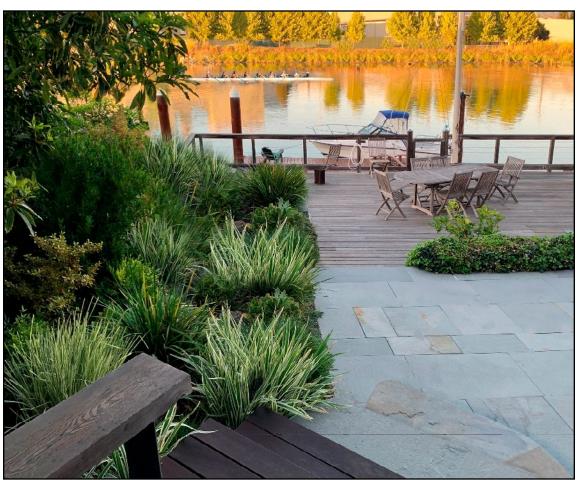


Photos #6. In this project along the Alameda estuary, a terraced, multi-function outdoor space was the second phase of a major home renovation.

By working out a schematic design of the future outdoor spaces during phase one, we were able to locate the large Nana door appropriately. Once the indoor project was complete, we designed the outdoor spaces.

The upper deck, accessible from the kitchen, has a grilling area. Intermediate levels have an outdoor shower, concealed equipment storage and "outdoor rooms" with a variety of seating areas. Down by the water there is a wooden boat dock with a diving platform, a hot tub and a storage shed that converts into a bar for large parties. It's no surprise that the homeowners are delighted to have their own private oasis. (See photos #6 & #7.)

Rebecca Schnier Architecture aims to create beautiful, timeless places that are loved by the people who use them. Classic, without being classical, we approach sustainability by designing spaces that stand the test of time. We design functional spaces to support and embrace our clients' needs. Rebecca Schnier, AIA, LEED Green Associate, has lived in Piedmont for over 20 years with an office in Oakland. For information see <a href="https://www.rsarchitecture.com">www.rsarchitecture.com</a> or call 510-936-5600.



Photos #7: Down by the water there is a wooden boat dock with a diving platform, a hot tub and a storage shed.

#### 2020 Calendar of Events

November 12 - 18

Meetings will be conducted by ZOOM and should be viewable on KCOM (Channel 27) and on the City's website: piedmont.ca.gov.

Thursday, November 12 5:30 p.m. Pedestrian & Bike CommitteeVirtual meeting via Zoom
Monday, November 16
6 p.m City Council meeting Virtual meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, November 18
7:30 p.m Recreation Commission Virtual meeting via Zoom

## Firefighters

Continued from page 1

arrive at the nearest emergency room. That can easily be an hour or more of drive time," said Chief Black.

"I'm honored to have the job and the opportunity and am very proud to be a part of the Piedmont family," Walker said.

Martinez said he was inspired to public service by his mother, who was a paramedic for more than 25 years. He began learning about fire service as a Fire Explorer with the Modesto Fire Department in 2008. The Fire Service Explorer program is for young adults age 14-21. He was hired by the Hughson Fire

Department and then Ceres Fire Department in Stanislaus County, where he worked for seven years.

While there he received the Lifesaving Award. While off-duty, he witnessed a vehicle accident resulting in two elderly occupants trapped in their vehicle which was submerged in an irrigation canal. He dove into the canal and was able to pull the couple to safety.

"I'm grateful to be in Piedmont and to have the opportunity to work here. We're looking forward to getting to know the community," he said.

## **Identity Theft**

Continued from page 23

cious software being downloaded on your computer. But legitimate businesses generally won't ask for account numbers or passwords unless you initiate the transaction. Other signs of phishing include threatening language, "urgent" requests, misspelled words or odd word choices. If an email does look suspicious to you, delete it without opening it.

This list is not exhaustive,

but by putting these steps to work, you can at least reduce the risk of becoming victimized by cybercriminals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC. T.J. Stevko is a Financial Adviser in the Piedmont office of Edward Jones, 342 Highland Avenue. Tel. 547-4589.

### READ IT IN THE POST

### Where in the World Are We?



Never too young to start reading the Piedmont Post. During frequent visits to San Francisco see her daughter, Ashley Lim Chac (PHS 2004), Betsy Lim brings along the Post. In this photo grand-daughter Zoey Chac, age 1, looks through the Post and poses many questions for her grandmother. Mostly she enjoys having Betsy read the paper to her.

Send your photos of the Post in the far comers of the world, or of other communities named Piedmont, to: WITWAW, 1139 Oakland Ave., Piedmont, 94611.