High school sports delayed until December

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When will kids go back?

Students to continue learning at home this fall, Newsom says

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Read up-to-the-minute news on PaloAltoOnline.com

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- Arts  Music@Menlo takes annual festival online  Page 23
- Eating Out  Charity program links farms to front lines  Page 26
on your list of safe places to go

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**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL RESTAURANTS**

Enjoy local takeout, delivery and outdoor dining options
Palo Alto schools won’t reopen in person this fall

State announces mask requirements for schools that do open and criteria for closing campuses in case of infections

by Elena Kadvany

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced on July 17 that public and private schools in counties on the state’s coronavirus watchlist — including, currently, Santa Clara County — cannot reopen for in-person instruction until they’ve been off the list for 14 days.

This means that schools in these counties must plan for full distance learning in the fall, and those that had hoped to reopen their campuses, including Palo Alto Unified, must switch gears. Counties on the watchlist have not met state benchmarks for positive case rates, hospitalizations and hospital capacity. Over the past nine days, Santa Clara County was on the list due to a high hospitalization rate, then taken off the list when that decreased, and then put on again when its rate of COVID-19 cases exceeded 100 per 100,000 residents.

Counts not being monitored by the state can decide in partnership with local health leaders whether to offer in-person instruction, Newsom said.

Palo Alto Unified Superintendent Don Austin sent a letter to staff and families on July 17 confirming that the district will not reopen its elementary schools in August as planned but instead will move to full distance learning for all students.

“The choice to begin instruction through distance learning was difficult and contrasted our desire to work directly with our students with the reality of a national pandemic,” he wrote.

In a press conference, Newsom cited the rise in coronavirus cases statewide as a driving force for the new mandate for reopening schools. As of July 21, California had nearly 414,000 confirmed cases, with 12,800 new confirmed cases since the day before — a 3.2% increase. Of California’s 58 counties, 37 were on the watchlist.

A call to action

A mural depicts George Floyd next to a quote from Langston Hughes’ poem “Freedom” in East Palo Alto’s Jack Farrell Park on June 11.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Commission calls for more restrictions on use of force by police

Citizens panel finds city falls short on numerous 8 Can’t Wait policies, urges revision

by Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto’s effort to discourage excessive force by police officers advanced on Wednesday night, when the city’s Human Relations Commission recommended a series of revisions to Police Department policies, as well as broader actions to address racial inequality.

The commission’s task was to evaluate the department’s compliance with the national 8 Can’t Wait campaign, which aims to curb police violence. Over the course of the evening, members wrestled with such questions as: When should officers be allowed to shoot at vehicles? Should officers be disciplined when they keep their body cameras off? And what types of grappling holds should officers be allowed to use?

The revision of police policies is part of the City Council’s recent response to the wave of public protests that have swept the nation since the May 25 killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer. In May, the council directed the commission to evaluate police policies as part of a broader effort to promote racial justice and inclusiveness.

Members of the commission characterized the 8 Can’t Wait assignment as an early — and relatively minor — step to address systemic racism in the city. Over the course of the long and at times tense discussion, commissioners zoomed in on each of the eight policies in the national campaign (these are: banning

(continued on page 32)
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ART FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD
Palo Alto’s Black Lives Matter mural is no longer just on Hamilton Avenue near City Hall. The public art piece that came together nearly a month ago is now on a T-shirt that went on sale July 14. Proceeds will go to Youth United for Community Action, an East Palo Alto-based youth nonprofit that works on environmental and social justice issues. Photographer Benny Villarreal is leading the effort after the city and Public Art Program approached him about the T-shirt idea. His photo of the mural is featured on the front of the shirt, with a list of the 16 artists involved in the project listed on the back. “I’m just happy to be a part of it. I’m just happy to bring more attention to this message,” he said. Villarreal consulted with the creatives to finalize which nonprofit would benefit from the sales. Some artists suggested connecting with larger nonprofits, but most felt those groups had their own financial support. “They just felt that it was important to not only keep it local, but also to keep it small,” he said. As of July 17, more than 35 orders had come in, according to Villarreal. The shirts are on sale for $30 each, ranging from extra small to 3X and are available in black, gray and white. For more information, visit digital-apparel-printing-llc.printavo.com/merch/blm-cali.

COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE
Palo Alto students who wanted to see the city lower the voting age for local elections to 16 faced a setback last month, when the City Council declined to consider placing the issue on this year’s ballot. Now, the vote16pa.wixsite.com/website campaign website. To learn more about the effort, visit vote16pa.wixsite.com/website.

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Upfront

I think just saying, ‘Oh I forgot,’ is not enough.

— Patricia Regehr, Human Relations Commissioner, on disciplinary policies for police who fail to turn on their body cameras. See story on page 5.

DIRECTORIAL DEBUT ... Palo Alto native Dave Franco, the actor who has graced Hollywood screens for more than a decade, is embarking on the next step in his career. The 35-year-old has written and directed his first film, “The Rental,” set to premiere across the country at drive-in theaters and on demand on Friday, July 24. The 89-minute, NR-rated horror movie follows two couples vacationing at an oceanside rental home. “What should have been a celebratory weekend trip turns into something far more sinister as well-kept secrets are exposed and the four old friends come to see each other in a whole new light,” according to distributor IFC Films. Franco’s wife, actress Alison Brie, is among the four main characters. In an interview published in the San Francisco Chronicle, Franco credited his first job at Palo Alto’s Midtown Video when he was 14 years old with sparking his interest in film. “It was actually illegal for me to be working there at that age, so they essentially paid me by letting me take home as many movies as I wanted, says Franco. “As I was fascinated by the creative process, I became my film school. They really made me want to be a part of the business.” Recent reviews indicate the film is worth watching. Rolling Stone gave it four out of five stars, saying Franco has set up “scary, twisted fun and emotional obstacles” for the protagonists. **The Rental** now has an 87% approval rating among the four main characters. In an interview published in the San Francisco Chronicle, Franco credited his first job at Palo Alto’s Midtown Video when he was 14 years old with sparking his interest in film. “It was actually illegal for me to be working there at that age, so they essentially paid me by letting me take home as many movies as I wanted, says Franco. “As I was fascinated by the creative process, I became my film school. They really made me want to be a part of the business.” Recent reviews indicate the film is worth watching. Rolling Stone gave it four out of five stars, saying Franco has set up “scary, twisted fun and emotional obstacles” for the protagonists. **The Rental** now has an 87% approval rating among the four main characters.
Mayor defends letter backing Caltrain tax
Adrian Fine asserts his authority to speak for the city
by Gennady Sheyner

The public dispute between Palo Alto’s mayor and vice mayor over a ballot measure to fund Caltrain escalated on Tuesday, July 21, when Mayor Adrian Fine fired off a missive defending his issuance of a letter on behalf of the city's support for placing the measure on the ballot. Fine defended his issuance of a letter on Monday on behalf of the city that strongly urged San Francisco supervisors to support placing a one-eighth cent sales tax measure to fund Caltrain on the November ballot.

The move came about a council meeting by surprise and prompted DuBois to issue his own letter, explaining to the various city and county leaders that Fine does not represent the full council, which has yet to discuss or take any positions on the issue.

“Despite its claims, the letter represents the position of Mayor Fine individually and does not carry any more weight than the position of any other member of our City Council,” DuBois wrote. “If it is represented to be more than an individual position, then the letter would be contrary to the authority of the mayor under our city charter.”

While Fine had declined to discuss his Monday statement with the Weekly, he argued in his Tuesday follow-up letter that DuBois’ message was “disputatious and misleading” and maintained that his own letter was written “in full accordance with City Council and city policies,” including the city’s legislative priorities and the council’s advocacy guidelines.

In short, Fine wrote, “the letter is not contrary to my authority as mayor; my colleagues and the vice mayor just disagree with the substance of the letter and are using process to make that clear.” It’s a pattern I’ve seen before, and it undermines the credibility our city has. Maybe that’s the pur-
pose,” Fine wrote.

DuBois wasn’t the only council member who said he was surprised to see Fine take a position on behalf of the city. Liz Kniss, a former member of the Caltrain Board of directors who is typically aligned with Fine, also said she was disappointed not to receive a warning from Fine.

She called the tax issue “contro-
versial” and said she was surprised to learn of Fine’s letter declaring the city’s support for placing the measure on the ballot.

“The issue has to do with not only the one-eighth of a cent, but it also has to do with governance and with where the one-eighth of a cent may end up,” Kniss said. “Different entities have very dif-
ferent ideas about how that should be spent,” she said, referring to the fact that, while council members have generally supported finding funding for Caltrain, they have also expressed concern over the years about the governance structure of the rail service, which is overseen by the San Mateo Count-

The argument over governance is particularly acute between the three counties where Caltrain operates (San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara) and the Big Dig because that the ballot measure faces.

Given the debate, DuBois and Kniss had both told the Weekly they were surprised to see what the measure looks like before taking a position.

“This is a more complicated issue than just funding Caltrain,” DuBois said Monday. “There are a lot of governance questions that would need to be addressed before we’d commit to supporting a tax.”

Fine agreed in his Tuesday day-letter that, when it comes to the sub-
stance of the measure, there are “issues with governance, ridership during COVID-19, and the regressive nature of a sales tax.”

“But the focus on governance and process issues that the vice mayor raises may well be some of their valid — is really just a road to nowhere, a do-nothing approach,” Fine wrote.

Fine wrote that he and his city support regional transit and called Caltrain a “vital part of our trans-
portation network.” He also said he was “disappointed to air Palo Alto’s dirty laundry in a letter like this.”

“Personally, it’s become tiresome and predictable to continu-
ously have the vice mayor run interference on the city’s business with which he disagrees,” Fine wrote. “I hope you all have coll-
agues who work in partnership and in service of your commu-
nities as you discuss and decide on the region’s transportation future.”

This was the second time that Fine has been criticized by his council colleagues for allegedly misrepresenting their positions. In January, he submitted a letter on city stationery in support of Senate Bill 50 — a proposal that (continued on page 39)

Seeking a more “progressive” government, commissioner joins council race
Steven Lee has criticized city leaders for failing to act on human rights issues
by Gennady Sheyner

Steven Lee, a member of the Palo Alto Human Relations Commission and an outspoken critic of City Council’s recent record on human rights, is joining the increasingly crowded race for a council seat.

