Palo Alto prepares for $30M revenue drop

Why antibodies matter
And how much stock we should put in recent blood tests

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Antibody studies spur debate, skepticism

Researchers at Stanford and USC suggest that the virus has lower fatality rate

One pair of studies conducted by researchers in Santa Clara and Los Angeles counties drew national attention this week with a finding that COVID-19 is much more widespread — and far less deadly — than public health officials had assumed. But the studies, which suggested that the fatality rate of COVID-19 could be less than 0.2%, immediately faced a backlash from other scientists, as well as words of caution from public health administrators, who indicated that they will not reopen the economy in a meaningful way any time soon.

The Stanford study, which was led by Assistant Professor Eran Bendavid, asked more than 3,000 volunteers for help in answering a critical question: “How many people in Santa Clara County have been infected by COVID-19?”

Using finger-prick tests and kits that resemble pregnancy tests, the team took blood samples at three drive-thru sites on April 3 and 4, crunched the numbers and published the early draft of the results on a preprint server, giving other researchers a chance to review the results before they are formally published.

In analyzing the blood samples, Bendavid’s team found that 50 of 3,330 tested positive for COVID-19, a rate of 1.5%. After adjusting the results to account for precision of tests and sample bias, the study concluded between 48,000 and 81,000 county residents have been infected, a rate of between 2.49% and 4.16%. This led the team to conclude that the number of COVID-19 infections

To grade or not to grade? For some local schools, that’s been a divisive question

Most public schools switch to credit/no credit while private schools give hybrid options

Up and down the Midpeninsula, while some students, parents and teachers breathed a sigh of relief that their schools would not be giving letter grades during the unprecedented closures, others rallied in opposition.

Disagreement over grading practices during the coronavirus pandemic has sparked community petitions, split school board votes and raised concerns about unhealthy attachments to grade point averages and college admissions.

Most, though not all, local school districts have moved to a credit/no credit grading system for the rest of this school year. Doing so, school leaders have said, will prevent students with fewer resources from being disadvantaged and reduce stress among both students and teachers as they navigate a rapid, bumpy transition to online learning.

Many local private schools, meanwhile, are retaining letter grades but with flexibility, such as allowing students to choose to take any class pass/fail or canceling final exams.

Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools Mary Ann Dewan has recommended that all county schools move as soon as possible to a credit/no-credit model, which neither raises nor lowers grade-point averages.

“It is important to remember that our shared overarching goals are to keep students engaged, focus on the essential skills that will allow them to be successful, and to maintain social connections with other students and teachers to provide stability and decrease social isolation during the school closures,” Dewan wrote in her April 6 recommendation. “Educators can focus on ways to provide feedback to learners in lieu of assigning a letter grade for this school year.”

Some parents, students and local school board members remain concerned that this grading system takes away students’ opportunity to show academic progress and will hurt high school juniors’ chances at college admissions, despite public assurances from major colleges and universities.

Palo Alto Unified was the first local school district to drop letter grades with public assurances from major colleges and universities.

(continued on page 10)

City braces for $30M revenue drop

City prepares for service cuts as economy sputters

Palo Alto will consider closing library branches, scrapping its shuttle program and suspending its plan to spur housing production as it deals with the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those are some of the options that City Manager Ed Shikada presented the City Council on Monday night as part of a plan to address a revenue shortfall that could top $30 million in fiscal year 2021, which begins on July 1. The list of budget cuts may also include scrapping the Police Department’s recently created traffic team, reducing hours at community centers and halting the crossing-guard program.

For the council, the Monday discussion marked the first step in the budget process that promises to be full of tough choices and deep uncertainty. With local hotels nearly empty and many retailers shut down, Palo Alto is seeing its revenues plunge.

The proposed budget estimates that general fund taxes will drop by at least $20 million — and likely far more. The magnitude of the cuts will depend to a large degree on factors beyond the city’s control: How soon will the shutdown end and how fast can the economy recover?

The proposed $818.9-million budget actually represents a 1% increase from fiscal year 2020. This includes a general fund of $238.8 million, up by 3.5% from the current year. Those numbers, however, are almost certain to be

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Superintendent addresses hot-button school district issues

Don Austin launches weekly webinar series to answer questions from the public

by Elena Kadavny

D uring a live webinar on Monday evening, Palo Alto Unified Superintendent Don Austin candidly addressed the realities facing a school district that was forced in a number of weeks to move instruction and services for 12,000 students online.

“We’re not doing distance learning right now. We’re doing crisis learning,” he said.

“There should be no illusions that what we’re trying to do is a best practice or an attempt to replace classroom instruction,” he continued. “It’s not possible for us right now. What we are seeing is great effort.”

The hourlong webinar was the first in a weekly series he plans to hold while schools in the Palo Alto Unified School District are closed. Future webinars will include guests and focus on specific topics.

On Monday, Austin discussed several hot-button issues and answered some questions submitted by viewers. A recording of the webinar is available on YouTube; see https://bit.ly/38yA2Oo for links to the webinar and the superintendent.” Below are his comments on a few of the topics.

Distance learning

The district is balancing synchronous (in real time) and asynchronous teaching, Austin said, and the expectation is not for teachers to be providing hours of live instruction to students at this time.

“If the expectation from our families is that a secondary student is going to sit in front of a computer for three, four, five hours a day and have live interaction with a teacher, there’s no other way to say this: You’re going to be disappointed,” Austin said. “That is not the expectation. That’s not going to be our reality.”

He said teachers are working to publish their individual schedules to help students avoid conflicts on Zoom or other video conferencing.

He encouraged parents with concerns on either end of the spectrum — that their child is not getting enough instruction or spending too much time in front of a computer screen — to reach out to their children’s teachers.

High school graduation

Although the high schools will remain closed through the end of the year, the district is working on measures to commemorate seniors’ graduation on the original dates they were scheduled for, such as through a video or photo slideshow. He is working with the high school principals, activities directors and some students to determine what that will look like and how the broader community could be involved.

“We’re going to do multiple things. They may not resonate with every student, but we’re hoping that the more that we do, the more chance for success,” Austin said.

The group considered postponing graduation, but he said they “didn’t think there was a benefit that was worth postponing it that outweighed having some certainty in getting it done.”

Reopening schools

Austin said his “biggest fear” related to reopening schools is that even after getting the green light from public health and education officials, some parents and staff may be reluctant to return.

Gov. Gavin Newsom indicated last week that schools could see staggered reopenings and reduce the number of students on a campus at a time, with partial online learning continuing. Austin said those kinds of ideas are “great,” but he’s unsure how they would work practically.

The district is advocating for the California Department of Education to change the state education code to allow for classes to be taught both face to face and remotely, he said.

Summer school also remains up in the air. It could be paused, offered virtually or moved to the end of the summer, Austin said. Staff Writer Elena Kadavny can be emailed at ekadavny@paweweekly.com.

County home to nation’s first COVID-19 death

Santa Clara County received confirmation Tuesday that two people who died at their homes in February had the virus that causes COVID-19, earlier than deaths in Washington state announced Feb. 29 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The county Medical Examiner-Coroner’s Office conducted autopsies on the two individuals who died on Feb. 6 and 17. Samples from the residents were submitted to the CDC. Another person who died in the county on March 6 was also found to have COVID-19.

The county had previously stated that a woman in her 60s who died on March 9 was its first death connected to the coronavirus. She succumbed to the disease at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View where she was admitted for several weeks.

It’s not clear whether the three deaths are captured in the county’s total of 88 deaths or raises the total to 91.

Read more news updates on the coronavirus at tinyurl.com/MidPenCorona.

— Palo Alto Weekly Staff

Woman dies in rollover crash on Highway 101

A woman who suddenly veered her car away from a collision on U.S. Highway 101 in Palo Alto on Monday afternoon died at the scene after she was ejected from her vehicle when it rolled over, according to the California Highway Patrol.

The Santa Clara County Medical Examiner-Coroner’s Office has identified the woman as Maria Lozano, 46, of Fresno, who died of multiple blunt force injuries.

The first call reporting the collision just south of Embarcadero Road came in at 4:24 p.m., according to CHP Officer Damian Cistaro. Dispatchers indicated the collision was near the Public Storage’s East Palo Alto location.

