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Daily Post

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Write-in wins council seat

Write-in candidates usually pick up a handful of votes in elections and are rarely successful. But in the town of Woodside, a write-in candidate has won a seat on the Town Council, according to election results posted yesterday.

Chris Shaw defeated Nancy Reyring, who was the only candidate listed on the ballot for the District 3 seat. Shaw got 633 votes (53.1%) to 585 (46.9%) for Reyring.

While the votes in other races had been announced after the Nov. 3 election, the write-in [See WRITE-IN, page 54]

Teacher paid \$150,000 to resign

BY ANGELA RUGGIERO
Daily Post Staff Writer

The Palo Alto teacher accused of inappropriate behavior with a former student has agreed to resign in exchange for \$150,000 from the school district.

Accused of affair with former student

Kevin Sharp, an English teacher at Palo Alto High School, was accused of having a sexual relationship with a former student after she graduated from Paly in 2014, ac-

ording to documents provided by the district.

Sharp was placed on leave and then took a personal leave of absence. But in an agreement between

the district and Sharp, he left the district on Oct. 31. The district agreed to pay him \$150,000.

The separation agreement states that neither the district, nor Sharp, admit any wrongdoing. It also states [See TEACHER, page 54]



SHARP

THE UPDATE

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Dow -254.15 | Nasdaq -61.94 | Oil -1.18 |
| 17,448.07 | 5,005.08 | 41.75 |
| Gold 1,080.80 -3.90 NY COMEX close | | |
| courtesy of Mish Int'l (650) 324-9110 | | |

GENE AMDAHL, the "father" of the IBM mainframe computer, has died in Palo Alto at age 92. Story on page 10.

ROMNEY DRAFT: The establishment wing of the Republican party, worried by the success of Donald Trump and Dr. Ben Carson, is trying to draft Mitt Romney into the race for the nomination, the Washington Post reports. While Romney has said he's not interested, the newspaper says his friends have mapped out a strategy for a late entry into the primaries and a battle for the nomination at the convention.

PENTAGON FIRING: Defense Secretary Ashton Carter has fired his top military aide, Lt. Gen. Ron Lewis, for allegations of "misconduct" involving an "improper relationship."

ACLU ASSISTS KKK: The Georgia Supreme Court will decide whether that state's Department of Transportation had the right to deny the KKK's request to join the state's Adopt-A-Highway program. The ACLU is representing the Klan in its legal fight, saying it's an issue of free speech.

'JIHADI JOHN' TARGETED: A U.S. drone strike targeted a vehicle in Syria [See THE UPDATE, page 4]



TRUCK SLAMS INTO HOUSE

This big-rig smashed into this home at 209 Marvin Drive in Los Altos. The driver was hospitalized but nobody in the house was injured. **STORY INSIDE.** Photo courtesy of the Santa Clara County Fire Department.

Fire board member eyes harbor board seat

BY ANGELA RUGGIERO
Daily Post Staff Writer

Virginia Chang Kiraly, a member of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District board, has applied to be appointed to the San Mateo County Harbor District, an organization that has been called "embarrassing" and "dysfunctional" with board meetings that require a police presence.

If chosen on Monday, Kiraly said she would serve on both elected boards simultaneously. Former harbor [See HARBOR, page 54]

KFC to test delivery with local company

Colonel Sanders wants to come to your home: KFC yesterday started delivering its buckets of fried chicken to customers in selected areas, including Palo Alto.

It will be the first time the chicken chain has delivered in the United States. Starting yesterday, people in Los Angeles

and San Francisco areas will be able to have food delivered. More cities may come later.

KFC is working with online delivery company DoorDash, a Palo Alto-based company, to deliver its chicken, biscuits and coleslaw. Customers will have to make orders through Door- [See KFC, page 54]

Ballot measure may derail HSR

Two well-known Republican state lawmakers submitted language yesterday for a ballot initiative that would ask California voters to redirect about \$8 billion in bond money from the state's high-speed rail project to build water storage.

The measure would deprive the project of most of the \$10 billion in bonds voters authorized in 2008. Board of Equalization member George [See HSR, page 54]

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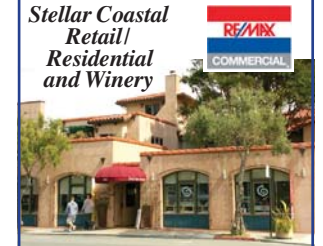
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WRITE-IN

ballot totals were revealed yesterday by the San Mateo County Elections Department.