Lee, a tech attorney who lives in Mid-
town, is declare-
ing his candidacy as his term on the commis-

Steve Lee says he wants to see Palo Alto become a more bold, progressive and responsive community. He also wants to see a council that is more accountable to residents and is quicker to act on priorities such as building housing and launching programs to assist those in most need within the community.

He believes that Palo Alto’s housing shortage is inextricably linked to other issues with which the city is grappling, including public safety, sustainability and transportation. After years of fail-
ing to meet its own housing goals, the city has a lot of catching up to do, Lee told the Weekly.

“If we want to maintain local control, we must also exercise local responsibility by making it easier to build new housing that meets community needs,” Lee said.

This, he said, means encour-
aging all types of housing except luxury condos and prioritizing residential development over offices.

“It’s hard to say you’re serious about housing if you keep digging yourself into a deeper hole,” Lee said, pointing to the city’s high jobs-housing imbalance.

As a commissioner, Lee has not shied away from controversy. He was dismayed when the council did not adopt in 2018 the gender-

quality initiative known as the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Dis-

crimination Against Women, for which he had advocated. Earlier this month, he penned an opinion piece in the Weekly in which he criticized the council for referring the proposed ordinance to a com-
mitee and for failing to act on it for nearly two years.

He also took issue with the Palo Alto Regional Transportation District decision in 2018 to not rename a local middle school after Fred Yama-

moto, a decorated war veteran and Palo graduate who you have served as a passionate and, at times, outspoken advocate for social services, police reforms and pro-

grams that encourage inclusiv-

ess. He proudly wears the mantle of “progressive Democrat” and

ELECTION 2020

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ELECTION 2020

Black Lives Matter activist
Raven Malone to run for council

Engineer’s priorities include policing, housing and expanding city’s fiber network

by Gonnady Shoeyner

Raven Malone, an engineer who wants to bring a community-led approach to policing in Palo Alto, has added her name to the City Council race.

Malone, who has been active in the Black Lives Matter movement, said she is concerned that the current council isn’t being responsive enough to the community when it comes to issues such as police reform and housing. She is hoping to change that.

“I’ve been advocating and listening to Palo Altans who feel like City Hall isn’t listening to them,” Malone said. “I decided to step up to ensure that the City Council listens and collaborates to serve the whole community.”

Malone grew up in Mobile, Alabama, and spent two years in San Jose before moving to Palo Alto’s Triple E neighborhood earlier this year, she told the Weekly. She currently works for Perspecta, a Virginia-based technology company in the defense industry.

Malone, 28, said one of her top priorities, if elected, would be to reimagine public safety. To her, this means having unarmed personnel rather than sworn officers take the lead on issues such as homelessness, mental health issues and domestic violence (though an officer may at times need to accompany an unarmed professional for domestic violence cases). This is similar to the type of approach that is currently being advanced in Berkeley, which is shifting the responsibility for issuing traffic citations from police officers to unarmed civilians.

Malone has spoken out in favor of “defunding the police,” an approach that shifts dollars and responsibilities from the Police Department to community services workers. She has preached the message at recent rallies following the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer and on her Facebook page, where she expresses support putting some of the funds that are currently used for police toward community programs and homeless services.

If elected, she said she would also turn her attention to improving public infrastructure and addressing the city’s housing crisis. On infrastructure, she said, one of her priorities would be to revive the city’s Fiber to the Premises effort, a bid to expand the city’s underground fiber-optic network to every neighborhood. While the city has been talking about this project for decades and has commissioned numerous studies and business plans, it has only made incremental improvements to the existing system, which largely serves commercial customers and businesses. The COVID-19 pandemic, Malone said, has made high-speed internet access more critical than ever.

“We should get fiber into every home in Palo Alto. ... So many of us are working from home or have children at home doing schoolwork. ... Now is a better time to do it,” Malone said.

Another infrastructure project that Malone said she feels strongly about is flood protection. She took part in a rescue effort when Hurricane Harvey devastated parts of Texas and Louisiana in 2017. She said she and her friends rented a truck, drove to Texas and then spent four days helping people get out of their flooded homes.

After learning about the massive February 1998 flood that hit Palo Alto, Menlo Park and East Palo Alto, she wants to make sure that the cities improve flood protection around the volatile San Francisquito Creek.

The cities already made some strides to beef up protection when they completed the construction of levees downstream of U.S. Highway 101, a project that was led by the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority. Now, efforts are underway to reconstruct and boost capacity at some of the bridges that span the creek, including the Newell Road Bridge.

On housing, she believes Palo Alto should prioritize shelter for the neediest and for those who have been priced out of rental housing. This means moving ahead with the creation of “safe parking” spaces for individuals who are sleeping in cars, construction of “tiny homes” and working with nonprofits to create housing for teachers, people with disabilities and low-income workers.

Some first responders and teachers currently have to commute two to three hours per day, she said.

In contrast to those who believe the city should focus exclusively on below-market-rate housing, she believes Palo Alto needs more housing for all income levels.

“We need to create both affordable housing for our workers, our seniors, people who work here and can’t afford to live here, and still need to create market-rate housing and townhomes,” Malone said.

She also believes that the city can do more to address its legacy of discrimination when it comes to housing. This includes removing racial exclusion clauses from deeds that exclude Black people (and in some cases Chinese and Japanese residents) from occupying the homes. Even though these restrictions have not been legal since 1948, they have not entirely disappeared from the deeds, Malone said. She believes it’s time to change that and said the city should be proactive on the issue.

“As a Black person myself, I can imagine how hurtful and painful it would be to buy a brand-new home and read the deed and see that it says that the home shouldn’t be sold to a Black person,” Malone said.

Staff Writer Gonnady Shoeyner can be emailed at gshoeyner@paweekly.com.
Greg Tanaka, a tech CEO who over the past four years has established himself as the City Council's most vocal fiscal hawk, announced Wednesday that he will seek a second council term.

Tanaka, who served on the Planning and Transportation Commission before joining the council in 2016, has been a consistent and persistent critic of the council’s budget decisions. He is frequently the sole dissenter on expenditures that he deems excessive—view as routine, including utility contracts and street repairs. He was one of two council members who voted against the budget that the council approved in June (along with Lydia Kou), which cut about $40 million in expenditures. He was also the sole dissenter of last year’s budget, which was ultimately adopted by the council majority.

The College Terrace resident has regularly challenged city staff on budget and staffing issues, often citing his own independent research or pointing to examples from other cities. He argued at an April meeting that the city has “too many chiefs” in its ranks and urged the council to pursue a management-structure study, consistent with the wishes of the city’s largest union, Service Employees International Union, Local 521.

On this issue, as on many others over the years pertaining to finances, he found himself in a lonely position on the council as he criticized city staff for what he perceived as excessive spending on public communications, public art projects and utility programs. During recent budget talks, he repeatedly lamented that the city has too many people working in “PR (public relations)” and questioned whether the city should be spending hundreds of thousands on a “fingerprint,” a reference to digital artwork that the city had commissioned for its future public safety building.

He has pushed staff and his colleagues to defer capital projects, such as the new police building and a proposed replacement fire station next to Mitchell Park, an area in which he found numerous allies but little success.

Tanaka acknowledged his status as the council’s dissenter-in-chief in a September 2018 meeting, when he accused his colleagues of having “no backbone to stick to the budget.”

“I hate being the 8-1 vote all the time. No one else seems to care,” Tanaka said at that meeting (the council had since reduced its size from nine to seven members).

That’s what we have to do, otherwise we’re burning our city. We are burning future generations. We are hollowing out the city now by not sticking to the budget.”

Tanaka cemented his status as the council’s regular odd man out in January, when the council was selecting a vice mayor and found itself in a 3-3 deadlock. Tanaka abstained from the vote and the stalemate was only resolved when Councilwoman Alison Cormack deferred to Tom DuBois, who was subsequently elected vice mayor.

Tanaka was also the only dissenting vote on the city’s decision in 2019 to pursue a business tax (an effort that the council halted when the pandemic hit) and, more recently, on approving the new lease with the Palo Alto Unified School District for space in the Cubberley Community Center.

On land-use issues, Tanaka has been generally aligned with council members who favor more permissive growth policies, including Mayor Adrian Fine, Councilwoman Liz Kniss and Cormack. His campaign has received financial support from numerous developers, including limited liability companies associated with prominent developers Thoits Brothers, Sand Hill Property Company and Salt Giovanni. In the second half of 2019, according to financial disclosures.

In announcing his plans for re-election, Tanaka touted his experience in dealing with city finances. As the Council’s Finance Committee chair, he worked to “eliminate wasteful spending” and was “frequently the lone vote against unaffordable staff raises.” More so than his colleagues, Tanaka expressed frustrations last month with the fact that the city’s largest labor union will be receiving 3% raises in December, the city’s budget deficit notwithstanding.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing shut-down upended the local economy, Tanaka often talked about the challenges that local businesses and residents have experienced. He has repeatedly voted against raising the city’s utility rates, adjustments that invariably proceeded despite his opposition.

Before serving on the planning commission, Tanaka volunteered in the College Terrace Residents Association, where he served as president. He was also a member of the city’s Infrastructure

Greg Tanaka

ELECTION 2020

Greg Tanaka seeks another four years on City Council

College Terrace resident often challenges colleagues and staff on budget issues by Gennady Sheyner

Pet’s In Need’s Cause for Big Paws program is aimed at saving big dogs from being put down. Members of our team regularly travel to shelters in the Central Valley and East Bay that may have less capacity to house big dogs because of financial or space constraints. We rescue dogs that are at greatest risk for being put down and either care for them at our shelter or place them with foster families until they are adopted.

The Cause for Big Paws program relies heavily on fosters who volunteer to take dogs into their hearts and homes until they find a forever family. Pets In Need provides fosters with the food, supplies and medical care an animal needs, and volunteers open their homes for as long as they can, whether one week or several.

To become a Big Paws foster or adopter or to learn more about how you can support the program, visit www.petsinneed.org/volunteer

UPFRONT

DO YOU HAVE ROOM IN YOUR HEART & HOME FOR SOME BIG PAWS?

A CAUSE AS BIG AS YOUR HEART.