CHP Officer Pablo Rios said that the initial collision between a Toyota Prius and a Ford Mustang was most noted in no injuries.

The Prius ended up blocking a lane on U.S. Highway 101 north of Embarcadero Road, Rios said.

Soon after, Lozano, driving a tan Chevrolet Tahoe with her 14-year-old daughter as a passenger on northbound U.S. Highway 101, made an “evasive driving maneuver” to avoid crashing into the Prius, according to Rios. The move led the Chevrolet to roll over multiple times and land on the right-hand shoulder of the freeway.

Lozano was ejected from the driver’s seat and suffered major injuries, Rios said. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

— Palo Alto Weekly Staff

City starts relief fund for businesses

With local businesses struggling to survive the pandemic, Palo Alto is preparing to launch a relief fund to assist those that have been decimated by the economic shutdown.

The city is preparing to start the fund with $500,000 in public money, though it is hoping that large companies and foundations will step up and help raise and distribute funds. The program would be modeled after the one Mountain View started last month but with one key difference: Council members made it clear on Monday that they are not in favor of the first-come, first-served approach adopted by Mountain View and would rather see a lottery system determine which receives the grants.

The city is preparing to convene a series of roundtable meetings with dozens of local businesses to gather feedback on how it can assist them during this period of economic distress. City Manager Ed Shikada said he plans to hold three to four such events in the next two or three weeks, with up to 20 participants in each meeting.

While the details of the new business-relief program have yet to be sketched out, the council agreed Monday on some basic parameters: The program should start with $500,000 in public funds and apply to businesses that have up to 50 employees. Council members also agreed that the city should partner with a third party to administer the grants — as seen in Mountain View and other jurisdictions — and that it should try, to the extent possible, to obtain matching funds from corporations, foundations and other institutions in the community.

While the federal government has created several programs for small businesses, most notably the $589 billion Paycheck Protection Plan, most local businesses were not able to access these funds before the program ran out of money last week.

— Gemnady Sheyner

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in Santa Clara County is 50 to 80 times higher than the number of confirmed cases.

The Stanford study calculated the mortality rate of COVID-19 as between 0.12% and 0.2% when one considers the true number of infections. That’s far lower than the roughly 4.8% rate one would get by only looking at the county’s confirmed cases, which stood at 1,962 as of Wednesday afternoon.

The study in Los Angeles, which was undertaken by University of Southern California and the Los Angeles Department of Public Health, reached a similar conclusion. Led by Neeraj Sood, professor of public policy at USC Price School for Public Policy, the study concluded that between 2.8% and 5.6% of that county’s adult population — or between 221,000 and 442,000 adults — have antibodies to the virus.

As the Los Angeles tests were kicking off on April 10, Sood, who collaborated with Stanford researchers on both studies, suggested earlier this month that a far lower mortality rate of COVID-19 would mean that some of the shelter-in-place orders currently in effect may not be necessary.

The Stanford and USC teams are part of a global push to obtain information about COVID-19 through antibody tests — a tool that experts say is critical for learning how the virus spreads and lifting the social-distancing orders that continue to ravage local economies. In Germany and Italy, national governments have made widespread testing a key strategy for easing out of the economic shutdown. Assessing the percentage of the region that has already been infected can help researchers determine how close the area is to herd immunity (a point at which about 60% of the population is immune), which regions have been hit hardest and which measures are going to be most successful in preventing the spread of infections.

“We’re starting to get a better picture,” said Jay Bhattacharya, professor of medicine at Stanford University and a coauthor of both the Stanford and USC studies. “It’s clear that it spread more in some places than in others, and it’s clear it’s more deadly in some places that others.”

As the shutdown stretches into its second month, seroprevalence studies are becoming increasingly common, both in the Bay Area and around the world. Just this week, a team from the University of California, San Francisco embarked on an effort to provide antibody tests to all residents of Bolinas, an unincorporated community in Marin County. It plans to follow suit on April 25 with a four-day test of about 5,700 residents in San Francisco’s Mission District.

Much like its counterparts at Stanford and USC, the UCSF team is trying to address the lack of data about the spread of COVID-19. It is doing so by administering both a swab test for the virus’ DNA, which shows whether an individual is currently infected, and a blood-sample test for antibodies, which indicate past infection.

“All our public health decisions, including when it will be possible to relax regional and statewide shelter-in-place orders, are driven by rough assumptions about how the virus behaves based on very limited data,” Bryan Greenhouse, an associate professor of medicine at UCSF, said in a news release.

Studying in detail how the virus spreads in Bolinas and in the Mission will “give us crucial data points that we can extrapolate to better predict how to control the virus in similar communities nationwide,” he added.

On the national level, the National Institutes of Health is trying to recruit 10,000 people for its own study of antibodies. Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said the study will “give us a clearer picture of the true magnitude of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States by telling us how many people in different communities have been infected without knowing it because they had a very mild, undocumented illness or did not access testing while they were sick.

“These crucial data will help us measure the impact of our public health efforts now and guide our COVID-19 response moving forward,” Fauci said in a statement.

Dr. Sara Cody, Santa Clara County’s health official, on Tuesday called the recent seroprevalence tests “exciting” and said that they confirm that “we have many, many, many cases that we didn’t pick up.”

The point was further underscored by Cody’s announcement Tuesday that the county’s medical examiner confirmed two deaths from COVID-19 that occurred on Feb. 6 and Feb. 17. The confirmation, based on tissue samples from the deceased, means that the virus was spreading in the community far before the health department became aware of that fact. Prior to the confirmation, county leaders had assumed that the first death associated with COVID-19 occurred on March 9.

But while the new research efforts promise to shed light on the prevalence of COVID-19, public health officials are indicating that they will need far more information before they can think about lifting the restrictions. Cody suggested during her Tuesday update to the Board of Supervisors that social-distancing rules are unlikely to be relaxed any time soon.

“We know the level of immunity in our county is in single digits,” Cody told the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday. “We are far, far, far from herd immunity and not likely to get there until we have a vaccine.”

She also pointed to uncertainty about the large number of
antibody tests out on the market, all of which have different characteristics. She cautioned that the detection of antibodies does not necessarily mean that the person is immune to the coronavirus. “In order to know that an antibody test indicates that you’re protected, there are many more studies that need to be done because basically you have to make sure that the antibody is a marker that you have enough protections such that if you got infected with the virus again you would not get sick,” Cody said at the meeting. “Right now, it’s not clear whether the antibody tests that are out there provide that.”

‘Perfect’ for task, or a ‘screwup’?

While results from both the Stanford and USC studies are preliminary and are now undergoing peer review, the reaction from the scientific community has been swift and, in a few cases, brutal. Bhattacharya told this news organization that this was factored into the group’s calculation. “They may be somewhat less precise than laboratory-based tests, but for the purposes of what we have done — for trying to get a sense of prevalence of antibodies to coronavirus in our community they are perfect,” Bendavid said last week.

Part of the skepticism from the broader community stems from the positions that the researchers have taken in the past. In late March, Bendavid and Bhattacharya coauthored an opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal positing that the virus is far less deadly than many experts suggest. “In the Wall Street Journal position, we wrote that the true fatality rate of COVID-19 is indeed very low,” Bendavid said in March that if tests show that the death rate of COVID-19 is indeed nine or 10 times that of the flu, people should indeed stay at home and practice “very strong physical distancing,” according to a news release from USC.

But if the true mortality rate is far lower than the flu, he wrote, “then we don’t need to do that.”

(Infectious-disease expert Fauci said in March that the seasonal flu has a mortality rate of 0.1%. However, it should be noted that more than 100 million Americans get the flu vaccine annually, according to the CDC, and no such vaccine exists for the coronavirus.)

But researchers also emphasized that the mortality rate of the virus is not the only factor that should be considered by public health officials as they consider their next steps in managing the pandemic. The findings in Los Angeles showing that about 4% of the population is infected mean that “we are very early in the epidemic and many more people in Los Angeles County could potentially be infected,” Sood said. “And as the number of infections arises, so will the number of deaths, the number of hospitalizations and the number of ICU admissions,” Sood said in a news conference Monday.

