Enduring ice rink weathers the pandemic with help from the community

Page 5
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Grand jury chides Palo Alto over affordable housing

New report offers contrasting pictures of 2 cities and their approaches to housing crisis

By Gennady Sheyner and Kevin Forestieri

Palo Alto’s efforts to build affordable housing are hobbled by disjointed plans, inadequate funding strategies and insufficient efforts by city leaders to obtain community support, according to a report that the Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury released on Dec. 16.

Mountain View, meanwhile, has been far more successful in adding affordable housing, thanks in large part to the city’s ability to work with property owners on “area plans” with mixed-use developments, the report notes.

Titled “Affordable Housing: A Tale of Two Cities,” the grand jury report targets the two north county cities and, after reviewing their respective planning processes, funding sources, political climates and actual accomplishment, concludes that the latter city is doing far better than the former when it comes to meeting its regional mandates to plan for below-market-rate housing. As of 2019, the report notes, Mountain View was on a path to meet 56% of its affordable housing targets for the period between 2015 and 2023, a number established through the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process. Palo Alto, meanwhile, was on pace to meet just over 10% of its targets for low-income housing.

Things have only slightly improved since then. By the end of 2020, Palo Alto had approved permits for 101 residences in the “very low” income category and 65 in the “low” income category, which in both cases constitutes about 15% of the city’s RHNA targets between 2015 and 2023. Mountain View did better.

(continued on page 10)

RECREATION

The warmest ice rink around

Winter Lodge has overcome the odds — and the climate — to offer outdoor skating for more than 65 years

By Kate Bradshaw

There’s a winter wonderland in Palo Alto, and it’s right off of Middlefield Road in Midtown.

Winter Lodge, a nonprofit ice skating facility housed in an old-fashioned wood lodge, offers festive trees, holiday lights, cocoa and fireplaces, all in addition to the main draw, an outdoor ice skating rink that’s held its own against Palo Alto’s Mediterranean climate and the threat of development for more than 65 years.

For generations, it’s served the community as a special place where kids can go to have fun and play on the ice.

The ice skating rink — which claims to be the only permanent outdoor ice rink west of the Sierra Nevada — has had its run of challenges since it opened in 1956, surviving a developer’s plan to turn the land into condos in the 1980s and most recently a global pandemic that shuttered the facility for seven months.

Leading the show at Winter Lodge is Linda Stebbins Jensen, who has been executive director of the rink since 1986, when it became a nonprofit entity.

The rink opened in February 1956 as The Winter Club, created by San Jose State University engineering professor and former Wisconsinite Duncan Williams.

He developed a “refrigerant system with a brine solution in the pipes and some strategically placed shade” to create an outdoor rink, according to an article on PaloAltoHistory.org authored by former resident Matt Bowling.

Williams, a father to three boys, leased the property on a bit too much of a whim to see if he could make the rink work, Jensen said.

By 1983, Williams planned to retire when the lease was up and owner Richard Peery planned to redevelop the property and build condos there, according to Bowling. Ultimately, a 1985 voter initiative was brought before Palo Altans in two measures: one to authorize a land swap, and the second to permit a Geng Road development plan.

(continued on page 17)
Holiday Wish List

Have you been naughty or nice?

Either way, it’s time to create your holiday wishlist of things that would bring you joy, such as:

- A support network you can rely on
- More opportunities to make new friends
- Home safety checkup & handyman help
- Educational activities geared to your interests
- Safe walking spaces; social and support with technology.
- Social gatherings & holiday celebrations
- Educational activities geared to your interests
- More opportunities to make new friends
- A support network you can rely on

Consider joining Avenidas Village, a lively community of like-minded seniors focused on making it easier, safer, and more enjoyable to stay in your own home.

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At least Palo Alto is trying to do something different.


PASSING WITH FLYING COLORS

...Acknowledging the need to serve older adults in the LGBTQ+ community, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors recently approved an additional $75,000 to extend the Avenidas Rainbow Collective program through June. “Two years in and the program is thriving,” Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian said in a Dec. 14 press release. “The Rainbow Collective has become a trusted community resource for LGBTQ+ older adults build connections and access services in their local community.” The program was first proposed in 2019 as a partnership between the county and Avenidas, a senior services nonprofit based in Palo Alto, to fill a service gap in the northern end of the county. A $300,000 contract was approved by the board at the end of that year. The Rainbow Collective launched in early 2020, offering LGBTQ+ seniors a variety of services, including opportunities for socialization, education and case management. A survey of LGBTQ+ adults released earlier this year identified the Top 5 potential activities of most interest to this group: access to free movies or other entertainment; safe walking spaces; social and group activities; LGBTQ+ specific activities, services and programs; and support with technology. On Dec. 14, the board approved the additional funding to the program and extended it to June 30.

PUTTING IN THE WORK ...

JobTrain, a nonprofit dedicated to job training, career counseling and other employment-based services, was awarded a $250,000 grant from Google.org’s support, “The Rainbow Collective

CLIMBING UP THE LADDER ...

The Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office now has three women serving as assistant district attorneys — a first in the office’s history. Prosecutor Angela Bernhardt’s promotion to the assistant DA position comes nearly 25 years after she started working for the office. Bernhardt joins a team of six assistant district attorneys, now half of whom are women, according to a Dec. 21 press release. They’re all part of District Attorney Jeff Rosen’s “innermost circle” of advisers and legal experts. “Angela has pursued our mission of public safety with a single-minded dedication, the deepest empathy for victims, and unwavering sense of fairness,” Rosen said in the release. “She is an inspirational, powerful leader. She is the kind of public servant that our community and I are lucky to rely upon for the most demanding of jobs — the safety of our families and friends.” Bernhardt grew up in the Bay Area, where she served as the office’s chief trial deputy, a job that’s all too true in Silicon Valley. “We’re all figuring out how to adapt to the challenges caused by the pandemic, and at Google, that includes finding opportunities to help our hometown communities recover,” Kristin Raini, Google’s vice president of finance, said in the release. “We’re grateful for the work JobTrain is doing to connect jobseekers with jobs in the Bay Area, and proud to be a part of it.”
Prosecutor seeks to unseat former boss for Santa Clara County District Attorney

Daniel Chung wants to build continuity into the DA’s office and prevent ‘revolving door’ policies

By Sue Dremann

A former Santa Clara County prosecutor who says he was fired for criticizing the District Attorney’s Office is now challenging District Attorney Jeff Rosen’s reelection bid in 2022.

Daniel Chung wants to replace Rosen, a 10-year incumbent, alleging that the DA maintains policies that do a disservice to crime victims and defendants and runs an office that is rife with inefficiencies, costing taxpayers too much money.

In February, Chung wrote an op-ed in the San Jose Mercury News criticizing “progressive” prosecutors for criminal justice reforms that would change classifications for some robberies and reduce jail time.

He criticized reforms that create a “revolving door for repeat offenders” and place undue burdens on victims of violent crime.

Although he didn’t directly criticize his boss, Chung was demoted two days after his public outspokenness against the revamp. Refusing a severance package to resign, he was terminated from his job in the DA’s office and unceremoniously walked out of the building by three DA’s office investigators, according to a September lawsuit he filed in federal court. The lawsuit claims Rosen and the county violated his constitutional right to free speech.

Chung, 32, said if he is elected he would seek to transform the DA’s office by streamlining the way prosecutions are handled. The current system shortchanges the victims of crimes and causes unnecessary and expensive delays, he said.

Based on his own experiences inside the DA’s office, Chung said he would also increase communication with staff and transparency. “Nobody should be punished for choosing to express counter opinions,” he said, regarding his own alleged sidelining and ultimate termination.

Chung, a Korean American, was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Milpitas. He currently lives in San Jose. A graduate of Harvard University and Columbia Law School, he prosecuted (continued on page 16)
Give back locally with a gift to the Holiday Fund

Each year the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund raises money to support programs serving families and children in the Palo Alto area. Since the Weekly and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation cover all the administrative costs, every dollar raised goes directly to support community programs through grants to non-profit organizations.

And with the generous support of matching grants from local foundations, including the Packard, Hewlett, Peery and Arrillaga foundations, your tax-deductible gift will be doubled in size. A donation of $100 turns into $200 with the foundation matching gifts.

Whether as an individual, a business or in honor of someone else, help us reach our goal of $500,000 by making a generous contribution to the Holiday Fund.

With your generosity, we can give a major boost to the programs in our community helping kids and families.

Give to the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund and your donation is doubled. You give to non-profit groups that work right here in our community. It's a great way to ensure that your charitable donations are working at home.

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Application deadline: January 14, 2022
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Grand jury

(continued from page 5)

approving 218 and 212 dwellings in the two respective categories for an accomplishment rate of 27% and 43%, respectively.

The grand jury report includes recommendations for both cities to improve their housing policies, though it saves the bulk of them for Palo Alto.

Failure to build affordable housing comes at a high cost, the report argued, with insufficient housing impacting the social fabric of the community.

“Homelessness was increasing in the county before the pandemic, and the current economic uncertainty has made it worse,” the report states. “Many low-income wage earners are one paycheck away from eviction.”

Meanwhile, moving to lower-cost areas in the county or region carries its own consequences, the report states, chief among them long commutes.

“About 120,000 Silicon Valley workers live long distances from their jobs,” the report states. “Silicon Valley ‘super commuters’ drive three hours a day to work, resulting in traffic gridlock, air pollution and degraded health and quality of life.”

The report focuses chiefly on housing in the three below-market-rate categories: “low income,” which is up to 80% of the county’s area median income; “very low income,” which is up to 30% of the county’s area median income; “extremely low income,” which is up to 50% of area median income; and “extremely low income” which is up to 30% of the county’s area median income. The area median income in Santa Clara County ranges from $82,450 for a one-person household to $127,200 for a five-person household.