PETS IN NEED'S CAUSE FOR BIG PAWS PROGRAM

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(650) 496-5971

Redwood City Shelter
871 5th Avenue, Redwood City
(650) 367-1405
As COVID-19 infections continue to spread, demand for diagnostic tests has put a strain on resources. But a technique known as “specimen pooling,” which more efficiently analyzes tests, could be a game changer.

Specimen pooling, also known as group testing, can vastly increase the number of tests conducted, save scarce resources, reduce costs and speed up results, researchers say.

In specimen pooling, nasal-swab samples taken for the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) diagnostic test, which identifies active virus infections, are collected in individual vials. But the specimens are then combined into small batches and analyzed together. A batch that tests negative means all of those patients do not have the virus; if a batch has a positive result, then all of the patients in that pool are retested individually, he said. Each patient’s specimen is divided into subsamples and applied to tests against different sets of kits.

“If we are doing 2,000 tests per day and convert to pooling we can do 20,000 per day,” Zehnder said. Stanford could also save an estimated 25% in test and processing costs, according to Zehnder.

Pooling specimens would also help reduce supply shortages. Various components of the test kits have been in short supply at different times since March: pipette tips, reagent and other chemicals for transporting the tests to labs, Zehnder said. Stanford has been fortunate because it has largely been able to get around the shortages through its innovations, for example, by 3D-printing its own nasal swabs, he said.

Specimen pooling has been successfully used for more than 70 years. It is currently used at blood banks to screen donations for a variety of viruses.

David Donoho, Stanford University professor of statistics, said specimen pooling was used in the early days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, when antibody tests for the virus were restricted to a limited number of kits.

“There are many, many examples. It’s proven itself over a lot of years. Mass testing gives us a safe path out of lockdown, and just by using math, we can do that today,” he said.

Donoho and colleagues Mahsa Lotfi and Batu Ozturkler published their research on worldwide emergent mathematical and statistical ideas regarding COVID-19 specimen pooling on July 15 in a publication by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

Researchers are examining ways to push the output further using math and statistics, squeezes the largest number of test samples into the fewest number of tests possible, Donoho said.

More advanced research is also looking at ways to pinpoint people in group testing who test positive so they won’t have to be retested individually, he said. Each patient’s specimen is divided into a number of subsamples and applied to tests against different sets of patients. The results can be laid out in a table to identify individuals who are likely testing positive.

“We create a kind of a Sudoku puzzle and solve it using math smarts” to find out which people among a group have the virus, he said.

Specimen pooling may have some limitations if infection prevalence in a population is high, Zehnder and Donoho said. COVID-19 also has a five- to 14-day incubation period, so someone might test negative if they are still at the very early stages of the disease.

The pooling method received a boost last weekend after the FDA authorized one laboratory, Quest Diagnostics, to conduct small-scale test batching through an emergency authorization, the company announced on July 18.

Quest’s FDA-authorized testing guidelines note that specimens with low amounts of the virus also may not be detected in sample pools due to the decreased sensitivity of pooled testing. But Donoho considers that’s less of a problem.

(continued on next page)
Pooled
(continued from previous page)

with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, because the PCR test can detect as few as 10 virus particles in a sample. A person with COVID-19 can shed millions of particles, he noted. “It’s a very gradually improving. Teams that moderate levels of pooling are not a problem,” he said.

Specimen pooling could also make another goal possible: test- ing people frequently and repeatedly. Continuous testing would help catch the virus in its early stages even after someone initially tests negative, Donoho said.

Stanford’s Dr. Benjamin Pinsky, associate professor of pathol- ogy and infectious diseases at the School of Medicine, used pooled specimens earlier this year to track the early prevalence of the disease.

Other parts of the country are already conducting pooled speci- men testing, such as the state of Nebraska and University of Ne- braska system, he said. Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, will also pool tests this fall when the campus reopens.

Dr. Jay G. Wohlgenuth, senior vice president and chief medical officer at Quest Diagnostics, was cautious optimistic in a July 18 company statement that specimen pooling will help improve testing result times.

“Pooling will help expand testing capacity but it is not a magic bullet, and testing times will con- tinue to be strained as long as soaring COVID-19 test demand outpaces capacity. Each of us can practice behaviors that will reduce COVID-19 infections in our communities, so our national healthcare system can better re- spond to this crisis,” he said. ■

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be emailed at sdremann@ peweekly.com.

Monitoring
(continued from page 5)

will be charged with doing in the weeks and months ahead, not what the pain to communities, schools and businesses will be.

“It has been clear from the out- set of this pandemic that we are going to have to work through all of this with an ever-changing set of circumstances,” he said by phone on Wednesday. “All of us are looking for certainty” but the coronavirus is uncharted ground.

The government and the state have struggled with whether to take actions on a county-by-coun- ty basis, a state basis or a blend of both, he said.

“The watchlist is particularly unsettling,” he said.

Santa Clara County has a low hospitalization rate compared to other areas of the state, so even a modest uptick equates to a sig- nificant percentage, which places the county back on the watchlist, he said.

“We’re going to be swamped a bit by the state. Folks were told they can open nail and hair salons and fitness centers on Monday and then closed again on Wednes- day. This whiplash works a ter- rible hardship on businesses,” he said.

Judy Kleinberg, president of the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, said the revolving door of health orders and the layers of state and county rulings are the source of great frustration for businesses and damaging to morale.

“Each business that has been able to open in a limited way has made commitments to work- ers and made financial outlays to accommodate the health restric- tions, and then their plans have been abruptly changed. The toler- ance for these abrupt changes is wearing thin with really no one to blame,” she said.

“The ‘we’re all in this together’ mantra is barely resonating at this point when some businesses are open, even partially, or are out on the street, and others are open, then closed, then open outside — and others aren’t allowed to open at all,” she said in an email.

While Santa Clara County is on the watchlist, San Mateo County is not, which also presents challenges.

“If there is any confusion, it’s that neighboring counties have different rules, which undercuts confidence in the reasoning for backtracking on the reopening,” she said. “We started with a co- ordinated response of all seven counties, and all businesses were in the same boat and the messag- ing was consistent. Now there are mixed messages and businesses can’t function without certainty and a modicum of predictability,” she said.

Kleinberg favors regional deci- sions rather than county-by-coun- ty ones.

“I would re-establish the re- gional approach to have all Bay Area counties following the same rules and same timeline,” Klein- berg said. “It different from one county to another in terms of the watchlist is only due to the existence of political bound- aries. That’s just not how the Bay area functions socially or economically.”

Similitan believes it’s important for the state and counties to pick a set of metrics and stick with them.

“There is going to be this critical- tional tension between economic activity and protecting people’s health. Asking public health offi- cers to thread that needle is going to take a lot of care.” ■

Staff Writer Sue Dremann can be emailed at sdremann@ peweekly.com.

Kay Hamilton Miller
February 10, 1936 – June 2, 2020

Kay Hamilton Miller, loving wife, mother and sister, passed away peacefully in her sleep on June 2nd, 2020 in Palo Alto, California at the age of 84 after battling cancer. Kay grew up the oldest of eight children on the family ranch in Patterson, CA, which was homesteaded by her great-grandfather in the mid-1800’s. An excellent student, she attended Stanford University where she studied International Relations. At Stanford, Kay met the love of her life, Thomas Miller, on a blind date. Kay and Tom enjoyed a loving, life-long marriage of over 60 years. After Kay’s graduation from Stanford, they moved to Seattle where Tom attended grad school. Afterward, they settled in Palo Alto where they raised their two children, sharing their love of literature, theater, athletics, art, and nature. Kay worked for TSI, a company which made a reading instrument for the blind, and also for the Women’s Action Center. Kay was a warm, loving, generous person who loved spending time with her family and friends. She was always quick to celebrate any and all special occasions. A self-taught painter, she enjoyed visiting art museums and galleries.

She is survived by her beloved husband Thomas Miller, her son Matthew Miller, and daughter Kathy Miller Kelley, as well as by her three beautiful grandchildren, Elizabeth, Isabella and Adeline. She is also survived by her six siblings: Donna Ensminger, Marilyn Schmidt, Gail Hamilton, Marsha Hamilton, Chris Hamilton and Robert Hamilton.

A private funeral service will be held at a future date.

Albert Joseph Keicher
May 30, 1935 – June 12, 2020

Albert (Al) Keicher, beloved and loving husband, father and grandfather, was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Joseph and Lydia Keicher, recent immigrants from Erlenbach, Germany. Shortly after, the family moved to St. Albans, New York, where Al grew up. He commuted to Manhattan to attend La Salle Academy and Manhattan College, where he received a degree in microwave engineering. During this time he was an avid member of The Sons of Liberty, a performing fife and drum corps where he played fife. He was employed for three years by Sperry Gyroscope in Great Neck, New York, relocating to California in 1962 to join the Accelerator Structures Program at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. He became one of the original Accelerator Operators, later becoming a Chief Operator. In 1975 he moved on to the PEP program and later was involved with the SLAC Linear Collider program. In 1963 he married Patricia Hoffman, whom he met through the Stanford Catholic Graduates Club. Together they established a family home in Palo Alto where they raised their three daughters. He was a member of the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community. Upon retiring, Al fulfilled his lifelong dream of enjoying country life by establishing a family retreat in the back hills of Angels Camp. He divided his time between Palo Alto and Angels Camp until February when he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. His last months were spent quietly, surrounded by those who loved him. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, three daughters, Elizabeth Zimmermann (Michael), Jeanne Keicher and Katherine Gillespie (James), granddaughters Anika and Marlena Zimmermann and Jaselin Drown, grandson Liam Gillespie, brother Rudolph Keicher of Vermont, nieces Julie Herbert and Lynn Parchinski, and his many cherished cousins in Germany. He was predeceased by his infant son James. Al will be greatly missed.

A memorial Celebration of Life will be held in his honor after the COVID pandemic allows.
Mary Ann Hayward
March 9, 1936 – July 14, 2020

Mary Ann Hayward died on July 14 in Elkins, NH. She was a resident of Palo Alto from 1989-2018, moving here with her husband, Dr. Edward Harris (Ted) when he became Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Stanford. Their marriage ended in divorce.