Bhattacharya shared that view. “The biology of the virus, he told this news organization, is not the only factor that determines the fatality rate. Another key factor is the setting in which patients that get viral pneumonia are treated. “It’s a very important input into the decision, but it’s not the only thing,” Bhattacharya said of the death rate. “How likely is it, if we lift the caps, that we will overwhelm the hospitals? That’s a really important question that needs to be addressed.”

Given the outstanding questions, county and state leaders have continuing finding and you don’t look too careful at what you might have done wrong,” Gelman wrote. Other researchers also weighed in and criticized the study for the way it selected its participants (through Facebook ads) and for using tests that were not FDA approved. Dr. Eric Topol, a professor of molecular medicine at Scripps Research, suggested that the two studies have given a “false sense that this is not a bad virus at all.” “It’s bad math, bad tests and bad outcomes for the confusion that it engenders,” Topol told the Associated Press after the pre-print was released.

Bendavid said the research team analyzed the test kits from Premier Biotech before the experiment to determine the percentage of positive cases that the tests miss. By testing blood samples from Stanford Hospital patients that were shown to be positive through a DNA test, as well as samples that were known to be negative because they were taken before the pandemic, the researchers concluded that the test sensitivity is about 91.8%.

Bendavid told this news organization that this was factored into the group’s calculation. “They may be somewhat less precise than laboratory-based tests, but for the purposes of what we have done — for trying to get a sense of prevalence of antibodies to coronavirus in our community they are perfect,” Bendavid said last week.

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Given the outstanding questions, county and state leaders have
The district, like many others, has provided Chromebooks and laptops to thousands of students who didn’t have sufficient technology at home to access distance learning.

Despite a parent-led effort to get the school board to reconsider credit/no credit and take its own vote on the issue, Palo Alto board members reiterated their support for the credit/no credit system at their meeting Tuesday. “This is a really stressful time for everyone, whether you have food on the table or not, whether you have a job or not,” Board Member Jennifer DiBrienza said. “We have to take some of the variables off the table.”

The Mountain View Los Altos High School District board voted 4-1 on April 6 in favor of switching to a credit/no credit system. Teachers there also supported the move. “The power of equity that a physical classroom provides is impossible to replicate through distance learning. In effect, assigning letter grades to our students is equal to assessing their access to technology and Wi-Fi, their housing security and ability,” teachers union president David Campbell and past president Michelle Bissonnette wrote in an April 18 op-ed in the Mountain View Voice, the Weekly’s sister newspaper.

In a message to families this week, Mountain View High School said that students’ credit/no credit marks will be informed in part by their “engagement” in distance learning, which requires students to submit 75% of all assignments and actively participate with each teacher at least once a week through a live class, online office hours or emailed questions. A student will be marked as “not engaged” if they don’t meet both of those expectations, and parents will be notified by email, the school said.

In the Sequoia Union High School District, as well as Palo Alto Unified, hundreds of community members have advocated for a "hold harmless" grading model under which students could improve their grades but wouldn’t be penalized for falling behind.

In the K-8 Menlo Park City School District, meanwhile, middle school teachers can give students letter grades or, if there is not enough evidence of work during this time, an IE, or “insufficient evidence.”

The policy also gives middle school teachers the option to grade based on students’ mastery of concepts rather than factors such as meeting assignment deadlines, participation in virtual lessons and virtual attendance. “A mastery grading scale provides greater flexibility to the teacher to ensure that students are not being penalized for factors such as being out of control during distance learning,” states a temporary grading policy the Menlo Park school board unanimously approved last week.

The K-8 Ravenswood City School District in East Palo Alto has not yet publicly announced a grading decision; neither has East Palo Alto charter school KIPP Valiant Community Prep. Oxford Day Academy, a small public charter high school in East Palo Alto, is giving its mostly low-income and English-language-learner students graded credit for passing grades (A-C) and no credit for failing grades. The school wanted to reward students who perform well academically while the school is closed, co-founder and CEO Malory Dwain said.

### Concern about college prospects
A primary concern among those who oppose the credit/no credit system is its potential impact on college admissions. Palo Alto parent Tricia Barr is worried that students will be compared to applicants from districts that kept letter grades and that “it could absolutely hurt their prospects in the college admissions process,” she said during the school board’s virtual meeting on April 21.

However, private and public colleges and universities across the country have said that students applying from these districts will not be disadvantaged. “Certainly, we understand students are primarily taking courses online and often with modified grading scales. Rest assured that we are sensitive to these challenges and realities,” said Richard Shaw, Stanford University’s dean of undergraduate admission and financial aid.

The University of California (continued on page 12)
Stand Together by Staying Apart

We are facing an unprecedented public health emergency.

It’s up to all of us to work together to keep our community safe. We all must take steps to minimize contact outside our households to reduce the risk of transmission. Every person you interact with may add to transmission.

Stay home to save lives. Only leave for essential activities, and do your best to limit even those trips. The more we can minimize our interactions with others, the more we can slow the spread of COVID-19.

We are in this together. We will get through this together.

#ApartTogetherSCC
and California State University systems have said they will accept credit/no credit for all courses and that they won’t affect GPA calculations.

The universities’ public statements, however, have not assuaged some parents’ anxieties.

“If grades are not looked at, then what will the colleges look at?” Palo Alto parent Madita Jain asked the school board on April 21. One parent said he decided to enroll his son in an independent online program for all of his Advanced Placement classes.

In an interview, Gunn High School senior Claire Cheng said she empathizes with students who have been told that it’s crucial to perform well during their junior year, particularly if they need to show improvement.

“W e h a v e . . . s t u d e n t s w i t h n o f a m i l y m e m b e r s t o C O V - ID-19,” Schlaak wrote.

At Menlo School, administrators decided that high school students’ grades cannot drop below the yearlong grade they earned in third quarter but they can improve. If students “stop engaging meaningfully in their coursework,” though, teachers can give them an “incomplete,” the school wrote to families.

Students at the all-girls Castilleja School will also receive letter grades but have no final exams this semester. Head of School Nanci Kauffman said the administration wanted to provide continuity for students — and stick with any model that would be “sustainable” considering the likelihood of extended school closures.

“I t h i n k i t ’ s i m p o r t a n t t o s a y : Y o u c a n b e a n o u t s t a n d i n g s c h o o l w i t h o u t h a v i n g g r a d e s , ” K a u f f m a n said. “B u t w e c u r r e n t l y a r e a s c h o o l t h a t g i v e s g r a d e s a n d b e - cause of that we felt we should be consistent with that.”

To ensure that no students will fall through the cracks, Castilleja provided Wi-Fi hot spots to students without internet access at home as well as noise-canceling headphones for students who might live in homes that lack a quiet place in which to learn. It is also using weekly advisory sessions online to check in on students’ emotional well-being.

Castilleja teachers are using alternative assessments, too, including allowing for open-book exams that test students’ application of concepts rather than their recall.

Castilleja is also planning for the possibility that distance learning will need to continue intermittently through the fall, which will require transitioning from “emergency” distance learning to “pedagogically sound online learning,” Kauffman said. ■

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

Grades (continued from page 10)

How local private schools are grading during the closures

Many Midpeninsula private schools, including Castilleja School and Kehillah Jewish High School in Palo Alto, Woodside Priory in Portola Valley, Menlo School in Atherton and Saint Francis High School in Mountain View, have opted to continue with letter grades or adopt hybrid models.

At Woodside Priory, school leaders received more than 100 emails about grading from parents and students in a 36-hour window, the “overwhelming majority” of which “were advocating for keeping letter grades to acknowledge the hard work of our most motivated and highly performing students,” Head of Upper School Brian Schlaak wrote in a message to families last week.

Though the school’s default will be letter grades, any Woodside Priory student who wants to take a class pass/fail this semester can choose to do so — a move that acknowledges distance-learning inequities.

“We h a v e . . . s t u d e n t s w i t h n o q u i e t o r p r i v a t e p l a c e t o a t t e n d c l a s s o r d o t h e i r s c h o o l w o r k , ” S c h l a a k w r o t e . “ S t u d e n t s w h o s e f a m i l i e s c a n n o t p a y r e n t i n t h e ‘ s h e l t e r i n p l a c e ’ s c e n a r i o a n d a r e t h e r e b y i n t e n s e l y d i s t r a c t e d b y i s s u e s m o r e p r e s s i n g t h a n g r a d e s , s t u d e n t s w h o h a v e l o s t f a m i l y m e m b e r s t o C O V - I D-19,” Schlaak wrote.