In Palo Alto, the city council has regularly designated “affordable housing” as one of its top priorities, though it has consistently failed to meet its goals for housing productions. To explain the challenge they face, council members routinely point to the high cost to developers of building affordable housing as a top impediment and the lack of state funding to support regional mandates.

The grand jury argues, however, that the fault, to a great extent, lies with the council itself. It blames Palo Alto’s elected leaders for relying too heavily on the city’s planning staff to raise awareness in the community about the importance of affordable housing, an approach that is not as effective as actually facilitating these conversations themselves.

“The city staff do not have the same stature as elected leaders,” the grand jury states. “Therefore, Palo Alto City Council members cannot expect staff alone to lead community conversations that enable Palo Alto residents to understand (AH) affordable-housing needs and cost requirements and to build community support,” the report states.

To support its case, the report focuses on two specific planning projects that went askew because of inadequate community consensus. One is the 2013 referendum over a housing development on Maybell Avenue that included 60 apartments for “very low-income” seniors and 12 single-family homes. While the council approved a zone change to make the project possible, residents argued against the single-family homes and voters subsequently overturned the zone change in a referendum, scuttling the development.

Another is the city’s more recent effort to redevelop a portion of the Ventura neighborhood by creating an area plan that includes, among other features, affordable housing, park space and other community amenities. A working group of area residents spent more than a year developing a plan, only to end up with three alternatives that left most members disappointed.

“Residents of the neighborhood, the report notes, feel that ‘staff and consultants controlled the process and did not listen to community concerns,’” leading to an outcome that one member characterized as “a terrible, disappointing and unfortunate failure.”

By contrast, the grand jury lauds the Mountain View approach, pointing to the city’s strong communication between city leadership and the community throughout the planning process. The report notes that there is an ongoing dialogue between staff and the community about the need for affordable housing — including the high costs and necessary trade-offs for new construction — and which areas are currently zoned for affordable housing development. The result is that residents are not blindsided when a developer comes forward with a proposal and are more likely to accept it.

“With this proactive communication, specific projects may be modified by resident input but are rarely derailed,” the report states.

The report also makes a case that Mountain View residents are simply more inclined to support housing growth. Renters comprise close to 60% of the city’s population and have been politically active for years, aligning themselves with affordable housing advocates and passing rent control in 2016 as a direct response to the lack of affordable units. (Palo Alto’s renting population is closer to 50% and is not politically organized.)

“Palo Alto’s residents are more likely to accept that some level of growth is necessary, which translates into less resistance and more community buy-in when projects are up for approval,” said Mountain View City Counsel member Margaret Abe-Koga. She said one of the attractions that lured her and many others to Mountain View is the city’s diversity and residents’ willingness to build the housing needed to protect quality of life.

“It is such a diverse community and there definitely is a feel here, a vibe that residents really cherish having and they are the ones that we need to do to maintain it,” Abe-Koga said.

Is the grand jury report fair?

While the grand jury report creates contrasting characterizations of Palo Alto and Mountain View planning strategies its evidence does not always align with these summaries. As an example of Mountain View’s proactive approach, the grand jury points to the North Bayshore Precise Plan, where two property owners, Google and SyWest, could not agree on a development approach, prompting the city to create a new set of development standards for a 30-acre section. The plan includes a requirement for between 1,200 and 2,800 homes.

Abe-Koga, however, has not been universally welcomed. SyWest claimed that the city’s approach is financially infeasible and, as such, is “fatally flawed.” The company also accused the city of forcing its conclusion on property owners “without actual buy-in” and argued that its input has been largely dismissed.

Palo Alto’s efforts in Ventura are also less doomed than the report makes them out to be. Despite a lack of consensus on the work group, the council generally agreed in September on an alternative that would gradually phase out office space and add about 500 housing units. For all its complications and disagreements, the planning exercise helped facilitate conversations between the city and the three major property owners in the planning area: The Sobrato Organization, Jay Paul and Smith Development, each of whom contributed ideas for future housing development. And it raised awareness in the wider community about the lack of recreational amenities in Ventura, prompting a new effort to collect property data.

The grand jury report does, however, accurately capture a wide discrepancy in Palo Alto between its plethora of housing policies and its meager results. To spur housing production, the city adopted new zoning designations (including an “affordable housing zone” with less restrictive design standards) and a new “housing incentive program” aimed to streamline approval for housing projects in certain portions of the city. It has also regularly updated its Housing Element and Comprehensive Plan to add projects, resulting in maintaining affordable housing.

Despite these efforts, the only major affordable housing development that the city has approved in recent years is the Wilton Court project at 3703 El Camino Real, which is now being developed by the nonprofit Alta Housing and will feature 59 apartments for low-income residents and adults with developmental disabilities.