During her years in Palo Alto she was a professional fundraiser. She worked as Associate Director of Youth and Family Assistance where she raised money for runaway and homeless teenagers, a job she called "endlessly rewarding." With Rich Gordon, Executive Director of YFA, she initiated the first Starting Line Breakfast, an event that has become an important and popular annual fundraiser. Later she worked as Senior Associate at American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley, a premier program whose purpose is to promote community, philanthropy, and leadership in Silicon Valley.

While managing the Senior Fellows program for graduates of ALFSV, she wrote the newsletter, led the annual fund drive and wrote major grants. She was also a member of ALFSV’s Class X and participated in the various programs as well as the one-week hike in the Sierras. Working at ALF and participation in the Class X year was “transformative,” she said, as she experienced the power of people working together.

While living in Palo Alto she volunteered in a number of organizations, first at Families in Transition, a program started by Ilyse Pons, founder of the organization and the families in East Palo Alto. She was a member of the board of Friends For Youth in Palo Alto under her loving roof.

Mary Ann was born in Boston, and she graduated from Cambridge City Hospital School of Nursing in 1951. Jeanne started her high school at Newton High School (John Loo Slaney, d. 1997), and the family relocated to California, settling in Palo Alto in 1968. The family lived in Southgate, on Miramonte Avenue, a short walk to Paly High. The house was famous for the streams of children seen coming and going. Thoughtful conversations were a hallmark of the home, as Jeanne actively supported a number of social causes, including the rights of the United Farmworkers in the 1970s. She inspired her children to volunteer at the Palo Alto Recycling Center when it first opened. A sight to behold was the family and friends serving the neighborhood with Christmas baskets and gifts. The son attended one or more of Garland Elementary, Jordan Junior High and Paly High.

As her children left the home and she divorced, Jeanne returned to school. She earned an Associate Arts degree in geology from Merrimack College in Massachusetts. She began to paint in her free time and sold her paintings in many galleries around the world, including Baja, Nova Scotia and Europe. In her later years, she discovered the joys of painting, tai chi and goddess studies. In 2000, Jeanne moved to Santa Rosa, CA, for its scenery and to remain near the soothing shores of the Pacific Ocean. Rarely a week passed that she did not venture to the calming vistas of California's north coast. Her gentle bravery, strong independence and unwavering hope for a more just society shall continue to inspire all who hold close to her heart—and there are many!

Jeanne is survived by her eight loving children, Patricia Slaney Arabia (Husband of Oakland, CA; John Slaney (Lisa) of Santa Cruz, CA; Rosemary Cosca (Mike) of Evergreen, CO; Elizabeth Slaney (Matt) of Healdsburg, CA; Jean Rietz (David) of San Leandro, CA; Christopher Slaney of Santa Monica, CA; Jennifer Slaney of Sacramento, CA; and Carolyn Slaney (Steve) of Portland, OR.

She is survived by fourteen adoring grandchildren, Erick Arabia; Benjamin Arabia; Paige Slaney; Rachel Slaney; Noah Slaney; Stephanie Cosca; Nicolas Cosca; Andrew Rietz; Taylor Rietz; Daniel Rietz; Claire Slaney; Colin Slaney; Aine Huntington; and Mave Huntington.

She was preceded in death by her beloved sisters, Anne Murphy (Newton, MA); and Dorothea Baron (Salem, NH).

Jeanne Marie Slaney
March 3, 1931 – July 6, 2020

Jeanne Marie Slaney, a resident of Palo Alto from 1968 to 2000, passed away on July 6 in Santa Rosa, CA, from complications following a stroke. She was 89. Retaining her brave and independent spirit to the last, she is survived by eight children, all of whom grew up in Palo Alto under her loving roof.

Jeanne was born Jean Marie Deloskey on March 3, 1931, in New Jersey. Later, her family moved near Boston, and she graduated from Cambridge City Hospital School of Nursing in 1951. Jeanne married her high school sweetheart (John Loo Slaney, d. 1997). and the family relocated to California, settling in Palo Alto in 1968. The family lived in Southgate, on Miramonte Avenue, a short walk to Paly High. The house was famous for the streams of children seen coming and going. Thoughtful conversations were a hallmark of the home, as Jeanne actively supported a number of social causes, including the rights of the United Farmworkers in the 1970s. She inspired her children to volunteer at the Palo Alto Recycling Center when it first opened. A sight to behold was the family and friends serving the neighborhood with Christmas baskets and gifts.

The son attended one or more of Garland Elementary, Jordan Junior High and Paly High. As her children left the home and she divorced, Jeanne returned to school. She earned an Associate Arts degree in geology from Merrimack College in Massachusetts. She began to paint in her free time and sold her paintings in many galleries around the world, including Baja, Nova Scotia and Europe. In her later years, she discovered the joys of painting, tai chi and goddess studies. In 2000, Jeanne moved to Santa Rosa, CA, for its scenery and to remain near the soothing shores of the Pacific Ocean. Rarely a week passed that she did not venture to the calming vistas of California's north coast. Her gentle bravery, strong independence and unwavering hope for a more just society shall continue to inspire all who hold close to her heart—and there are many!

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She was preceded in death by her beloved sisters, Anne Murphy (Newton, MA); and Dorothea Baron (Salem, NH).

Memorial services will be held at a future date. Kindly consider comments to the Tribute Wall, they will bring comfort to the family (www.DanielsChapelofthe Roses.com).

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Jeanne’s well-loved Sonoma County Parks in the name of Jeanne Slaney (SonomaCountyParksFoundation.org).
1539 Mariposa Avenue, Palo Alto
Bedrooms: 3  |  Bathrooms: 2.5  |  Living: 2,049 sq ft  |  Lot: 6,960 Sq ft
List Price: $2,598,000

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- Nancy L.

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Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties
Data from贝壳Metrics* based on MLS sales from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019, in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties combined, residential properties, with no of MLS sales included in the rankings.

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com
中文諮詢聯絡Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
# Congratulations to the Top Real Estate Agents & Teams in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties 2019

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<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>Agent/Team Name</th>
<th>Brokerage</th>
<th>Organized as Agent or Team</th>
<th>Key Team Members</th>
<th>Total Sales*</th>
<th>Listing Sales</th>
<th>Buyer Sales</th>
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Although all DeLeon sellers work directly with Michael Repka and Audrey Sun, the DeLeon Team has far more resources and a more robust staff than any independent contractor agent or small team. That, coupled with our innovative business model, creates many operational efficiencies that allow us to do considerably more volume and offer more services than traditional agents. Nevertheless, clients regularly choose between the DeLeon Team's integrated model, and the traditional approach practiced by most other agents and teams, so we believe a direct and transparent comparison is helpful.

Search criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics* using MLS Data January 1st, 2019 - December 31st, 2019, Santa Clara County and San Mateo County, Residential Property (Single Family Home, Condominium, Townhouse, Manufactured Home, Floating Home, Dwell Home, Multiple on Lot, Farm/Ranch, Other Residential, Double Wide Mobile Home, Duplex). *Recip is an amalgamation of many out of the area agents. Hugh Cornish operates functionally as a team but splits the team sales amongst the members when reporting sales to the MLS. For purposes of accuracy, we have combined the sales of the individual members of the Hugh Cornish and Associates. Tom LeMieux operates functionally as a team but splits the team sales amongst the members when reporting sales to the MLS. For purposes of accuracy, we have combined the sales of the individual members of the LeMieux team. *Total sales includes both the listing sales and buyer sales. No-off MLS sales were included in the rankings.
Spectrum
Editorials, letters and opinions

Guest Opinion
Now’s not the time for full Foothills Park discussion

by Roger Smith

I formed two charities 14 years ago: Friends of the Palo Alto Parks, under the assumption that the city would not have enough money for our parks, and Mothers Against Murder (MAM), to assist victims of violent crime and their families.

The city is not safe. It’s facing many major issues that are much more important than opening the Foothills Park preserve to all. Some major issues that the council has never addressed: the large number of auto break-ins that occur daily (it happened to me on July 20) and the increased thefts of catalytic converters that have been happening in our community and in the surrounding communities that have large numbers of Black and Hispanic citizens.

Few residents know of the shooting on Embarcadero Road in our town on June 10. Seven shots were fired at a young Black man at a stoplight. I met personally with the victim, who showed me the bullet holes in his car. Thankfully he was not murdered. Mothers Against Murder has offered a $10,000 reward to solve this outrageous act of violence in our city.

Days later, I attended the Black Lives Matter march and rally at our City Hall. Many presentations were made at the two-hour rally. There was no mention of the violent shooting at a Black man, or any mention at all of the victims in the Embarcadero shooting.

No ranger was there during the time I was there and at least 50 bikers whisked by the front gate.

A council member riding his bike, Eric Filseth, stopped to talk to me. He thanked me for doing this and asked about the results of my survey. The final answer was: “No question, ask the animals.” I would love to be able to ask the animals. Clearly, additional visitors will not add anything to this beautiful one-of-a-kind preserve.

There will be more cars, trash, 911 calls, fire danger, staff time and wear and tear, fire danger, staff time and expense. We don’t need crowds like those in San Antonio (a county preserve).

Why do a decision need to be made now, during these unprecedented times in our nation?

• We are in a severe recession, many of our local businesses are closed
• The city is under enormous financial strain laying off 60 employees
• The unfilled position of a head ranger has been frozen
• Council meetings are now done on Zoom and not in person as we all would prefer
• The parks and recreation department has cut or delayed their budgets slashed and also have closed park facilities. (For over a year, I have replaced — at my expense — damaged or missing Ping-Pong tables at Lytton Plaza twice a week due to lack of city funds.)

I feel there is much better use of our time, effort and limited money than what we are discussing in a long old issue of the preserve opening.

The preserve land was purchased by the Lee family at a favorable price of $2.2 million. The condition it would be preserved as open space. Our city contacted various of our neighboring cities to join in this expensive, wonderful project from our 150,000 citizens.

In addition, gun violence also exists in our community and in the surrounding communities that have large numbers of Black and Hispanic citizens.

This is not the Palo Alto way!

I urge my fellow residents to contact the Council at city.council@cityofpaloalto.org and ask for a fuller discussion of Foothills Park not be held now but after the current crises are over.

Roger Smith is the founding CEO of Silicon Valley Bank (now retired) and a board member of nonprofits. He can be emailed at rsvsmith7@yahoo.com.

Letters
Is it safe?