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

Budget (continued from page 5)

revised downward, staff said.

“The future will really be driven by factors and functions that are yet to be defined,” Shikada told the council Monday.

Given the uncertainties, the budget process promises to be less straightforward this year. Shikada wrote in the transmittal letter that the budget “begins what staff expects to be an ongoing conversation and difficult work ahead to plan for the return or recovery period once the shelter-in-place order is lifted and the impacts of COVID-19 continue to materialize financially.”

“It is expected that these deliberations will require resetting expectations and many shared sacrifices moving forward,” Shikada wrote.

Shikada told the council that staff will explore three different budget scenarios: one that presumes a relatively rapid recovery from the pandemic; another that considers the shutdown extending through the spring; and a third — and most likely — one in which some social-distancing measures remain in place through the winter.

Even the first scenario, however, will require the city to make unpopular decisions, council members said. Mayor Adrian Fine said his colleagues “understand that massive changes are occurring on a day-to-day basis, and it seems like each day is different from the one before.”

“Next fiscal year will be very tough for Palo Alto,” Fine said.

Councilwoman Alison Cormack also suggested that cuts will be inevitable, given the declining revenues.

“Honestly, it’s going to break my heart to not reopen all five of our libraries, but the reality is everyone’s heart is going to be broken over this process,” Cormack said.

The ongoing health crisis also threatens to upend the council’s long-term priorities, including housing production and the redesign of rail crossings. Shikada’s list of potential cuts includes deferring the Housing Work Plan and halting initiatives to encourage electrification of buildings.

“I do think our annual council priorities probably have gone out the window at this point,” Vice Mayor Tom DuBois said.

Staff also is proposing reducing code-enforcement staffing, scaling back application requirements for wireless communication facilities and reducing the number of projects that undergo architectural reviews. The budget also proposes that the city explore terminating the city’s lease of Cubberley Community Center space from the Palo Alto Unified School District or switching to a “shared revenue structure.”

“Whether we’re cutting a library or fire station or whether we’re cutting some program near and dear to us, it’s very tough,” Councilwoman Liz Kniss said. “This is something the public is going to really weigh in on.”

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

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RECOGNIZING LOCAL HEROES

LOCAL HERO

Cammie Vail
Cammie Vail (shown above at the podium) is the current Executive Director at the Palo Alto Community Fund. She has gone above and beyond during this time of crisis. In addition to her normal fundraising work, she has guided PACF to raise and distribute an additional $500,000 for direct financial relief to our local underserved population and to further support non-profits in Palo Alto and East Palo Alto since the start of the shelter-in-place orders.

Submitted by: Leonard Ely

William Warrior
I had the pleasure of working with local hero, William Warrior, at the former Palo Alto Animal Services. I have always been fascinated by his passion for work, animals, history, and Taiko. When we walked in the Palo Alto May Fête parade together, he was like a rock star — people cheered and shouted his name. After more than 40 years of public service at ACO, he is retiring. He’s a legend in this community as an active volunteer and author.

Submitted by: Sachi Hwangbo

Have a local hero you want to recognize? Spread the joy and support our journalism efforts by giving him/her a shout-out in the Palo Alto Weekly. Submit entries at PaloAltoOnline.com/local_hero/
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Pulse
A weekly compendium of vital statistics

POLICE CALLS
Palo Alto
April 16-April 22
Violence related
Child abuse ........................................ 3
Domestic violence ................................ 1
Sex crime ............................................ 1
Thief related
Checks forgery .................................... 1
Commercial burglary ............................ 2
Fraud .................................................. 1
Grand theft ........................................ 1
Identity theft ....................................... 3
Petty theft .......................................... 3
Prower ........................................... 1
Residential burglaries ......................... 2
Shoplifting ....................................... 4
Vehicle related
Attempted theft from auto ................. 1
Auto theft ......................................... 1
Driving w/o license .............................. 1
Driving without license ..................... 1
Lost/stolen plates ............................... 1
Theft from auto ................................. 8
Vehicle accident/minor injury ............ 2
Vehicle accident/prop damage .......... 2
Alcohol or drug related
Driving under influence ..................... 1
Under influence of drugs ................... 1
Miscellaneous
Found property ................................... 3
Lost/stolen property ......................... 1
Other/misc ....................................... 7
Psychiatric subject ........................... 2
Suspicious circumstances ............... 1
Vandalism ......................................... 5

Menlo Park
April 15-22
Violence related
Robbery ........................................ 1
Thief related
Petty theft ....................................... 7
Residential burglaries .........................
Vehicle related
Auto recovery ................................. 2
Auto theft ....................................... 1

VIOLENT CRIMES
Palo Alto
Harold Avenue, 2/18, 3 p.m.; child abuse/physical.
Paradise Way, 3/11, 3 p.m.; child abuse/physical.
Ramona Street, 3/26, 3:34 p.m.; child abuse/physical.
Middlefield Road, 4/20, 5:42 a.m.; domestic violence/battery.
Randers Court, 4/20, 7:57 p.m.; sex crime/unlawful sexual intercourse.

Menlo Park
800 block Fremont St., 4/19, 4:05 p.m.; robbery.

OBITUARIES
Excell ‘Mike’ Wilks
A list of local residents who died recently.
Excell “Mike” Wilks, 50, a resident of Palo Alto and Menlo Park, died on April 10.
To read his full obituary, leave memoriams and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at PaloAltoOnline.com/obituaries.
Read more obituaries on page 18.

Harry S. Hewitt
September 3, 1934 – March 1, 2020

Harry Hewitt, 85, a 60-year resident of Palo Alto, passed away in his sleep on March 1, 2020.
Harry, born in Tennessee, graduated from Stanford University with a degree in engineering. While still at Stanford, he worked as a co-pilot/flight engineer for Pan Am, flying the European and Asian routes.
Harry left the airline to work for Stanford University, followed by Stanford Research Institute (SRI), Argosystems, and later, to do consulting for Boeing. While working at Stanford, he met Aina Bumanis on her first day of work as a librarian at Stanford’s Biology Library. They married in 1963, and honeymooned in Europe in a Volkswagen camper. Throughout their lives, they continued to love RV-ing with their children and golden retrievers. He is survived by his wife and their three children: Lissa Dashe (and son-in-law Jeremy and their two children: Theft related

Theft rel

5. Other/criminal activity

Violence rel

Court order violation .............. 2

Sexual abuse/physical ........ 10

Residential burglary .......... 2

Petty theft ..................... 7

Driving w/invalid license ... 1

Lost/stolen plates .......... 1

Theft from auto ........... 8

Vehicle accident/injury .... 2

Vandalism ..................... 5

Violence related

Targeted violence ............... 1

Vandalism ..................... 5

Vandalism ..................... 5

Palo Alto
April 16-April 22

Violence related

Child abuse .................. 3

Domestic violence .......... 1

Sex crime .................. 1

Criminal mischief ........... 2

Fraud .......................... 1

Grand theft .................. 1

Identity theft ................. 3

Petty theft .................. 3

Prower ........................ 1

Residential burglaries .... 2

Shoplifting .................. 4

Vehicle related

Attempted theft from auto .. 1

Auto theft .................. 1

Driving w/o license .... 1

Driving without license ... 1

Lost/stolen plates .... 1

Theft from auto .......... 8

Vehicle accident/minor injury .. 2

Vehicle accident/prop damage ... 2

Alcohol or drug related

Driving under influence .... 1

Under influence of drugs ... 1

Miscellaneous

Found property ............... 3

Lost/stolen property ....... 1

Other/misc .................. 7

Psychiatric subject ....... 2

Suspicious circumstances .. 1

Vandalism .................... 5

Menlo Park
April 15-22

Violence related

Robbery .................. 1

Thief related

Petty theft .................. 7

Residential burglaries .... 2

Vehicle related

Auto recovery ............... 2

Auto theft .................. 1

1. PREVAILING WAGE LAWS:

The successful Bidder and all subcontractors shall pay all workers for all Work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the

general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of

Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be

be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to §1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing

wage rates are also available on the Internet at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov>. This Project is subject to labor

compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code

§1771.4 and subject to the requirements of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. The Contractor

and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall furnish electronic certified payroll records directly to the

Labor Commissioner weekly and within ten (10) days of any request by the District or the Labor Com-

missioner. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, Articles

1-5 of the Labor Code.