Report: Palo Alto needs more ‘precise plans’

In spite of the city’s Ventura planning efforts, the grand jury blames the city’s failure to craft clearly defined area plans as a chief reason for the city’s inadequate results on housing. Mountain View identifies areas of the city that can accommodate affordable housing and has “precise plans” throughout the city, which it updates every several years. Palo Alto has no such scheme. As a result, affordable housing in Palo Alto is addressed “in a con-fusing combination of general and specific approaches,” according to the grand jury.

Failure to build affordable housing outcomes with their policy goals and campaign platforms, Palo Alto leaders need to employ best planning practices such as creating specific area plans that identify densities, setbacks, height limits, etc., that support affordable housing development,” the report states. “The Palo Alto City Council should identify specific regions where zoning will allow all types of housing and legislate and clarify and simplify zoning requirements. This should be done with wide community input and engagement.”

Abe-Koga said she has re-}
Mixed benefits?

Another area in which Palo Alto and Mountain View have taken different paths is mixed-use development — the combination of homes and commercial space.

Mountain View has welcomed mixed-use developments; Palo Alto has not.

Palo Alto in recent years moved to limit commercial development both through an annual cap and through a citywide limit in the Comprehensive Plan. Allowing more offices, city officials have argued, would effectively nullify progress on housing. As a result, Palo Alto has largely opposed all projects that include major commercial components and rejected them as alternatives in the Ventura plan.

Council members and city staff have consistently argued that reducing commercial development and limiting job growth reduces the demand for housing and helps both the city — and the region — attain a better jobs-housing balance.

Council member Eric Filseth made that argument in October, when he made his appeal to reduce the city’s housing targets for the next cycle of Regional Housing Needs Allocation, which spans from 2015 to 2023.

“We’re now producing more housing supply faster than new housing demand, which is just unheard of in Bay Area cities,” Filseth told an Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) committee.

While ABAG rejected the city’s arguments that limiting commercial development is in itself a pro-housing policy, the grand jury takes a more nuanced position on commercial development. Its report acknowledges that funding is a major challenge for affordable-housing projects and argues that mixed-use developments with commercial components can represent a partial solution to the housing crisis.

Mountain View took this approach, recently rezoning the East Whisman area for 2 million additional square feet of offices alongside 5,000 new homes. The grand jury report tries to take the middle road on mixed-use development. It recommends that Palo Alto put together a plan for funding affordable housing through mixed-use projects, as well as other mechanisms such as a property tax and a business tax (the city is already exploring the latter). But recognizing the unintended consequences of commercial development — namely, additional housing demand — it recommends that both Mountain View and Palo Alto perform a housing impact study that “informs decision-makers about how the proposed project affects the job-to-housing ratio.”

The report also calls on both Mountain View and Palo Alto to come up with new plans to pay for affordable-housing projects by July 30. Oddly, it claims that Palo Alto does not have an affordable housing fund, even though it does. In fact, the council has used it both to support the preservation of the Buena Vista Mobile Home Park and the construction of the Wilton Court project.

Responding to the report

In discussing the new report, Palo Alto Mayor Tom DuBois argued that the grand jury report fails to consider many of the city’s current and past efforts to encourage affordable housing. He noted that 9% of the city’s existing housing stock consists of units in the “extremely-low” to “moderate” categories, which is a higher rate than in most cities in the county. (Mountain View’s rate is 3.9%, according to the housing advocacy group SV@Home.)

“We’ve done a lot of zoning changes and we’re trying to incentivize housing,” DuBois said in an interview. “We’ve also spent tens of millions of dollars, under council direction, out of our affordable-housing fund.”

There are areas, he said, where Mountain View is leading and Palo Alto is trying to follow its example. This includes a tax for large businesses to pay for transportation and housing. Palo Alto, he noted, is planning to place a similar measure on the 2022 ballot.

DuBois said he was not convinced, however, that area plans with commercial components are necessarily a solution. If you’re creating more demand for housing that you’re building, he asked, are you really getting ahead?

“We’re really trying to take a new tack, where I think a lot of cities in the county are sticking to the old recipe of mixed-use development, which doesn’t seem to be working,” DuBois said. “At least Palo Alto is trying to do something different — restraining office growth and trying to incentivize housing.”

The city of Mountain View has yet to formally respond to the grand jury report and its recommendations but reaffirmed its commitment to building more affordable housing units in the coming years. Mayor Ellen Kameni said in a statement on Dec. 17 Friday that the city has 1,000 additional affordable housing units in the planning pipeline, including 120 deed-restricted units on one of the city’s downtown parking lots, and that more are planned on a former Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority lot near the downtown transit center.

Randy Tsuda, president and CEO of the nonprofit housing developer Alta Housing, said the report underscores just how much work is needed to construct more affordable housing and cautioned against seizing on just any one solution proffered by the grand jury.

Area-specific plans help, he said, but there also need to be financial mechanisms to make affordable housing feasible while state-level support continues to fall short. That could mean more public subsidies or easing of design standards for projects that bring badly needed affordable units to the community.