Editor,

I read your July 15 article on the teaching staff lobbying for full distance learning, and as a middle school student, I completely agree that any in-person learning is not safe.

I think it’s a valid concern that some students may not wear masks when adults aren’t around, which could happen at times during the day, especially since there are more students than teachers. This can lead to students piling each other on face masks, creating a very tense and unwelcoming environment. There’s also more peer pressure in middle school.

Standing up to students who are not wearing masks is a difficult thing to ask us to do. In fact, kids my age are probably less inclined to call out their peers.

Social distancing is also a challenge for older kids as the article mentioned. We’re at an age where we want to be with our friends and peers. There’s also the logistical issues. Even if more classrooms are used for less students, is it realistic for custodians to disinfect the rooms effectively or timely between classes? Also, what about our lockers? My school’s lockers are right next to each other and it’s almost impossible to physically distance and who keeps people from touching my locker? Biking to school is also a challenge, since not all bike lanes are 6 feet apart, and there’s often a lot of kids biking to school at once.

Finally, how can the school ensure everyone’s social distancing is consistent? If the pandemic worsens during in-person learning and we must go back to remote learning like we did during the school semester, can our teachers quickly adapt? Is hybrid learning really safe before we have a vaccine? Will students still be expected to go back to campus without one? And are schools considering possible transmission and its extended effects to older, more vulnerable, family members?

Is it too much to ask our schools and teachers to consider students’ safety as well as their parents?

Tayton Chow-Gregory
Dana Avenue, Palo Alto

What do you think?

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

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

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1705 Fulton Street, Palo Alto

Luxury and Style on an Iconic Palo Alto Street

Just around the corner from Rinconada Park, and a little over one mile to the excitement of University Avenue, this 5-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom home offers nearly 3,400 square feet of luxury living space, nestled on almost 8,600 square feet on one of the most iconic streets in all of Palo Alto. Set on a corner lot and boasting outstanding curb appeal, this home features high-end appointments everywhere you turn, from hardwood floors, to fine millwork, to detailed ceilings. Elegant public spaces invite entertaining on a grand scale, the kitchen includes appliances from Thermador and Viking, and a fireplace centers the office so you can work from home in comfort and style. Enjoy the delightful sunroom that leads to the backyard, where you will find great space for outdoor fun. Located on Fulton Street, known throughout the Peninsula as “Christmas Tree Lane” during the holiday season thanks to the amazingly decorated homes that line the block, this home is also convenient to everything Palo Alto has to offer, and is within walking distance of top-ranked Palo Alto schools.

For virtual open houses & more photos, please visit:

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RECOGNIZING LOCAL HEROES

The Gamble Garden Volunteers

A sincere THANK YOU to the Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden Volunteers! We are grateful to the 400 volunteers who contribute over 35,000 hours every year. We would also like to thank especially the wonderful weekly “Dirty Knees” Garden Volunteers. The Dirty Knees are back at work, helping to ensure the garden is safe and beautiful for everyone who visits.

The volunteers and staff are dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the historic house and garden as an oasis of beauty and tranquility while also providing a community resource for horticultural education, inspiration, and enjoyment.

Gamble Garden is a non-profit organization, open-gate garden, free to all our Bay Area neighbors every day. The garden is located at 1431 Waverley Street, Palo Alto. Learn more at www.gamblegarden.org/volunteer.

Submitted by: Jennifer Smith & Roger Smith

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/
Music@Menlo’s ‘Intermezzo’ takes the annual festival online

When a global pandemic struck a century ago, where did performing-arts audiences turn? David Finckel, who with fellow musician Wu Han is co-founder and co-artistic director of the Music@Menlo festival, researched the question and learned that during the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic, masked audiences packed concerts as soon as performance spaces reopened.

“People were so hungry for music that they just had to go back to concert halls,” he said.

But the risk of contagion at live performances was so high that apparently audience members could be ejected from the hall just for coughing, Finckel said.

Though such a strict practice might fulfill the fantasies of a few modern-day concert-goers, this year’s Music@Menlo chamber music festival has found a far better solution for satisfying listeners’ hungry souls, while keeping audiences, artists and everyone behind the scenes safe (with absolutely no cough drops needed), Music@Menlo usually takes place every summer in Atherton, and the festival’s 2020 edition, with the theme “Intermezzo,” boasts a schedule that’s as packed as any other year, with three weeks of daily musical events, including an anticipated album release — all online. “Intermezzo” launched last week and runs through Aug. 8.

Music@Menlo is carrying on, but it’s not business as usual. The coronavirus pandemic led Finckel and Wu Han to postpone this year’s planned “Haydn Connection” festival online to benefit artists are encouraged. Find a full schedule and links to watch the performances with its Explorers series, which includes the Calidore String Quartet (July 26) performing Beethoven’s String Quartet in B-flat major, op. 130 and Grosse Fuge in B-flat major, op. 133; and pianist Michael Brown and cellist Nicholas Canellakis (Aug. 2) with a program still to be announced.

Finckel noted that the Explorers series actually came about from artists reaching out to Music@Menlo to share their current projects. He hinted that there may be more “Explorers” performances sometime in the future.

“Intermezzo” also features a July 26 live online launch party, which celebrates the release of a new recording of Franz Schubert’s masterwork, “Winterreise,” by Nikolay Borchev, baritone, and festival co-director Wu Han, piano.

The launch party will be hosted by Oliver Condy of BBC Magazine, who has covered Wu Han and Finckel’s work for over 20 years. “Winterreise” is a challenging piece for both vocalist and pianist, and though it tells quite a tragic story, “it is one of art’s most profound and beautiful human journeys to be found anywhere on the planet,” Finckel said.

All events are free, although donations to benefit artists are encouraged. Find a full schedule and links to watch the performances at musicatmenlo.org.

Assistant Editor Heather Zimmerman can be emailed at hzimmerman@pawekly.com.
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Just steps away from beautiful Heritage Park, and a short walk to the excitement of University Avenue, this bright, spacious condominium offers stylish living in an ultra-convenient location. With 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and nearly 1,700 square feet of living space, this home is ideal for a modern lifestyle, with a living area centered by a fireplace, the kitchen with high-end appliances from Bosch, Thermador, and Sub-Zero, and the master suite with a private balcony overlooking the park. This wonderful location also puts you close to Stanford, the Stanford Shopping Center, and within walking distance of Caltrain. Plus, children may attend acclaimed schools including Addison Elementary and Palo Alto High, both of which are less than a mile away, as well as Greene Middle (buyer to verify eligibility).

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It started with a box of cherries. Maria Gregorio, a Palo Alto resident and Stanford University IT professional, saw a Nextdoor post in May from a neighbor organizing a group buy of farm-fresh cherries. She eagerly bought a box and was chagrined when the neighbor didn’t continue the following week. The person connected her with the farmer, so she put her own Nextdoor post up, asking if anyone wanted to buy cherries in bulk with her. The response was “astronomical,” she said.

What started as an informal neighborhood purchase of cherries has since evolved into a streamlined weekly pickup operation of fresh fruits and vegetables from multiple farms. It’s a virtuous cycle: Farms that are struggling to make up for lost revenue due to the coronavirus shutdown can sell in bulk directly to customers, while local residents get direct access to high-quality, organic produce.

Because the orders are made in bulk, the farms are able to offer a discount, so Gregorio donates the proceeds to local nonprofits, to fund meals for front-line workers and to a coworker’s fundraising effort to provide 3D-printed face shields to health care providers. Unclaimed orders go to local homeless shelters and care homes for the elderly.

About two months in, Gregorio estimates she’s donated over $5,000 through the effort, and has helped connect Gregorio with other farmers, who started picking up orders and offering delivery to their neighbors in Portola Valley. Two high schoolers in Pleasanton reached out in May to offer their help to form a nonprofit.

A monthly account with Oya Organics’ community supported agriculture (CSA) program shot up from 12 members to over 200, leaving her racing to create the infrastructure to support such volume. She had to pull workers from the fields to help her pack boxes and organize deliveries.

Participating in Giving Fruits appealed to her for all these reasons but also for the opportunity to support other small farmers. She’s helped connect Gregorio with other farms to partner with Giving Fruits.

“Anybody could really make a difference if you really want to,” Gregorio said in an interview. “If you just put your heart in the right place, people will see your sincerity and the fruits of your labor.”

Gregorio said the original woman with the cherries who started it all—who it turns out is not a farmer herself, but a hairdresser who started buying and selling cherries to make ends meet during the shutdown—became emotional the first time she received the payment for the orders that went to Palo Alto. The woman hadn’t been sure how she was going to be able to pay her rent that month and was worried she’d be evicted, Gregorio said.

Selling directly to customers through Giving Fruits is the best kind of model for small farmers, Habib said, compared to wholesale accounts that involve “a lot of hands and a lot of markups. That money isn’t going back to the farmer,” she said.

As word about Giving Fruits has spread, it’s become a more involved, volunteer-run effort. Gregorio’s teenage sons have taken over much of the daily operations, including monitoring who’s paid for what and sending orders to the farms. A local law firm reached out to Gregorio to offer her pro bono help to form a nonprofit.

Giving Fruits has expanded to other cities as well. Her son’s friends, two college students, have started buying and selling organic produce from farms to deliver to their neighbors in Portola Valley.

For more information about Giving Fruits and to place an order, go to givingfruits.org.