Mayor Tom Shanahan, who held the District 3 seat, decided not to run again, which prompted Reyerling, a member of the town's Architectural and Site Review Board and Open Space Committee, to jump into the race.

After the candidate filing deadline, Shaw decided to run.

"Reyerling's unopposed candidacy caused widespread concern and consternation throughout Woodside," Shaw said in his candidate statement. "The decisions she has made and the agenda she has pursued have angered and alienated the community. As I spoke with more and more people I realized it was time to step in and provide an alternative: a thoughtful, well-balanced voice of reason and common sense."

Property rights

Shaw said property rights were the central theme of the race.

"How do we balance the needs of the equestrian community with the cyclists living in and visiting Woodside for their hobby?" he asked in his candidate statement. "How do we deal with the increasingly deteriorating infrastructure of Woodside? How do we safely move a growing number of vehicles on the roads while increasing the safety of pedestrians and children?"

Shaw concluded his statement by saying government "must protect the rights of all citizens whether generational or recent arrivals. Government shall be the audience of the electorate and the voice of common sense."

Shaw is an executive with H2ORS, a company in Orinda that, according to its website, makes "an over-the-counter electrolyte drink mix that reverses moderate dehydration due to illness, medical treatments, and serious exercise."

District elections

Woodside, unlike other Peninsula municipalities, elects its council members by districts. District 3 is bounded roughly by Manzanita Way, Sand Hill Road, Portola Road, Woodside Road and Bear Gulch Creek.

In the Nov. 3 election, the District 3 seat was the only race with two candidates. Daniel Yost was elected in District 1 with 915 votes, Tom Livermore was elected in District 5 with 939 votes and Peter Mason was re-elected in District 7 with 893 votes.

TEACHER

that the two parties are entering into this agreement to "buy their peace" and avoid further costs. The agreement said, "Sharp had independently decided some time ago to leave the employ of the district."

Resignation came after story hit the news

The allegations about Sharp emerged publicly on Oct. 9. Two-and-a-half weeks later, on Oct. 27, Superintendent Max McGee signed the separation agreement. The school board approved it that evening. Sharp signed his resignation letter on Oct. 30, and signed the agreement on Nov. 1.

Sharp's attorney, Jim Walsh, did not return Post requests for comment yesterday.

The girl's ex-boyfriend wrote a letter to the district in February about the alleged affair, which resulted in an internal investigation.

By all accounts, the alleged sexual relationship began after the girl had graduated and had turned 18. Therefore, the Palo Alto police determined that because she was a consenting adult, no crime had been committed.

An allegation of 'grooming'

The ex-boyfriend claimed in his letter that Sharp had been "grooming" her when she was his student with the intention to start a relationship after she graduated.

Before the ex-boyfriend's letter in February, district officials had heard reports about the alleged affair dating back to September 2014.

When Paly Principal Kim Diorio questioned the

teacher about it, Sharp said in an email: "The only problem is that, like a game of telephone, it's not accurate."

Diorio wanted to put Sharp on leave last fall while an investigation took place.

The district had two of its law firms conduct an investigation after the boyfriend's letter arrived in February.

In a July 21 warning letter to Sharp, the district said: "We believe that the evidence leads us to conclude that the allegations have greater credibility than your denial."

The separation agreement stated that if a prospective employer calls the district, the district will only provide his prior title, the dates of his employment and his salary information.

The alleged affair wasn't the first allegation against Sharp. In 2007, two students claimed that Sharp engaged in inappropriate behavior with students, such as sleepovers with current and past students where marijuana was used.

HARBOR

district commissioner Nicole David left the board last month, just one year into her four-year term, and the remaining members of that board will select her replacement.

Kiraly, one of six candidates who applied to fill the vacancy, said she wants to help clean up the harbor district, which operates the Pillar Point Harbor north of Half Moon Bay and the Oyster Point Marina in South San Francisco.

Both the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury and the San Mateo County Local Agency Information Commission, or LAFCo, said the harbor district should shut down and have its operations assumed by the county government.



KIRALY

Kiraly said the district clearly needs some good governance and better financial planning. Although she's not opposed to a dissolution, she sees it as a last resort before trying everything else.

The harbor district operates on a \$10 million annual budget, which about half of that money coming from property taxes from San Mateo County.