“The report pointed to a need for an ecosystem of support for affordable housing to make it successful,” Tsuda said. “It’s not simply political will. It’s not simply community support or effective land use policies and plans. You need it all, and you need the funding.”

Email staff writers Gennady Sheynner and Kevin Forestieri at gsheynner@paweekly.com and kforestieri@mv-voice.com.
Health leaders brace for ‘deluge of omicron’ cases

Santa Clara County leaders report 10 cases of omicron variant and urge public to get booster shots

By Eli Walsh and Emily Hoenen

Health officials are urging residents to get a COVID-19 vaccine booster if they are eligible, forecasting a wave of cases in the coming weeks tied to the omicron variant.

Ten cases of the variant have been confirmed in the county as of Dec. 21, according to Santa Clara County COVID-19 dashboard.

Of those 10, four patients were unvaccinated, five were fully vaccinated and had yet to receive a booster and one had received a booster dose but had not yet eclipsed the two-week period it takes for vaccine-induced protection to reach its peak.

In addition, most of those 10 individuals have shown symptoms, county Health Officer Sara Cody said, but none has required hospitalization. Early research has found that the variant may be highly contagious but less likely to cause serious illness than past variants such as delta.

Cody argued that while delta remains the county’s dominant variant, the omicron variant’s ongoing spread in Europe is likely a harbinger of the pandemic’s next phase in the Bay Area.

“When I look around the corner ahead, what I see is a deluge of omicron,” Cody said on Dec. 16 during a briefing on the variant.

“What I see is perhaps one of the most challenging moments that we’ve had yet in the pandemic.”

Cody and county Vaccine Officer Dr. Marty Fenstersheib said that while the county’s vaccination rate is high — 80% of all county residents have completed their initial vaccine series — the original two-dose Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna series or the single-dose Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine will likely not be enough on their own to counter the infectiousness of new variants like omicron.

However, only 44% of the county’s adults have received a booster dose. In addition, some 250,000 residents ages 50 and up — who, Fenstersheib noted, are at the highest risk of infection and serious illness — have yet to receive a booster dose.

While some children between the ages of 12 and 15 would also be eligible for a booster dose if state and federal regulators had given their blessing, Fenstersheib argued those at highest risk should be prioritized first.

“Before we worry about younger, let’s get those 250,000 adults boosted so that we can keep them from getting hospitalized or dying,” he said.

In San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, all residents ages 16 and up are eligible for a booster vaccine dose if they are at least six months past their second Pfizer or Moderna dose or at least two months past their single Johnson & Johnson dose.

In San Mateo County, only 34% of eligible residents have received a booster, health officials said on Dec. 17. While there have been no confirmed cases of the omicron variant reported to San Mateo County Health, evidence of the variant has been detected in county wastewater samples, according to the press release.

“Many more cases of omicron are expected to be reported in the coming days and weeks, and, based on the exponential growth in cases being seen in Europe, there is a significant risk of exponential growth in COVID-19 cases in our region,” health officials stated.

“The United Kingdom currently has more COVID-19 cases than at any time during the 2-year pandemic. Other highly vaccinated countries that mirror the Bay Area’s high vaccination rates, such as Denmark and Norway, are predictably omicron will become the dominant variant in a matter of days,” San Mateo County Health Officer Dr. Scott Morrow echoed calls for the public to get a booster dose if they are eligible.

“Even if you were fully vaccinated earlier this year, a booster will increase your protection against the omicron variant,” he said in a statement.

San Mateo County officials noted the county’s drive-thru booster clinic at the Event Center, which closed as of Dec. 18, will reopen Jan. 4 as a walk-thru clinic in a different building at the site.

While the three available vaccines remain highly effective at preventing serious COVID-19 illness and death, public health officials at all levels have argued that their protection begins to wane after several months. Preemptively boosting a person’s immune response will maximize protection against existing and potential variants of the virus, which could continue to become more contagious and even circumvent vaccines, they’ve advised.

“What we’re saying is that the initial vaccine series that 80% of our population have gotten isn’t enough anymore because the situation on the ground has changed,” Cody said. “And so to be fully up to date with COVID vaccine protection, you need to have a booster.”

Officials suggested that residents take extra precaution if they hold gatherings with friends and family members for the holidays by wearing a mask and getting tested prior to attending any gatherings.

Vaccination, however, remains the best tool to prevent transmission of the virus and is even more effective when paired with other mitigation measures like masking and proper ventilation for enclosed spaces.

“This is about layers of prevention; no single strategy works,” Cody said. “We have to combine them.”

Cody also acknowledged the pandemic fatigue that many are facing after cooperating with pandemic restrictions and requirements for nearly two years.

“I think what makes this so difficult is … we now have a variant that all evidence suggests grows really fast and takes over really fast,” she said. “And it’s happening in a setting where we’re (saying) ‘We’ve been at this for two years. We’re awfully tired. Please don’t tell us to do anything else.’ That is how we all feel. So that combination is really challenging.”