Staff Writer Elena Kadvany can be emailed at ekadvany@paweekly.com. Read her blog, Peninsula Foodist, at PaloAltoOnline.com/blogs.
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The grace and style of a bygone era blend seamlessly with modern amenities and comforts in this beautiful Victorian, offering 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and approximately 2,200 square feet of living space, plus a detached cottage with a kitchenette and full bath, all set on a lot of 7,500 square feet. Located in the Community Center neighborhood, this home puts you just a short stroll to University Avenue, numerous parks, and is convenient to Caltrain. Of-the-era appointments such as fine millwork, stained glass, and ceiling medallions create an enticing ambiance that flows throughout. Spacious public rooms are perfect for entertaining, the kitchen includes a spectacular La Cornue range, the office allows you to work from home in style, and the light-filled master suite features a freestanding fireplace. A wall of glass doors opens completely to the incredible backyard, with an expansive covered deck. Plus, children may attend top-ranked Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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1760 LANTIS LANE, LOS ALTOS

Creekside Setting on Nearly An Acre
A tranquil creek winds its way through the property totaling nearly an acre (per county), providing a glittering backdrop for this 5-bedroom, 3-bath home on a delightful cul-de-sac in sought-after South Los Altos. Bright, inviting spaces populate this 2,894 sq. ft. floorplan (per county), including the living room and family room both featuring a fireplace, as well as the chef’s kitchen with high-end appliances from Wolf and Sub-Zero. Superb privacy awaits in the expansive master suite, while the home’s four additional bedrooms provide comfort and convenience for the entire family. Enjoy al fresco delights in the large backyard, as well as the adjoining lot which leads to the nearby Stevens Creek, providing a picturesque setting to sit and relax while the soothing sounds of nature captivate the senses. Adding the finishing touch, this wonderful location is just moments to Grant Park, near Highway 85, and offers access to acclaimed Cupertino schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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With plans constantly changing for the academic year, parents and educators have had poor experiences with distance learning during the spring still on the minds of students, families and educators, the Weekly asked Palo Alto parents to share their concerns, questions and hopes about the upcoming school year for Palo Alto Unified School District. Here’s what they had to say. (Interviews were edited for brevity.)

Mudita Jain
Parent

My biggest fear is that without a commitment to online, synchronous learning, the equity gap in our district will become wider, because the students who will lose out the most are the ones most affected by it. I’m having access to free, challenging, quality public education.

In thinking about reopening schools, the district should address:

- What are the barriers to providing synchronous instruction, and why can San Jose Unified School District, San Mateo Union High School District and Dublin Unified overcome those barriers and still succeed?
- How can we provide rigorous, challenging instruction for all students while making sure students in need (due to economic, academic or medical fragility reasons) aren’t left behind?
- How can we give students opportunities to engage with their peers, for their emotional/mental health? Not all students are interested in a sport.
- What can the district do about classes that need to be in-person, for example, ceramics or robotics?

(My biggest hope is) that the district invests in enough custodians, custodians have been cleaning all middle and high school courses to be livestreamed and available for replay to students, even if in-person instruction is resumed. This would allow medically fragile students to participate in the course with their peers while at home, and if a hybrid model is used, then consistent in-person instruction from the in-person classroom to students mandated to stay at home for three days a week.

Like with this instruction, allowing students to engage in discussion with teachers and each other, allowing them to learn from multiple sources. It also most closely imitates in-person instruction while still being safe for students and teachers. Being able to replicate a lot of what it is important for education because students with spotty internet connections should not miss out on instruction.

In addition, I hope that there would be a plan to have students engage in fun activities, even if online.

Meha Atta
Rising senior at Palo Alto High, student body representative for Associated Student Body

As a student, obviously, I know that I wanted to be back on campus this senior year — my final year as a Palo Alto Unified School District student. So I would like to enjoy being able to see my friends and see my teachers and learn on campus. We need a defined pathway to health and safety comes first. And I understand the superintendent’s decision to do online reopening. I’m a little worried about college applications and not being able to have access to my college counselor or my advisors or my teachers if I need help with college applications.

But I think it’s going to be different from the online learning system that we had in place. March through June, I think this time, there’s going to be a lot more structure and I think that will help with the learning.

I hope that even though we’re online (this fall) and we don’t have that in-person experience, I will still be able to connect with my peers, and not just academically,

like being able to work in groups, but also, socially, I’m an only child, don’t have any siblings, can’t meet my friends right now.

I hope that there’ll be a way to connect online, whether it’s by giving breakout rooms or something like that.

Usually I feel that when you’re in school, you automatically connect with your teachers because you see them face-to-face, and I hope I can still do that even if it’s online, and I still feel comfortable going to them.

Meb Steiner
President of the Palo Alto School Employees Association

My short way of sort of summarizing our approach to this is: our working environment is the same thing that we have for the students’ learning environment ... and we need to keep both of those safe.

That’s really the biggest concern for all of us, educators, families, administrators ... being bombarded with new information, sometimes confusing, sometimes contradictory, sometimes outdated in a matter of days.

And that would be stressful enough if it were only a matter of what our work is going to look like, but at the same time, the uncertainty and stress affect our families and loved ones, and the stakes are incredibly high. We really hope to see leaders standing up for the safest options, for the longest reasonable time frame, in order to provide everyone with much-needed reassurances, stability, and the ability to make viable plans.

Going back to school, with all of the PPE (personal protective equipment) protocols, I don’t think it will be anything like school as normal. We anticipate losing instructional time for following and distributing PPE protocols, and that’s in addition to the challenges hearing each other with masks and the lists go on.

With our younger students, they have fears about coming to school even in normal circumstances.

Teachers can ordinarly comfort those students with a hug and re-assure them that it won’t happen in this time of COVID-19.

Andrew Kim
Rising senior at Gunn High School, student body president

It’s hard. We’re missing out on so many school activities, especially homecoming, which is the biggest event at Gunn.

But I agree with the decision to continue with distance learning. I think the future’s not going to be able to fully manage and control the spread of the virus, and monitor and isolate those who have the virus, it’s gonna be pretty difficult to reopen in the current situation.

I think everybody should have a good understanding and have patience with each other. I try to empathize. (If) students empa-thize more with the district and the teachers in the district empathize more with the students, we can make it a transition a bit easier.

Our student government at Gunn High School, we’re figuring out the best way to replicate the school spirit up through a virtual setting. We know for sure big events like home-coming, that require big gatherings, will be remote, but we’re also thinking we can do some virtual rallies and things.

I know we’ve had a bit of problem with clubs right now. That is still not sure for decided yet. I personally think clubs are really important for students, especially during these times and I think that we can go to somewhere we can find people of similar interests and go to for support. It’s hard to just stay at home all day, especially if you don’t have that close group.

(College-admissions testing) has been pretty difficult. I’m taking the ACT, and I think next Monday they’re opening up for reschedul-ing. I scheduled an ACT in July, but that one got canceled. I had to schedule another in September. I was like, ‘I’m gonna take this trip, just go drive out to Yosemite and get my last ACT done.’

Andrew Kim
Rising senior at Gunn High School, student body president

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We’re feeling a little bit of pressure to do well. We’re getting a little bit nervous, and I still feel comfortable going to them.

Meb Steiner
President of the Palo Alto School Employees Association

As a student, obviously, I know that I wanted to be back on campus this senior year — my final year as a Palo Alto Unified School District student. So I would like to enjoy being able to see my friends and see my teachers and learn on campus. We need a defined pathway to health and safety comes first. And I understand the superintendent’s decision to do online reopening. I’m a little worried about college applications and not being able to have access to my college counselor or my advisors or my teachers if I need help with college applications.

But I think it’s going to be different from the online learning system that we had in place. March through June, I think this time, there’s going to be a lot more structure and I think that will help with the learning.

I hope that even though we’re online (this fall) and we don’t have that in-person experience, I will still be able to connect with my peers, and not just academically,
L ocal high school sports teams won’t be competing until at least December or January, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) announced Monday, July 20.

“We are continuously monitoring the directives and guidelines released from the Governor’s Of- fice, the California Department of Education, the California Depart- ment of Public Health, and local county health departments and agencies as these directives and guidelines are followed by our member schools/school districts with student health and safety at the forefront,” the governing body for high school sports in Californ- ia said in a press release.

The California Interscholastic Federation released a modified season that pushes section play- offs for several sports, including football, water polo, basketball and baseball, into the spring and the summer of 2021. Given the changes, the CIF will temporarily allow student athletes to participate on outside teams at the same time as their high school teams.

The CIF’s announcement leaves it up to each section to set its reg- ular-season schedules for multiple sports. The Central Coast Sec- tion (CCS) executive committee, which administers sports from San Francisco to King City, voted and released its plan on Tuesday. Under the schedule, no local sports seasons will start until December. Cross country, field hockey, foot- ball, water polo and volleyball teams can begin practicing on Dec. 14, while spring sports including tennis and basketball will start in February and March.

Gymnastics and competitive cheer seasons are listed as “to be determined” at this point. The committee faced numer- ous decisions, including whether it should forgo regional tourna- ments, said Commissioner David Grissom, who expected a 10-member CCS group to set schedules that will largely fall in line with the CIF’s sports calendar.

“What the state put out basically was a reduction of seasons from three to two,” said Grissom, the former principal of Mountain View High School. While the state’s schedule allows for full sea- sons of competition, a student who plays in two sports will see their seasons conflict with one another.

“Student-athletes are going to have to make choices where they didn’t have to make decisions (in the past),” Grissom said.

Palo Alto Unified Superinten- dent Don Austin called the delay of high school sports “disappoint- ing” but understandable.

“I understand and support the decision to delay athletics and hope our conditions allow for sea- sons beginning in December,” he said.

Austin pointed to outdoor con- trolled ments that promote health and safety. “I will point to their efforts when it is time to re- open our schools. . . .” said Grissom.

CIF’s changes are in effect for the 2020-21 school year only. If public health and education guidelines change, however, local high schools can allow for athletic activity to potentially resume, the organization said.

Grissom planned to suggest switching gymnastics from the fall, its current category under the CIF schedule, to the spring in the CCS based on feedback from peo- ple in the sport and public health

outcomes for the fall,” he wrote. Austin said he’s unsure how the state’s new mandate will affect child care or the district’s plan to offer in-person, targeted support for a small number of at-risk stu- dents in the fall.

Newsum also outlined criteria for closing schools in the event of confirmed cases among students or staff. Schools should first con- sult with their local public health officer, he said. A classroom co- hort should be sent home if there is a confirmed case, and other exposed students and staff should be quarantined for 14 days. An en- tire school should close when mul- tiple cohorts have cases or more than 5% of a school’s tests positive for the coronavirus.

A school district must shutter if one-quarter of their schools have closed within a 14-day period, af- ter which time school districts may reopen with the approval of the lo- cal public health officer.

The state will soon release guidelines for reopening univer- sities and community colleges, have all students begin school virtually. Sixth-graders will not be able to be on campuses once a week, as had been proposed. Grades will be assigned and atten- dance will be taken daily.

With the new school year less than a month away, the district continues to negotiate COVID-19 working conditions with its teachers, which union members said was lobbying against reopening schools in person. According to the union’s and district’s propos- als and counterproposals from July 21, posted to the district website, the union is now asking that all students learn virtually unless there is an outbreak.