Bidders may examine Bidding Documents at Facilities Office, Building “D”. Bidders may also purchase copies of the plans and specifications at ARC Document Solutions, 829 Cherry Lane, San Carlos, CA 94070, Phone Number (650) 231-2310

The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsible responsible bidder based on

the base bid amount only.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received.

If the District awards the Contract, the security of unsuccessful bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days after the
time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the
date of the bid opening.

All questions can be addressed to:

Palo Alto Unified School District
25 Churchill Avenue, Building D
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099
Attn: Royce Rippere
Email: royce@fasd.com

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PAID OBITUARY

PAID OBITUARY
In the wake of this crisis, we need your support.

Dear Reader:

During these uncertain and scary times, trusted sources of local news are more important than ever.

But like so many other local businesses, we are struggling to cope with the current health and economic crisis.

Our staff is working around the clock to keep you informed in this rapidly changing environment. Our office is nearly empty, but our 50 employees are hard at work at their homes and, when necessary, in the community bringing critical news stories to you.

And you are following our reporting in record numbers. Our web traffic has more than doubled. We’ve dropped our pay meter so that everyone can access the latest news whether they are subscribing members or not. In the last 30 days more than 700,000 unique visitors were following the news coverage on Palo Alto Online.

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Thank you, and best wishes to all of you doing your best to get through this difficult time.

Bill Johnson
Publisher
This beautifully remodeled North Los Altos home promotes the appealing California indoor/outdoor lifestyle with effortless transitions between interior and exterior spaces. The floor plan includes a main level master suite with a luxurious master bath and 3 spacious family bedrooms on the second level. Enjoy the resort-like setting with a sparkling pool, barbecue area and serene garden. The quiet cul-de-sac location is just blocks to downtown Los Altos and excellent public schools.

For a complete virtual experience with video, brochure, still photography and floor plan see: 205YerbaBuena.com
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5 Bed | 4.5 Bath | Offered at $5,875,000
Living Area: 3,371 Sq Ft* | Lot Size: 8,598 Sq Ft*
*Per County Records, unverified

This magnificent home located on Palo Alto’s Christmas Tree Lane offers an exceptional floor plan for inter-generational living with 5 bedrooms including 3 suites. The home’s convenient location is near renowned public schools, parks, libraries, the art center, new Junior Museum, the Community Center and Stanford University.

Become a part of a special group of neighbors who come together each year to transform their street into Palo Alto’s treasured Christmas Tree Lane, one of the Peninsula’s most cherished holiday events.

More than a home, it’s community & lifestyle!

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For questions or further information please contact your Realtor or the listing agents, Carol Carnevale 650.465.5958 or Nicole Aron 650.740.7954, or by email at CarolandNicole@compass.com.
Clarence “Bud” Ferrari, Jr. 1934 – 2020

Clarence “Bud” Ferrari, Jr., a resident of Atherton for over fifty years, passed away on Sunday, April 12th. He was 86 years old. Bud will be dearly missed by his loving family, friends and colleagues.

Bud was born in San Francisco and attended Bellarmine College Preparatory. He earned both his Bachelor’s and law degree from Stanford University. Throughout his schooling, blue-eyed Joan Egli was at his side. They married in 1957 and enjoyed sixty-two wonderful years together until Joan’s passing in 2019.

Bud founded a number of influential and respected law firms. As a partner with Ruffo, Ferrari and McNeil, he became a trusted counselor, advising families, businesses and institutions in complex tax, estate and business matters. In 1985, he co-founded Ferrari, Alvarez, Olsen and Ottoberi which earned a place among San Jose’s preeminent law firms. He remained active in his final partnership, Ferrari, Ottoberi, Caputo, & Wunderling, until late last year. In addition to a brilliant legal career, Bud established a variety of successful real estate partnerships and was a founder and chairman of the board of Silicon Valley Bank.

Bud was a man of many passions and deep loyalties. Family always came first and he took an active role in the upbringing of his two daughters, Mary Lynn and Lisa. The Ferrari four- daughters enjoyed family tennis, skiing and boating in Tahoe, and memorable trips abroad. When he was blessed with grand- daughters, Bud loved attending the diving meets and tennis matches of Alyssa and Lauren Robinson. The arrival of great- grandson, Grayson Berardi, brought him endless delight as well.

Second only to family and friends was Bud’s Stanford com- munity. Not only did he and Joan attend hundreds of football and basketball games over the years, they housed and men- tored many Stanford players. Bud was a founder of the DA- PER Investment Fund and served as a director for thirty- three years. It was Bud’s pleasure to serve on the Stanford Athlet- ics Board and the Buck Club, and he was a tireless fundraiser for the university. In addition to his Cardinal affiliations, Bud cherished his Italian roots and spearheaded marvelous trips to Italy with his friends and colleagues.

Physical fitness was another all-consuming passion. Bud was an avid runner, and he and son-in-law, Kyle Robinson, never missed their early morning exercise classes at the Menlo Circus Club. He also relished his duck hunting trips with friends, and playing golf at the Menlo Country Club and Tradition Golf Club in La Quinta.

Bud was a man of deep faith and a generous contributor to his community. He was a board member of the Silicon Val- ley Community Foundation, Pathways Hospice, JobTrain, and Read with Me, and served on the faculty at Santa Clara Uni- versity School of Law as an adjunct professor of Taxation.

Bud embraced the optimistic and helped loving oth- ers—family, friends, colleagues, and anyone else who needed assistance or guidance.

Amid the current pandemic, it was the loss of his wife—a broken heart—that sadly took Bud from us. A memorial service will be held when we can once again have large gather- ings.

Bud was predeceased by his wife, Joan. He is survived by his children Mary Lynn Robinson and son-in-law Kyle; his daughter Lisa Marie Ferrari; his granddaughter Alyssa Ann Berardi, husband Matt and great-grandson Grayson; and granddaughter Emily Slope and husband Barron. Special thanks to Lupe and Ricardo Orozco and their three children who enriched his life for over thirty years.

For those so inclined, contributions in Bud’s name can be made to one of the many charitable organizations that he sup- ported.


g r e e  f r o m  S t a n f o r d  U n i-

Turning the Page

Births, marriages and deaths

Donald Kennedy, former Stanford president, dies at 88 of COVID-19

by Sue Dremann

S tanford University President Emeritus Donald Kennedy, who led the way for massive fundraising campaigns and other initia- tive will be held when we can once again have large gather- ings.

For the university. In addition to his Cardinal affiliations, Bud was 88, who experienced a stroke in 2015, died on Tuesday morning, April 21, at Gordon Man- or, a residential care home in Redwood City, where he lived for the past two years.

In an April 21 email announc- ing his death, Kennedy’s wife praised his care at Gordon Manor and addressed his illness.

“A week after with no fever, he took a turn for the worst on Satur- day night. All measures were taken to ensure he did not suffer. He was peaceful and comfortable during his final moments, and in our family were able to say goodbye to him via FaceTime on Sunday night,” she said.

Kennedy was born in New York City on Aug. 18, 1934, and attend- ed Harvard University, where he earned a bachelor's degree (1952), a master's degree (1954) and a doc- torate (1956). A neurobiologist, his scholarly research centered on the properties of small nerve cells. He pioneered a new technique of dye injection into single nerve cells so that specialized cell parts — the whole axon, dendrite and cell body of a neuron — could be seen in the light of the microscope.

He taught biology at Syracuse University in upstate New York until 1960, then joined Stanford. He was known as an inspiring and dedicated teacher in both biological sciences and in the Program in Hu- man Biology, an interdisciplinary program that he helped establish and directed from 1973 to 1977.

Kennedy also was known for his unconventional teaching style.

“I will never forget Donald Ken- nedy getting up on the lab table at the front of the lecture hall and assum- ing a quadruped position to demon- strate us the concepts of dorsal, ventral, cephalo and caudal. His first concern was always with teaching effectively, not preserving his dig- nity,” Ingrid Schwontes Jackoway, a

“First 30 Years, 1971-2001.”