California reinstates rules for private workplaces

As California braces for yet another COVID-19 surge, leaders have been piling back on protections.

On Dec. 15, the day California’s new indoor mask mandate went into effect, the state Department of Public Health quietlyupdated its online guidance to emphasize that the rules — which are set to last through Jan. 15 — apply to both public and private workplaces.

Previously, the state had allowed most fully vaccinated workers to forgo masks.

Then the standards board of Cal/OSHA, the state’s workplace safety agency, voted Dec. 16 to, among other things, eliminate some distinctions between vaccinated and unvaccinated workers. Under the new rules, fully vaccinated workers are required to wear masks in workspaces.

The rules also apply to unvaccinated workers at workplaces where 50% or more of the staff are vaccinated and to any workplace in which 10% or more of workers have tested positive for COVID in the last two weeks.

Labor advocates say the changes will help protect workers: “Unfortunately, vaccination is not immunity, and vaccination doesn’t mean you can’t spread the disease,” according to Stephen Knight, executive director of Worksafe.

Indeed, California health officials are bracing for what Cody called a “deluge of omicron.”

COVID-19 hospitalizations have spiked 15% statewide in the last three weeks, from 3,439 patients on Nov. 23 to 3,971 on Dec. 15, according to state data.

In Santa Clara County, the number of COVID-19 patients in the ICU rose by 18% in one month, from 104 on Nov. 20 to 123 on Dec. 20.

“Eli Walsh reports for Bay City News Foundation and Emily Hoenen reports for CalMatters.”
Aging seniors still most affected

We’ve shared an historic journey together since March 2020. As we all learn to live with COVID-19, aging seniors are still most affected, and the challenges are now much larger in scope for our diverse senior community.

Peninsula Volunteers, Inc.’s vital services for seniors are more critical now than ever. The pandemic’s disproportionate impact on older adults has led to more widespread loneliness, isolation and health vulnerabilities. Hunger has more than tripled in Bay Area counties, jeopardizing the health and well-being of older adults. Now nearly 1 in six seniors is facing hunger risk and cannot cover the cost of basic needs.

Your generous impact is ongoing

You have been with us every step of the way. Because of you, we extended our reach during the pandemic, preparing and home delivering almost 288,000 nutritious Meals on Wheels from our Menlo Park kitchen; placing over 47,500 wellness care calls and visits; holding 12,462 combined virtual and in person sessions with active seniors and with Alzheimer’s clients to engage in exercise and stimulating learning activities; providing 4,093 transportation rides for medical and grocery needs and 23,750 volunteer hours. We continue to partner with local companies and restaurants to secure additional meals for those in need and continue to envision new and better ways to expand our support for our senior community in the new environment.

You may ask “how can I help local seniors like Raymond right now”?

Join us as we continue strengthening the senior community by helping us provide high-quality programs that keep your loved ones and neighbors fed, engaged, and living independently. Your gift of any size* made securely online at penvol.org/donate will change the lives of seniors now.

* A $500 donation will support: one month of daily Meals on Wheels for two seniors; or full services for a week at Rosener House for an adult with Alzheimer’s; or sixteen 30-minute personal training sessions at Little House; or 100 transportation rides at the subsidized rate.
Merry Christmas

Volunteers plant trees at a south Palo Alto home on Dec. 4 as part of Canopy’s planting event.

Canopy
(continued from page 5)

also created comfortable conditions for the dozens of volunteers who came out on a Saturday morning in early December to toil, laugh, learn, make friends and help Canopy advance an important mission: narrow the gap between the tree haves and the have-nots.

In Palo Alto, this meant planting trees south of Oregon Expressway, in neighborhoods where the size and population of trees are stunted relative to the city’s northern parts. By the time the event ended, that deficit was reduced by 18 trees.

Gabrielle Trudeau, Canopy’s community forestry coordinator, heads the organization’s South Palo Alto Tree Initiative, which is focused on addressing the coverage gap, which she said has grown from about 10% to about 20% over the past decade.

“We’re trying to make canopy coverage equal for everyone,” said Trudeau, as she shuttled between four planting sites and the group’s temporary base at Palo Verde Elementary School.

On a broader scale, Canopy’s push toward equality means increasing the canopy in cities and neighborhoods where the tree deficit is particularly severe: East Palo Alto, Belle Haven and North Fair Oaks.

Though the nonprofit was born in Palo Alto, Canopy branched out to East Palo Alto in 2007, when it received a state grant of about $130,000 to plant trees next to U.S. Highway 101. Since then, the organization has planted about 3,000 trees in East Palo Alto, including nearly a quarter of the street trees in the city’s right-of-way.

It has paid particularly close attention to schools in the Ravenswood City School District, both in East Palo Alto and in the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park. To date, it has planted 1,300 trees near schools, according to Catherine Martineau, executive director of Canopy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the organization to pivot from its historically large plantings — which at times attracted more than 250 participants — to smaller events like the one in early December, during which small groups are sent to different sites. Its planting efforts, however, have not abated. Between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, the organization helped plant 378 new trees: 172 in Palo Alto, 101 in East Palo Alto, 38 in Belle Haven, 36 in North Fair Oaks and 31 in Mountain View, Martineau said.