A history of dysfunction

A 2014 civil grand jury report called out a slew of problems in the district, including a lack of transparency on financial reports, accusations of destroying documents and even a lawsuit charging harassment between one commissioner and the district's general manager. Commission meetings have at times gotten so out of hand, that they require a police presence after one attendee allegedly brandished a knife during a meeting.

The lack of professional decorum and the lack of financial oversight made it impossible to determine how taxpayer's money is being used, the 2014 report stated.

The history of dysfunction goes back to at least 2001, when commission meetings turned to shouting matches. Even as early as 1963, county voters agreed to dissolve the district, but a court overturned the decision.

Kiraly would be able to serve both seats, as long as there was no conflict of interest between the fire district and harbor district. Harbor meetings are on Wednesdays, while fire board meetings are typically on Tuesday nights.

Financial planning

She said that the district desperately needs some financial planning. It has about \$20 million of deferred maintenance and \$6 million or so in debt. A strategic plan would help the district finance improvements and maintenance, she said. She also said that the turnover in district staff is alarming.

The other five candidates that want to fill the seat are James Lee Hahn, an Occupy Redwood City leader who ran unsuccessfully city council in that city in 2013; Edmundo Larenas, of Moss Beach; Eliza Manchester of El Granada; Brian Rogers of San Bruno, and Frank "Bud" Ratts, of Half Moon Bay.

Hahn said he began attending harbor district meetings in 2012 and spoke to the commission on sea level rise, beach erosion and other issues.

Manchester said she has a background in government service, with a background in government relations, a legislative staff member and a state board commissioner in Hawaii.

Rogers said in his application that he is a lifelong boater and is the owner of a BJR Services.

Ratts, who has a MBA in finance from Stanford, said he sees the vision for the harbor district as a transparent, fiscally sound and vibrant organization.

Larenas said he lived aboard on a mooring at Pillar Point Harbor, and is a San Mateo County District Water Quality and Public Safety committee member.

The harbor district board is scheduled to fill the vacancy on Monday at 6 p.m. at Sea Crest School at 901 Arnold Way in Half Moon Bay.

KFC

Dash's app or website. Palo Alto residents could order KFC via DoorDash yesterday, but an order at dinnertime would take an estimated 66 minutes, according to the website.

The KFC delivery option is available to the entire Bay Area, including the Peninsula and East Bay, said Eitan Bencuya, of DoorDash.

The chicken won't come cheap: There's a delivery fee between \$4.99 and \$6.99, depending on a customer's location, and prices of some items will be higher than those in the restaurants. Its value meals, however, such as its eight-piece \$20 Family Fill Up will stay the same price. All menu items at the restaurant will be available to order, the companies said.

In-N-Out sues

DoorDash is also being sued by the popular burger joint, In-N-Out, claiming trademark infringement and unfair competition. In-N-Out had allegedly asked DoorDash to stop using its logo and stop delivering its food. But in July, the DoorDash allegedly began delivering the burgers again.

KFC's rival Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen doesn't deliver in the U.S., but it does at international locations. Recently, restaurant chains have added delivery service in America. Chipotle, McDonald's and Starbucks work with delivery company Postmates. And Taco Bell, which is also run by KFC owner Yum Brands, works with DoorDash to deliver in certain cities. The chains partner with DoorDash and Postmates because they provide delivery people, an expense that the restaurants don't have to worry about.

HSR

Runner and Sen. Bob Huff of San Dimas, the former Senate minority leader, said they filed language for the initiative with the attorney general's office.

The ballot proposal would also authorize shifting \$2.7 billion in unspent water bond money to water storage construction and amend the state constitution to give drinking water and irrigation priority from California's limited water supply.

"This initiative secures our water future by building long-overdue expansions of existing facilities and new projects to store, deliver and recycle water for our families, farms and businesses," Huff said in a statement.

The California High-Speed Rail Authority did not respond to a request for comment yesterday.

Project criticized

Voters in 2008 approved selling nearly \$10 billion in bonds for the project to link Northern and Southern California by high-speed trains, but many have now soured on it and have questioned whether it will cost the \$68 billion that has been projected. Project leaders have faced criticism for its planned route, engineering proposals and insufficient federal funding dedicated to it.

HSR has met with strong opposition on the Peninsula.

Whether the initiative actually makes it to the ballot depends on how much money supporters can generate to collect signatures.

Runner said the campaign would have sufficient money to fund a robust signature-gathering campaign. He said the initiative would offer voters a "decision point" on how they want to spend state money.