Kennedy succumbs to disease at Gordon Manor, a residential care home in Redwood City
Early Learning Institute
Palo Alto
Improve your student's writing skills this summer at Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton. Courses this year are Expository Writing, Creative Writing and Presentation Skills.
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The Harker School’s summer programs for children K - grade 12 offer the perfect balance of learning and fun! Programs are led by dedicated faculty and staff who are experts at combining summer fun and learning. Strong academics and inspiring enrichment programs are offered in full day, partial and morning only sessions.
harker.org/summer
(408) 553-5737

i2 Camp at Castilleja School
Palo Alto
i2 Camp offers week-long immersion programs that engage middle school girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The fun and intimate hands-on activities of the courses strive to excite and inspire participants about STEM, creating enthusiasm that will hopefully spew over to their schoolwork and school choices in future years.
castilleja.org/i2camp
(650) 470-7833

STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research
Stanford
STANFORD EXPLORE offers high school students the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neurobiology, immunology and many others.
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Nike Tennis Camps
Stanford University
Junior Overnight and Day Camps for boys & girls, ages 9-18 offered throughout June, July and August. Adult Weekend Clinics (June & Aug). Camps directed by Head Men’s Coach, Paul Goldstein, Head Women’s Coach, Lele Forood, and Associate Men’s and Women’s Coaches, Brandon Coupe and Frankie Brennan. Come join the fun and get better this summer!
ussportscamps.com
(800) NIKE-CAMP
(800) 645-3226

Run for Fun Camps
Bay Area
Run for Fun’s mission is to provide creative and engaging play for all youth by getting kids active in an inclusive community centered around outdoor fun! We pride ourselves on hiring an enthusiastic, highly trained staff who love what they do. Summer 2020 features four weeks of Adventure Day Camp and two weeks of Overnight Camp High Five. Adventure Day Camp is a new discovery every day filled with sports, crafts and nature, including explorations to Camp Jones Gulch, Capitola Beach, Foothills Park, Shoreline Lake and Great America. Camp High Five is six days and five nights of traditional overnight camp mixed with challenge-by-choice activities, campfires, friendships and lots of laughter.
runchowdown.com
(650) 823-5167

Spartans Sports Camp
Mountain View
Spartans Sports Camp offers a wide variety of sports, performing arts, and academic enrichment camps for kids entering grades 1-9. Experienced staff ensures everyone has fun. Daily on-site swimming is offered for all camps. Camps begin June 8th and run weekly through July 31st at Mountain View High School. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available for your convenience. Flexible cancellation policies.
spartansportscamp.com
(650) 479-5906

YMCA of Silicon Valley
Summer Camps
Silicon Valley
At the Y, children and teens of all abilities acquire new skills, make friends, and feel that they belong. With hundreds of Summer Day Camps plus Overnight Camps, you will find a camp that’s right for your family. Sign up today, camps are filling up! Financial assistance is available.
ymcasv.org/summercamp
(408) 351-6473

GUIDE TO 2020 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS • VISIT PALOALTOONLINE.COM/CAMP_CONNECTION
A Letter to our Community

In the most recent Santa Clara and San Mateo County health directives, residential real estate was designated an essential business allowing us to conduct limited business activities.

For our Sellers
We are able to list and prepare homes for market. We can only show vacant homes in person. Occupied homes can be shown only by virtual tours. Each vacant home showing is limited to two people who are currently sheltering in place together and one real estate agent. All parties must wear masks, gloves and shoe covers and obey social distancing protocol set forth by the health order, including making written representations about health and wellness.

For our Buyers
Visits to vacant houses are subject to the restrictions set forth above. Occupied houses can be toured virtually and offers can be made subject to a personal inspection when allowed. Inventory is extremely low as many homes have been removed from the market in the last four weeks.

For Both our Buyers and Sellers
As a designated essential business, we are able to service our real estate clients albeit under strict conditions. We are committed to using strict social distancing protocols in the conduct of our business.

While it is extremely difficult for our business and our clients, we are committed to complying with county orders as long as they remain in place. The health and safety of our agents and our community is our highest priority.

— Michael Dreyfus & Noelle Queen

Community means we’re all in this together
Tour our homes from your home

Coming Soon

**Italian Villa, Woodside**  ·  $28,000,000

**Ultimate Silicon Valley Estate, Woodside**  ·  $23,000,000

**447 Westridge Drive, Portola Valley**  ·  $10,995,000

**Bates Ranch Vineyard, Gilroy**  ·  $14,200,000

**2050 Green Oaks Way, Pescadero**  ·  $7,500,000

**4152 Baker Avenue, Palo Alto**  ·  $5,750,000

**567 Maybell Avenue, Palo Alto**  ·  $5,425,750

**1500 Cowper Street, Palo Alto**  ·  $24,995,000

**Professorville** $3,200,000 · **Crescent Park** $4,100,000 · **Barron Park** $4,995,000

**Old Palo Alto** $7,500,000 · **Woodside** $23,000,000

www.Dreyfus.Group
A s a history teacher, I fre-
quently consult our past to be
inspired by those who led in times of crisis and moved society forward despite over-
whelming challenges.

Today's crisis, the COVID-19
pandemic, has caused us to re-
imagine our cultural experienc-
es, haled the economy and forced
us into hiding in our homes; but
despite these frightening
times, we can take solace
in knowing the world has
experienced worse and survived. To do so
now, we must learn from our
history, protect our most vulner-
able residents and forge a new sustainable path forward.

The lesson of social inequality
As in all crises, communities of
color and the socio-economically
disadvantaged suffer dispropor-
tionately during pandemics. Gra-
ham Mooney, a historian of medi-
cine at Johns Hopkins University,
observed that pandemics “expose
social inequality.” From the Black
Death, which ravaged Europe in the
mid-14th century, to the Spanish
flu that killed 50 million people in
1918, social inequality always
reveals itself in the demographics
most harmed by pandemics.

Today, communities of color
are disproportionately affected
by this virus and are dying at dis-
proportionately higher rates. In
Santa Clara County, the death rate
among African Americans is 4% and 36% among Latinos, despite
African Americans and Latinos
only representing 2% and 25% of
the county’s population.

There are several reasons for
these disparities. First, the risk
of exposure is greater because minorities are more likely to be
working front-line jobs consid-
“essential employees.”

Second, these demographics
often lack access to affordable
health care. They are disproport-
ionately hourly wage workers,
and reduced hours could lead to
foregoing health care over other
necessities like food and rent.

Another inequity that has sur-
faced during this pandemic can be
seen in the public fear and dema-
goguery that have led to ignorant
scapegoating of minorities. The
country has seen a precipitous
increase in hate crimes against
Asian Americans. Government
officials must preemptively act
to protect these at-risk groups during
this crisis.

Another at-risk group is un-
shoused and socio-economically
disadvantaged. Santa Clara Coun-
ty has 9,706 unhoused residents,
with Palo Alto home to 313. CO-
VID-19 threatens to decimate this
already at-risk population. The
county has done well in providing

This week on Town Square
Town Square is an online discussion forum at PaloAltoOnline.com/square

In response to ‘Palo Alto braces for $30M revenue loss as shutdown drags on’
Posted April 21 at 2:11 p.m. by Becky Sanders, a resident of Ventura:

“Oh boy this is so tough on us residents. What is a city but the people that live here? Our employ-
eses are super important, but it does seem a little
oddball that while three people in my immediate
family have been laid off or furloughed our city
isn’t considering making some kind of cuts to the
payroll. If people are furloughed, then they can
still receive unemployment benefits and retain
their medical coverage, right? Seems like a good
option to get through this crisis.

I agree we will all have to tighten our belts. I’d
hate to see code enforcement cut. I mean the staff
struggles to cover a fraction of the reported viola-
tions. Further cuts seem really problematic to me,
especially over here in Ventura, where all kinds of
mischief takes place with bizarre businesses with
blocked up windows on El Camino Real. Lord
knows what is going on in there. So please don’t
cut code enforcement.

Also, I know it’s not all about Ventura, but I’d
hate to see funding for Boulware Park take a
hit. We’ve been waiting for improvements as we
watch other city parks get makeovers.