Despite these accomplishments, the tree gap remains significant. Because Palo Alto’s trees tend to be older, they tend to be larger. When considering disparities between and within the cities they serve, the organization focuses on canopy cover rate — a measure that considers both the number of trees and their size. Palo Alto’s canopy cover rate is about 38%, Martineau said. In East Palo Alto, it’s 13%.

“You see the difference in how green some neighborhoods are and how gray others are and it’s striking,” Martineau said. “We can do all of the analysis to actually measure the tree canopy cover, but you can also just look at it and see it.”

Canopy, which last year received a $5,000 grant through the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund, and its small army of volunteers are committed to doing something about it. The organization is educating residents about trees, both through planting events and through classes that it offers to K-6 grade students in the Ravenswood City School District. It also administers the Teen Urban Forester program, which teaches East Palo Alto high school students how to plant and care for trees and pays them to do so.

Adrian Maciel, 16, who is currently enrolled in the Teen Urban Forester program, estimates that he has participated in planting more than 150 trees since he began working with Canopy. This includes plantings in Martin Luther King Junior Park and along University Avenue in his hometown of East Palo Alto.

But on the recent December morning, he was helping put the finishing touches on a newly planted tree in the backyard of a Louis Road home in Palo Alto. His team included three fellow Teen Urban Foresters, all of whom were distinguished by their yellow vests: Angel Patino, 16, Bethzy Garcia, 16, and Nica Ingram, 17.

All four East Palo Alto residents gave the same reason for joining Canopy: a desire to make their hometown greener.

“I wanted to help my community,” said Ingram, a senior at East Palo Alto Academy.

For Canopy, the Teen Urban Forester program serves two critical functions. It educates youths to appreciate and care for trees. And it helps to ensure that someone will be around to maintain the trees that it plants. Once the organization plants a tree, it tends to it for about three years. After that, the job falls to the city or the property owner.

Indira Selvakumaraswamy, volunteer coordinator at Canopy, said three years is roughly how long it takes for a tree to “establish itself.”

“It’s almost like rearing a little child,” Selvakumaraswamy said. “You may not look at it and think it’s a baby, but it is very similar.”

Canopy’s teen urban foresters have been helping the organization plant and maintain trees since 2007. To date, the nonprofit has provided 252 paid internships benefiting more than 100 students from East Palo Alto, according to Martineau.

In some cases, the experience is life changing. Cynthia Perez joined the program in 2016 to explore her interest in biology, learn more about trees and meet other people. She recalled one planting event that took place near her home.

“I ended up meeting neighbors that I haven’t met my entire life in living in this part of my neighborhood,” said Perez, 22. “It introduced me to a lot of people and... (continued on page 15)
Palo Alto Unified School District

Notice is hereby given that the governing board ("Board") of the Palo Alto Unified School District ("District") will receive sealed bids for the following project,

**Contract Name:** EL CARMELO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – MODERNIZATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

**Contract No.:** Bid No. EC-22:

**DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK:** Site demolition for a new single-story wood/structural steel-framed Multi-purpose Building. Site improvements include underground utilities, fencing paving and restoration of field. Existing/original multi-purpose building renovation to new classrooms.

Contract duration: 505 Calendar Days. See Contract Documents for full project description.

To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California contractors’ licenses: B, or as appropriate for this scope of work. The Bidder’s license(s) must remain active and in good standing throughout the term of the Contract.

To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to be registered as a public works contractor with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to the Labor Code.

A MANDATORY PRE-BID conference and site visit will be held on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 – 10AM, at the El Carmelo Elementary School Campus located at 3024 Bryant St, Palo Alto, CA 94306. All attendees sign in at the campus Administration Building. Failure to attend or tardiness will render bidder ineligible.

Contract Documents will be available on or after December 21, 2021 for review online – copy and paste the following link into your browser:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RxbR-EgPRFhwQ0lQoAyAMPdZwgoi18BTd?usp=sharing

In addition, Contract Documents are available at various builders’ exchanges – ask for plan houses at the District’s Facilities Office.

Hardcopy Contract Document Sets are also available for purchase for Fifty Five Hundred dollars ($500) at ARC Document Solutions 829 Cherry Lane San Carlos, CA 94070, (650) 631-2310. This fee is refundable if the Contract Documents are returned in clean condition back to the District Facilities Office no later than ten (10) calendar days after the date of the bid opening.

The District will only receive bids submitted electronically. Bids will be received until Tuesday, January 18, 2022 – 2:00PM, only at the following email address vmeloreoli@pausd.org after which time the bids will be opened and tabulated for public viewing – contact vmeloreoli@pausd.org to request. Any bid that is submitted after this time shall be nonresponsive and returned to the bidder.