The union also has asked that teachers not be required to be on campus during distance learn- ing and, if schools reopen, the district allocate specific teachers to teach children whose parents opt to continue for fully online instruction.

The union proposed that, by Oct. 1, the district form work- groups at the elementary, middle and high school levels to “work out the details of in-person re- opening.” The union is also requesting that staff be given, if possible, a two-weeks” notice or at least one week to prepare for any change to the district’s instructional model.

The district’s latest coun- terproposals would require all teachers to provide daily synchron- ized instruction and to be available throughout the school day as they would be in person. The proposals also suggest that some students, such as at-risk or special education students, will be able to attend school in per- son in the fall.

Under sick-leave provisions, the district has proposed that any teachers who have been ex- posed to the coronavirus and are required to quarantine continue to be paid and not lose any sick or extended-leave time — “as long as they are able to provide distance learning during that time period.”

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

About the Cover: Students walk past the Performing Arts Center at Gunn High School on the first day of classes in 2019. Photo by Veronica Weber. Illustration by Doug Young.

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • July 24, 2020 • Page 31
Responding to an outpouring of concern about systemic racism in criminal justice, Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen announced Wednesday, July 22, that his office will no longer seek the death penalty, that it will form a new unit to investigate police misconduct and that it will work to eliminate cash bail in California.

The moves are part of a broad slate of reforms that Rosen unveiled as part of his office’s “Bend the Arc” initiative. The list of reforms includes closer partnerships between prosecutors and communities, new guidelines for prosecutors to consider race and equity issues when filing charges, and no longer seeking fines and fees from indigent defendants.

The office also will automatically expunge the criminal records of those defendants who have completed probation, obviating the need for a costly legal process. He also said the office will now use money seized from drug traffickers, criminal organizations and gang members as grants to community groups that are working to address racial equity.

Rosen said his office developed the slate of reforms after two months of listening to community members, criminal justice reformers and members of his own office. The new initiatives are part of a first slate of reforms in response to what he has heard.

“We are moving with urgency because injustice demands urgent action, and we will not stop moving forward,” Rosen said.

Among the most dramatic reforms is the decision to no longer seek the death penalty. Rosen said that he recently took two trips to Montgomery, Alabama, and has reflected on the devastation caused by slavery, Jim Crow laws and mass incarceration.

“In the past, I supported the death penalty when I viewed the hideous murders through the eyes of victims whose lives have been taken from their families and that might never find peace. But I also trusted that as a society we can ensure the fundamental fairness for the legal process of all people,” Rosen said. “With every story of racial injustice, it becomes clear to me that this is not the world we live in.”

California already suspended the death penalty after Gov. Gavin Newsom adopted a moratorium on executions. Rosen said that if the moratorium were to end, he would revise the sentences of roughly 20 individuals from Santa Clara County who are now on death row.

Other reforms center on indigent defendants convicted of lesser crimes. It will no longer treat “driving on a suspended license” or “failure to pay fines and fees” as misdemeanors but make them infractions. Rosen noted that all of the office’s criminal cases have a disproportionately high percentage of Latino and African American defendants. The change, he said, aims to address a loss that serves the understanding of their life and circumstances,” Rosen said.

Rosen’s announcement comes at a time when law enforcement leaders throughout the country, including in Palo Alto, are tackling the issues of police reform and social justice. Palo Alto’s City Council recently launched an effort to review the city’s public safety model and promote reform efforts.

But the city also has been at the forefront of controversy when it comes to police misconduct thanks to two recent lawsuits filed by residents. Rosen’s office is still investigating the conduct of retired Sgt. Wayne Benitez, the supervisor who was involved in the violent arrest of Gustavo Alvarez, an incident that led to a $572,500 settlement from the city.

Rosen said that as part of the reform effort, his office will create a Public and Law Enforcement Integrity Team, which will work closely with independent police auditors and Internal Affairs units in all law enforcement agencies in the county to investigate police misconduct. The team will have two to three prosecutors and one to two investigators who will be charged with among other tasks, proactively training law-enforcement agencies about what incidents should be investigated by the District Attorney’s Office.

Rosen also pledged to work to eliminate cash bail, which he says discriminates against low-income individuals who are disproportionately African American and Latino. It’s unfair, he said for a wealthy but dangerous person to buy freedom. Similarly, it’s unfair for a poor person who is not dangerous to be deprived of theirs.

“We were asking the wrong question: How much money does a defendant have? Now we ask: ‘Is this person safe to release from jail before trial?’ If the answer is, ‘Yes,’ he will be released and supervised, no matter how poor. If the answer is, ‘No, this person is dangerous,’ this person will be held in jail, no matter how rich,” Rosen said.

Staff Writer Gennady Sheyny can be emailed at gsheyny@paweweekly.com.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

A Palo Alto police officer gets into his vehicle outside the department’s headquarters on Forest Avenue on Sept. 11, 2019.

County will no longer seek death penalty, DA says

by Gennady Sheyny

Jeff Rosen’s office will also stop fining indigent defendants, reclassify some misdemeanors to infractions

Police

Commissioner Daryl Savage dissenting, to recommend the broader ban, Rosen said he was concerned that it goes too far. An officer, he said, can inadvertently block oxygen supply when falling on another person during a struggle.

“I do have a problem with techniques that will restrict blood flow to the head and neck that are designed to do that ... I’m just

commission faced pushback from the Police Department’s top brass as members pressed for stronger policies. Police Chief Bob Jonsen said he would oppose, for example, the commission’s recommended ban on shooting at moving vehicles, a tactic that current policies strongly discourage. Today, the only times such a shooting is authorized is when there are no other reasonable means to avert the threat of the vehicle (such as when it plows into a crowd) and if a deadly force other than the vehicle is directed at the officer or others (when someone is shooting from a vehicle, for example).

Jonsen said he would not conduct a policy ban shooting at vehicles in all circumstances, as is the case in New York City.

“If it’s the will of this commission or the council that it does not want our officers shooting at vehicles at any particular time or in any incident, that’s your prerogative,” Jonsen told the commission.

In some areas, the commission agreed that the department already complies with 8 Can’t Wait. It already requires officers to issue warnings before shooting, when feasible. It also already requires officers to report incidents in which they used or threatened to use force. The commission voted unanimously to support those existing policies.

Other areas proved more contentious. The Police Department already prohibits choking, strangleholds and, as of June 9, carotid holds, but the commission agreed that the policy should ban other moves that restrict oxygen and blood flow, including lateral vascular neck restraints and chest compression.

While the commission voted 4-1, with Commissioner Daryl Savage dissenting, to recommend the broader ban, Rosen said he was concerned that it goes too far. An officer, he said, can inadvertently block oxygen supply when falling on another person during a struggle.

“I do have a problem with techniques that will restrict blood flow to the head and neck that are designed to do that ... I’m just
(continued from previous page)

cautious that, if someone applies pressure to the chest ... this is going to be a policy violation," Jonasen said.

Commissioner Steven Lee said he wasn't swayed by this argument and noted that the new language comes directly from Campaign Zero, the broader initiative that initiated the 8 Can't Wait campaign, and that it has been adopted by other jurisdictions. Chair Kaloma Smith, who made the motion to change the language, agreed.

"Given some of the stories I have witnessed and my community has witnessed ... I think it's critical of Palo Alto being a model city to have this policy," Smith said.

The department's policy on de-escalation should also be improved, the commission agreed. The current policy states that officers "should consider as time and circumstances reasonably permit, conflict resolutions and de-escalation techniques." Assistant Chief Andrew Binder said the agency is already working to strengthen the rule and make it more aligned with state law (which dispenses with the suggestive "should" in favor of the prescriptive "shall"). The commission suggested that the department go even further by adopting a policy stating that officers "must use proper de-escalation techniques" prior to using physical force and that the policy manual include a list of such techniques, as is done in the San Francisco and Mountain View police departments.

Smith and Commissioner Patricia Regehr also said that the policy should consider, in addition to physical force, the officer's overall conduct, including verbal interactions during stops.

"It's a fearful thing to be stopped by a police officer for anything," Smith said. "And tone and body language automatically set the atmosphere and that authority can lean in."

The commission also unanimously supported adopting a policy from the San Francisco Police Department specifying that force should only be used "as a last resort when reasonable alternatives have been exhausted." This goes beyond the department's current language, which states that officers should "evaluate the use of other reasonably available resources and techniques when determining whether to use deadly force."

The one area where the commission agreed to stray from the 8 Can't Wait campaign is the "use of force continuum," a system that creates clear policy restrictions on the use of each police weapon and tactic. Binder said it hasn't been taught in Palo Alto in over a decade and that it fails to account for the dynamic nature of police incidents. The department currently uses what Binder called a "force option" model, which allows officers to use "reasonable force" based on the totality of circumstances.

"Officers are required to make split-second decisions based on a lot of input coming in at one time," Binder said. "For an officer to have to work through a series of force options to get to one that is appropriate is not always the best." It can put the officer at risk, it can put people at risk.

The commission generally supported the department on this issue, though it also unanimously recommended that the city explore revisions to the policy manual to "optimize" the use-of-force options.

The commission was more split on the department's current "duty to intervene" policy, which directs officers to get involved when they see another officer using excessive force "when in a position to do so." Jonsen said the department has adjusted its policy to ensure that "if the officer had the ability to do so, they shall intervene and also report that incident."

While the commission ultimately voted 4-1, with Lee dissenting, to support the existing policy, some commissioners noted that officers aren't always comfortable challenging their colleagues. Regehr pointed to the violent arrest at Buena Vista Mobile Home Park in 2018, when an officer slammed a man on the hood of a car and the incident was not reported by either the officer or any of his colleagues.

"It is difficult for some people to speak up before their peers," Regehr said.

Binder and Jonsen pointed to the department's use of body-worn cameras as a key to ensuring all incidents are captured. However, Jonsen would not give a clear answer when asked about the consequences an officer would face for turning a camera off during an incident.

"Instead, he told commissioners that discussing penalties would veer off the topic of 8 Can't Wait."

In a perfect world, Jonsen said, the body cameras would always be on, though sometimes when officers are focusing on what's happening they fail to turn their cameras on. Most officers, he said, have been adhering to the department's expectations.