I’ll always want residents to come first in the
decisions, but guess that’s not the bottom line for me.

Thank you Palo Alto Online for keeping us
informed! I hope everyone will consider becoming
paid subscribers to keep our local paper going,
regardless of where you fall on all these important
matters.”

The world has seen count-
less pandemics, wars, natural
disasters and other crises, but
we always survived and pro-
gressed. So, too, will we over-
come this virus.

As Lincoln used a nation di-
vided to secure freedom for
millions of Americans, so, too,
can we use this crisis to perma-
nently address some of soci-
ety’s most pressing needs. Let’s
finally acknowledge that social
determinants of race and ethnic-
ity play critical roles in equity
design and housing our health
care and other policies to reflect
that reality. Let’s recognize the
moral and practical implications
of poverty and resolve to evolve
these temporary solutions into
permanent ones.

Finally, let’s continue this
shared sense of humanity that
has made as nice to one an-
other — ordinary people doing
extraordinary things like help-

ing deliver groceries to elderly
neighbors, offering RVs to health
care professionals and volun-
teeering to be Block Preparedness
Coordinators. We don’t need an-
other Lincoln; we all have the
capability of being leaders. To-
day is our time to step up. —

Greer Stone teaches social
studies at Gunn High School
and is the vice-chair of the
Santa Clara County Human
Rights Commission. He can be
reached via email at gstone22@g
mail.com.

by Greer Stone

Lessons in leadership
History is replete with profiles
in courage of leaders who have
stood fast in the face of crisis. To-
day’s pandemic will require great
leadership to overcome this virus
and usher in a more prosperous
future.

No leader better embodies the
mental fortitude needed in a cri-
sis than President Abraham Lin-
coln in 1862. The United States
was being torn apart by the na-
tion’s bloodiest conflict, the Civil
War, and Lincoln was in agony.
In February, his 11-year-old son
died from typhoid fever, politi-
cal in-fighting was endangering
his presidency, and by July the
mythic president was despondent
after the Union suffered defeat in
the Seven Days Battles.

A lesser being would have folded
under such pressure, but Lincoln
persevered with equanimity, main-
taining an optimistic countenance
despite grave concerns for the na-
ton’s future.

Nancy Koehn, in her 2017 book,
“Forged in Crisis,” tells of Lin-
coln’s retort to a senator who repri-
manded him for sharing a comedic
story shortly after the Seven Days
Battles.

“Senator,” Lincoln said, “do you
think that this situation weighs
more heavily upon you than it does
upon me? If the cause goes against us, not
only will the country be lost, but I
shall be disgraced to all time.

“But what would happen if I ap-
peared upon the streets of Wash-
ington today with such a counte-
nance as yours? The news would
spread throughout the country that
the president’s very demeanor is an
admission that defeat is inevitable.”

The president’s optimism and re-
silience would prove invaluable in
the coming months and years.

Lincoln didn’t campaign on an
anti-slavery platform, but 1862
decided everything. Lincoln re-
vealed the Emancipation Proclama-
tion, a promise to end slavery born
out of desperation, and it provided
Lincoln the opportunity to turn
tragedy into hope for millions of
Americans.

Lincoln’s story of tragedy and
overcoming provides a lesson for
today’s leaders: equanimity, resil-
ience, optimism and the ability
to turn catastrophe into opportunity.

A lesson for us all
Few moments in history have
brought humanity together
better than this crisis, and there is
some strange beauty in know-
ing we’re all fighting these
struggles together as a global
collective. As a teacher and stu-
dent of history, I can tell you
this: The world has seen count-
less pandemics, wars, natural
disasters and other crises, but
we always survived and pro-
gressed. So, too, will we over-

come this virus.

Leadership in the time of COVID-19

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The Palo Alto Weekly encourages comments on our coverage
or on issues of local interest.

Submit letters to the editor of up to 300 words to letters@paweekly.com,
Submit guest opinions of 1,000 words to editor@paweekly.com. Include your
name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you.

We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content,
libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be
accepted. Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting
of permission to the Palo Alto Weekly and Embarcadero Media to also publish it
online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information, contact Editorial Assistant Linda Lee at llewis@paweekly.com.

2 3 6 6 2 2 2 2 E 6 2 0 5 0 or Editor Jocelyn Dong at editor@paweekly.com.

Page 22 • April 24, 2020 • Palo Alto Weekly • www.PaloAltoOnline.com
WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

Limit the Spread of Coronavirus

- Shelter in Place: It Will Save Lives.
- Stay Home If You Are Sick.
- If You Must Go Out, Follow Social Distancing Guidance.

Be Well

- Stay Connected, Check on Your Neighbors, Volunteer
- Support Local Businesses
- Parks and Open Space Preserves are Open
- Community Resources are Available

For more information, visit www.cityofpaloaltono.org/coronavirus

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Shelter in Place and Support Local Businesses. Local restaurants, pharmacies and grocery stores are still open and here for you.

For a list of open restaurants, please go to:
www.cityofpaloaltono.org/coronavirus
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- Rose

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How to get your reading fix while everything’s closed

Bookstores, libraries adjust to life in lockdown with virtual literary events, storytimes and ‘in-store’ shopping sessions

by Linda Taaffe

It’s been a little more than a month since local bookstores and libraries have had their doors open to the public. While the stay-at-home order that sent us indoors may have provided all the time in the world to catch up on some reading, there’s probably at least a few people out there craving some new best-selling titles or itching to discuss their latest reads.

Even though the doors remain closed on brick-and-mortar bookstores and local libraries, there’s good news. Many have adjusted to no-contact business models and are offering a variety of new services intended to keep the literary crowd well-read and more socialized while keeping a safe distance from others.

Here are some ways to participate in author events, book clubs and storytimes and to peruse bookstore shelves without leaving your home.

**Livestream events**

**Refresh the Page**

Kepler’s Literary Foundation launched a new series of virtual events on Zoom earlier this month. Refresh the Page features online discussions, classes, seminars and author events. The next upcoming event, “Literary Appreciation 101,” is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29. During the hour-long seminar, author and former professor Kimberly Ford will explore foundational concepts by looking at classics by Leo Tolstoy, Jane Austen and others. The nonprofit foundation plans to expand its offerings over time. Most events require participants to RSVP and make a donation. For more information and to get the most up-to-date list of events, go to keplers.org/refresh-the-page-online.

**Online Storytimes**

Anytime storytimes

The Palo Alto library has gathered a list of free online storytimes and other activities for children that can be streamed anytime. The collection includes audio stories as well as storytime sessions featuring a variety of guests, ranging from celebrities such as Sarah Silverman and Wanda Sykes to astronaut Christina Koch. To view the extensive list of offerings, go to library.cityofpaloalto.org/blogs/post/online-storytime-resources.

**Livestream storytimes**

The Mountain View library launched a new storytime program on Facebook Live on April 10. The 15-minute sessions are live-streamed on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10-30 a.m. Children’s librarian “Miss Sharon” reads Mother Goose and other children’s tales on Tuesdays and children’s librarian “Miss Alex” hosts family storytime on Fridays. Past sessions also can be accessed on Facebook. To view storytimes, go to facebook.com/pg/MVPLibrary.

**Reading salons**

Linden Tree Children’s Books in Los Altos is hosting live storytimes and stay-at-home book salons for families. Storytimes are held on Facebook Live on Sunday days. All storytimes feature picture books and are appropriate for all ages. For more information, go to lindentreebooks.com/events-calendar.

**Virtual shopping**

Online catalogues

Most local bookstores are continuing online book sales. At Kepler’s Books, the web orders team is processing online orders from their homes seven days a week. All web orders are being shipped directly from the store’s book suppliers to customers at reduced shipping rates, according to Kepler’s website. For more information, go to keplers.com.

Books Inc. is offering free deliveries and is taking preorders for soon-to-be-released books. For more information, go to booksinc.net.

**‘In-store’ browsing**

For those who feel like browsing the shelves, Linden Tree Children’s Books in Los Altos is offering free, 30-minute private live video chats with customers on FaceTime. During the chat, the bookseller will take customers around the store and let them “browse” through books and look at other items. Local purchases will be delivered the next day. To set up a shopping appointment, go to lindentreebooks.com/events-calendarfacebook.com/lindentreebooks.

**April releases by local authors**

Have you read all of your books and you’re not sure what to dive into next? Here are a few books by local authors that were released this month.

**‘Always Home: A Daughter’s Recipes & Stories’**

By Fanny Singer; Knopf publishing

San Francisco native Fanny Singer’s new title is part cookbook and part culinary memoir about growing up as the daughter of revered chef and restaurateur Alice Waters. Singer provides an intimate portrait of her mother and herself while chronicling a unique world of food, wine and travel. Each vignette is accompanied by a recipe.

**‘The Story of the First Earth Day: How Grassroots Activism Changed the World’**

By Pete McCloskey; Eaglet Books

In his new book, Pete McCloskey, a former Bay Area congressman who co-founded the first Earth Day with Gaylord Nelson on April 22, 1970, takes a look at the political and international impact the event has had over the past half century. The book includes some local color about Denis Hayes, the Stanford University student hired to coordinate the first Earth Day, who went on to create the “The Dirty Dozen” campaign, which targeted 12 of the worst members of the U.S. Congress on environmental issues and organized grassroot attempts to defeat them at the polls.

**‘World War II and the West it Wrought’**

By Mark Brilliant and David M. Kennedy; Stanford University Press

How World War II changed the West is the subject of a book by Mark Brilliant, associate professor of History and American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and David M. Kennedy, the Donald J. McLachlan Professor of History, Emeritus, at Stanford and co-founder of Stanford’s Bill Lane Center for the American West. The book explains how the war set in motion a massive westward population movement that ignited a quarter-century boom, redefining the West as the nation’s most economically dynamic region and triggering unprecedented public investment in manufacturing, education, scientific research and infrastructure. The economic revolution laid the groundwork for high-tech centers in Silicon Valley and elsewhere in the region.

Customers can browse the shelves at Linden Tree Children’s Books in Los Altos one-on-one with an employee without ever leaving their home through a new virtual shopping program that the store launched during the stay-at-home order.

While the store is closed during the shutdown, Kepler’s Books employees are processing online orders from their homes seven days a week. Its nonprofit literary foundation has launched a new series of virtual events on Zoom.
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Carrie Davis, Coldwell Banker
Danni Reimund Designs
Helen & Brad Miller, Compass
Michele Morhenn, Coldwell Banker
Service by Medallion
The Village Doctor

Copper - $1,000
Lola Sue Crawford, Coldwell Banker

Copper - $500
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Alpine Optometry
Coffee Grounds Edible Gardens
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for the blind and visually impaired

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, Vista Center continues to serve our clients and any community member living with vision loss by offering virtual Braille classes, food delivery services, online support groups, and academic support for visually impaired students. Please consider donating today by visiting our website www.vistacenter.org or calling (650) 858-0202.
Helping those in need

We are delivering free meals to those who need help getting food including those struggling financially because of COVID-19 and seniors who are afraid or unable to go to the grocery store.

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163 Main Street, Los Altos | (650) 559-8226

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CRUELTY FOR A BUCK

Cancellations: Rowell Ranch, Livermore, Woodside Jr. Rodeo

“Humanity’s true moral test, its fundamental test...consists of its attitude towards those who are at its mercy: animals.”

— Novelist Milan Kundera, “The Unbearable Lightness of Being”

Lest we forget, this latest coronavirus pandemic was HUMAN-caused, a direct result of our mistreatment of animals, both wild and domestic. At the very least, this catastrophe should teach us a little humility and compassion for others, human and non-human alike.

Due to Covid-19, rodeos are being cancelled locally and worldwide. Let’s make it permanent. Rodeo is condemned by nearly every animal welfare organization on the planet due to its inherent cruelty. For most of the animals, the rodeo arena is merely a detour en route to the slaughterhouse. They (and we) deserve better. Legislation is in order: local, state, federal.

See link below to a new, prize-winning documentary, “BUCKING TRADITION,” now on YouTube: https://www.actionforanimals-oakland.com

INFO: ACTION FOR ANIMALS, P.O. Box 20184, Oakland, CA 94620; afa@mcn.org
Across
1 Door frame parts
6 Some laptops
10 Ring decoration
13 Fish tank buildup
14 Heart chambers
16 “Ceci n’est pas ___ pipe” (Magritte caption)
17 “Largest city in Somerset, known for Roman-built spas
19 Tajikistan, once (abbr.)
20 “Abnormally Attracted to Sin” singer Tori
21 “Brooklyn neighborhood, colloquially
23 Hulu show starring Aidy Bryant
26 Big figure in pop?
27 “Whatever”
28 Cry of pain
30 Bobcat’s cousin
31 Soccer stadium shouts
33 Be changeable
35 Actress Day of Hitchcock’s “The Man Who Knew Too Much”
39 “City in southern Ontario, a little over an hour from Toronto
42 Superfluous
43 Spider monkey’s feature
44 Breeze
45 Greek vowels
46 Internet address ender
49 ___-Magnon
50 On the train
53 Nut and bolt spacer
55 “Country home to Legoland
57 Part of SVU
58 Word before Palamas or Cruces
59 “Portland thoroughfare often mispronounced by visitors (it’s an “oo” as in “boot”)”
64 Land in a rivière
65 Friendly, gender-neutral address for a child
66 Pakistani money
67 Make a wager
68 Backside
69 Writer Zola

Down
1 Boxer’s move
2 “Blue Rondo ___ Turk” (Brubeck song)
3 People in charge, briefly
4 Believer in spiritual unity
5 Respectable
6 GQ and EW, e.g.
7 Hartfield-Jackson airport code
8 Item on a seafood menu
9 Tough and stringy
10 Blasts of wind
11 Follow logically
12 Streep of “Florence Foster Jenkins”
15 Back-of-the-book material
18 2010 Eminem song featuring Lil Wayne
20 Battle of Hastings combatants
21 Tajikistan, once (abbr.)
22 Fictional anchorman Howard of “Network”
23 “Largest city in Somerset, known for Roman-built spas
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Answers on page 12.

This week’s SUDOKU

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DO YOU WANT TO RECOGNIZE A LOCAL HERO?

Whether they’re grocery shopping for a neighbor or volunteering for a nonprofit, you can spread the joy and support our journalism efforts by giving them a shout-out in the Palo Alto Weekly.

For $199, we’ll design a quarter-page announcement featuring your Local Hero. Just visit the Google form at the address below and include a 50-word description and an optional photo.

And a huge "thank you" to all the good neighbors in Palo Alto doing their best to shelter in place.

Submit entries at PaloAltoOnline.com/local_hero/

Cammie Vail

Cammie Vail (shown above at the podium) is the current Executive Director at the Palo Alto Community Fund. She has gone above and beyond during this time of crisis. In addition to her normal fundraising work, she has guided PACF to raise and distribute an additional $500,000 for direct financial relief to our local underserved population and to further support non-profits in Palo Alto and East Palo Alto since the start of the shelter-in-place orders.

Submitted by: Leonard Ely
Remodeled Open Concept Great Room: Beautiful home has Chefs kitchen 3 beds 2 spa baths + enclosed yard! Near Facebook.

Menlo Park $1,695,000

Menlo Park $3,549,000

Enjoy fantastic living in a prime location in Sharon Heights. A 14,690 sq ft lot located on a peaceful cul-de-sac. 4 bedrooms / 2.5 baths.

Menlo Park $3,549,000

Sharon Heights opportunity! 4 bed 3.5 Bath. 2,530+ sq ft Los Lomitas schools. Lot 10403.

Menlo Park $2,800,000

Menlo Park $2,800,000

New single family home in North Palo Alto. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths with 2-car garage attached. Moments to downtown Palo Alto area and high-tech companies.

Palo Alto $2,880,000

Brand new single family home in Menlo Park. 4 bed + office, 6 full bath, Sub Zero, Wolf appliances. Home theater and more. Schools-Walter Hays/Greene/Paly. Visit www.2189websterSt.com

Palo Alto $11,800,000

Where conversations are shared and culinary masterpieces are created. This is home, and it starts with Coldwell Banker®.

Menlo Park Portola Valley Palo Alto Los Altos