"Our hope is that they always comply with the policy. If there's an exception, if it's a reasonable exception, that would have to be determined based on the situation," Jonsen said.

Neither Lee nor Regehr were satisfied with his response. Toward the end of the meeting, when commissioners were proposing additional police reforms, Regehr argued that the city should establish policies for disciplining officers who fail to turn on their body cameras.

"I think just saying, 'Oh, I forgot,' is not enough," Regehr said.

It will ultimately be up to the City Council to decide whether to adopt the commission's recommendations or to defer to the police department and the police union. Binder stressed on Wednesday that the Palo Alto Police Department, like other agencies, is receptive to change.

"We have to be," Binder said. "We ultimately serve our communities. We will maintain our opinions and be guided by case law and Supreme Court decisions and internal policies, but I think you will see how policing and service delivery of policing is going to change and is changing. ... There is a huge wave of momentum."

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

www.PaloAltoOnline.com • Palo Alto Weekly • July 24, 2020 • Page 33
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**County supes endorse Prop 13 reform**

A state ballot measure that would undo decades of property tax protections for large commercial owners will soon have another proponent, after Santa Clara County supervisors voted 4-1 Tuesday to draft a resolution endorsing Proposition 15.

The so-called “split roll” initiative, which will be on the November ballot, would require all commercial and industrial properties worth more than $3 million to be taxed based on their market value instead of the purchase price. If passed, these properties would lose a longstanding cap on property tax growth under a 1978 state law, Proposition 13.

Proposition 15 is projected to create a windfall for cities, counties and school districts, with property tax revenue expected to grow by more than $11 billion. The biggest winner would be K-12 schools, which receive more than 40% of property tax revenue, followed by Santa Clara County and individual cities.

Cities that stand to gain the most under Proposition 15 include San Jose ($76.8M), Sunnyvale ($22.6M), Palo Alto ($20.9M) and Mountain View ($18.6M).

Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, who proposed the idea to officially endorse Proposition 15, said the ballot measure would be a way to raise more money for schools and public agencies strapped for cash during the coronavirus pandemic.

—Kevin Forestieri

**Mah seeks fourth term on county school board**

Grace Mah, a Palo Alto resident, parent and longtime community volunteer, is seeking a fourth term on the Santa Clara County Board of Education this November.

Mah, who has served on the board since 2007, oversees Area 1, which includes the Palo Alto Unified, Los Altos, Mountain View-Whisman, Mountain View-Los Altos Union High school districts, a majority of the Sunnyvale School District and corresponding portions of the Fremont Union High School district.

Mah, running against Melissa Baten-Cuswilley, also a Palo Alto resident and a longtime Palo Alto Unified School District Board of Education member.

In an interview, Mah, a former engineer, said she hopes to continue her work on early education, equity and fiscal transparency. Mah has been an advocate for the Santa Clara County Office of Education to release, for the first time, a budget that details how programs.

—Elena Kadvany

**Ravenswood opts for full distance learning**

As of July 22, San Mateo County had nearly 4,900 confirmed coronavirus cases. East Palo Alto had more than 400, a high rate of infections — particularly in East Palo Alto.

Ravenswood joins a wave of districts that are deciding to keep distance learning started about 1 1/2 weeks ago, Superintendent Gina Whisman said in a news conference Thursday. Conversations about the need to instead reopen with full distance learning started about 1 1/2 weeks ago, Superintendent Gina Whisman said in a news conference Thursday. In addition, the Bidder is required to be registered as a public works contractor with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to the Labor Code. Pursuant to Public Contract Code 62011.6, only prequalified bidders will be eligible to submit a bid. Any bid submitted by a bidder who is not prequalified shall be non-responsive. Moreover, any bid listing subcontractors holding C-7, C-10, C-16, C-20, C-36, C-38, or C-43 licenses who have not been prequalified, shall be deemed non-responsive.

Bonding required for this project is as follows: Bid Bond 10% of the total bid, Performance Bond to be 100%, Payment Bond is to be 100%.

**PREVAILING WAGE LAWS:** The successful Bidder and all subcontractors shall pay all workers for all Work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to $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 Commissioner. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, Articles 1-5 of the Labor Code.

Bidders may examine Bidding Documents by downloading them free of charge at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BoOu_cnAm1iy10MSVdtkhYm9Bu_NQ?usp=sharing

Bidders may also purchase a hardcopy set of the Plans and Specifications at ARC Document Solutions 829 Cherry Lane San Carlos, CA 94070, Phone Number (650) 631-2310

The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive responsible bidder based on the 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 from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.

All questions can be addressed to: Palo Alto Unified School District 25 Churchill Avenue, Building D Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099

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Caltrain tax

(continued from page 7)

would have mandated cities to relax zoning standards to enable the development of more housing — without specifying that he was speaking as an individual and not on behalf of the entire council. (The measure was later defeated in the state Senate.) He subsequently clarified that he was only speaking for himself.

The Palo Alto dole is part of a growing regional split between those who champion Caltrain funding and those who demand that any new tax be accompanied by governance reforms.

Lee

(continued from page 7)

“The council, however, viewed my demands for transparency — the same transparency a private organization would seek as a matter of course — as overstepping and intrusive,” Lee wrote.

On this issue, and others, he believes the council has been too timid and too deferential to city staff. He wrote that his interactions with the council over the past three years reflect “a City Hall culture that is unaccountable, resistant to change and dismissive of new ideas, deferent to city staff that is unresponsive and out of touch with the community’s needs.”

Lee said in an interview that if elected, he would not shy away from difficult discussions that may stray from staff recommendations. He pointed to last month’s budget adoption, which resulted in about $40 million in cuts. Rather than cutting community services, the city should have delayed some of its big-ticketed capital projects, such as a replacement of the fire station next to Mitchell Park and the proposed police headquarters on Sherman Avenue. Some council members have argued for that approach, he noted, but were not allowed to advance these proposals.

On Tuesday, a group of elected officials that includes San Francisco Mayor London Breed, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors President Cindy Chavez issued a joint statement that calls for Caltrain to move ahead with both the funding measure and the reforms.

“The proposed one-eighth cent sales tax would provide a reliable source of funds for Caltrain and relieve the local transit budgets in all three counties,” the group said in the statement. “This is much needed and desired. However, given the serious nature of any tax proposal, we are keen to advance governance reforms in parallel, to ensure that we have the ability to directly oversee the use of funds and truly shape and set policy in an equitable manner.”

The tax measure needs to win approval from the boards of all three counties — San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara — as well as four transit agencies before it could be sent to the voters. This week, supervisors from the three counties have been in talks with local officials about possible alternatives, including one that would give each of the three counties more control over the revenues that the tax generates.

Staff Writer Gennydah Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@pawweekly.com.

“...really when meaningful work is done,” Lee, 31, told this news organization. “We have a culture where there is a reluctance to speak your mind, a culture that silences individuals who are pushing for change and for doing things differently. I want us to be a council that isn’t afraid to do that.”

Lee also serves on the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority’s Citizens Advisory Committee, the Midtown Residents Association and WizChinese, a nonprofit that supports the city’s Chinese community.

Lee is vying for one of four seats that will be up for grabs in November. Three incumbent council members — Mayor Adrian Fine and council members Lydia Kou and Greg Tanaka — are all eligible for fresh terms. Kou and Tanaka have declared their intention to seek re-election. Councilwoman Liz Kniss has served the maximum number of terms allowed. Other candidates in the race are former Mayor Pat Burt, attorney Rebecca Eisenberg, teacher Green Stone; activist Raven Malone; and Planning and Transportation Commission Chair Cari Templeton and planning Commissioner Ed Lauring.

Staff Writer Gennydah Sheyner can be emailed at gsheyner@pawweekly.com.

Across

1 “Rupaul’s ___ Race”
5 Twitch streamer, often
10 Ride around town
13 Drink brand with a lizard logo
14 San Antonio mission, with “the”
15 Rescue team, briefly
17 Pictures of surrealist Joan’s work?
19 Fortnite company
20 One way to sit by
21 “And here’s to you, ___ Robinson…”
22 Arrange alphabetically
23 Mountainizer’s vocalization
25 Manzarek of The Doors
26 Sterotypical person who might demand
28 Sound from a meadow
30 “Hansel and Gretel” setting
35 California city near Stockton
36 Muralist Rivera
37 “Worth do it”
41 Comedy duo of scientist Marie and singer Burt
44 It may be served in a spear
47 Bold language claim
48 Sixth sense, supposedly
49 Got up
50 Baha ___ (“Who Let the Dogs Out” group)
52 Element 45
54 Cruise destination
55 Die maximum, usually
56 Rapidly disappearing storage medium
57 “A Clockwork Orange” star
59 Projections from a hub
60 Abrasive manicure substance
62 Recipe for a sandwich product that had to be renamed for a “Seinfeld” episode
64 Rival of Visa or MC
67 Yes:

“R-ationing” — it’s three for the price of one, by Matt Jones

11 Ballpark figure?
12 “Whose Line …” comic Ryan
16 What some dryer sheets have
23 Feline wall
24 Cookie that released an egg-shaped version for Easter 2019
25 Projections from a hub
26 Backyard pond fish
29 Tennis’s Agassi
30 Palm leaf
31 Chef Boyardee product that had to be renamed for a “Seinfeld” episode
33 Teensy
34 “Teleubbilbies” shout
36 Defeat
39 Chilean cash
40 “Pardon the Interruption” network
42 Glob or nod ending
43 “The Many Loves of ___ Gillis”
44 Vatican-related
45 Like some twists of fate
46 Pupil protector
50 Home of the Dolphins
51 Throw out
53 NATO alphabet vowel
55 Octagonal road sign
56 “Aw, fiddlesticks!”
59 Cause of conflict, maybe
60 Hang-out room
61 Abbr. after a telephone number

Answers on page 33.

This week’s SUDOKU

Answers on page 33.

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Be prepared to be surprised at how much space there is in this wonderful one level superb expansive 4br/4ba home in Sharon Heights. Huge extra family room, two bedroom suites, light and bright, with private landscaped garden.
Tory Fratt
650.619.3621
tory.fratt@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #01441654

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Chris McDonnell
650.207.2500
cmcdonnell@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #00870468

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Mary Ellen Wattisson
415.699.6440
maryellen.wattisson@cbnorcal.com
CalRE #00963668

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