Each bidder is solely responsible for timely submission of its bid; the District is not responsible for any technological issues in a bidder’s ability to timely submit its bid or portion thereof. Any claim by a bidder of error in its bid must be made in compliance with §5500 et seq. of the Public Contract Code. Prior to publicly posting bids on the District website, the District reserves the right to verify the genuineness of any bid security.

Pursuant to Public Contract Code §20111.6 AND California Assembly Bill (AB) 1565 (effective January 1, 2014), ALL General Contractors and M/E/P Subcontractors must be prequalified, if the project is valued at $1 million or more, and funded whole or in part with State Bond Funded money. Any bid submitted by a bidder who is not prequalified shall be non-responsive and returned unopened to the bidder. Moreover, any bid listing subcontractors holding C-7, C-10, C-16, C-20, C-36, or C-43 licenses, if used, who have not been prequalified, shall be deemed nonresponsive and will not be considered.

Palo Alto Unified School District has engaged Quality Bidders Inc. to process prequalification. Please see qualitybidders.com for information to be prequalified.

All bids shall be on the form provided by the District. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent Contract Documents, including, but not limited to, the Instructions to Bidders.

A legible photocopy of (i) bond bid by an admitted surety insurer on the form provided by the District (ii) a cashier’s check or (iii) a certified check, drawn to the order of the Palo Alto Unified School District, in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total bid price, shall accompany the Bid Form and Proposal, as a guarantee that the Bidder will, within seven (7) calendar days after the date of the Notice of Award, enter into a contract with the District for the performance of the services as stipulated in the bid. Bidder must deposit the original of the bid bond, cashier’s check, or certified check in the mail on the same day as the bid opening. Bids without necessary bid security will be deemed nonresponsive and will be rejected.

The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a 100% Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond if it is awarded the Contract for the Work.

Pursuant to Education Code §17550, the District is requiring the Bidder to purchase and to remove from the school grounds all old materials required by the specifications to be removed from any existing school building on the same school grounds and not required for school purposes, and to state in his or her bid the amount which he or she will deduct from the price bid for the work as the purchase price of the old materials. The board shall let the contract to any responsible bidder whose net bid is the lowest or shall reject all bids.

The successful Bidder may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under the Contract, in accordance with the provisions of §22300 of the Public Contract Code.

The successful bidder will be required to certify that it either meets the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise ("DVBE") goal of three percent (3%) participation or made a good faith effort to solicit DVBE participation in this Contract if it is awarded the Contract for the Work.

The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall pay all workers on 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 from the District or 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 §1711.4 and subject to the requirements of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, Articles 1-5 of the Labor Code.

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

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

All questions can be addressed to:

Palo Alto Unified School District
25 Churchill Avenue, Building D, Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099
Attn: Miles Cappello, Phone: (650) 329-3072
Fax: (650) 327-3588, Email: miles@cappello.com

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Daniel Chung
(continued from page 7)

felony gun crimes in New York’s Bronx County. In 2018, he joined the Santa Clara County DA’s violent felonies unit and prosecuted domestic violence cases, he said during a recent phone interview. In 2020, he was awarded the Rob- bert L. Webb Award, an excellence award presented by the Santa Clara County District Attorney, according to his court filing.

Chung said his views aren’t based on politics but rather on his long experience as a prosecutor interfacing with victims and defendants.

“I got a very close look at violent crime in the county,” he said.

Santa Clara County has a “hot potato” prosecution process, Chung said: A case can pass through the hands of as many as seven deputy district attorneys by the time it resolves. At each phase, a new prosecutor often steps in; the assigned attorney changes from arraignment to preliminary hearing and so on.

“That’s just outrageous. It’s a system where no one really takes ownership. It’s an assembly-line prosecution where people throw it along from one to the other,” he said.

Along the way, evidence might not be gathered properly or evidence is lost; miscommunications can become detrimental to the case, he said. The earliest phases of a case are the most critical. If the prosecution hasn’t put in the effort to build the case, it “can fall apart in an embarrassing fashion in court,” he said.

The victim is being “significantly shortchanged” in this system, he said. Prosecution of cases takes years. The victim, who has to restate what happened seven or eight times with different prosecutors, is unduly burdened. The whole process is a disservice to the victim and their family, the defendant who should receive a speedy trial and the taxpayers, who are ultimately footing the bill, he said.

Chung has seen plea deals that are suddenly reneged by prosecutors after a new deputy district attorney takes over a case. The new prosecutor needs to get up to speed, evidence gets lost and the deals get worse over time, he said.

“That’s just wrong,” he said.

“One of the things I dreaded was still being a prosecutor. I was an old case that was five, six or seven years old. It had gone through generations of prosecutors who could not figure out how to move the case forward: Where’s the evidence? It’s not there anymore. Do we still have contact information for the witnesses?” he said.

Chung instead would manage cases “vertically,” having the same prosecutor handle a case all the way through from the defendant’s intake to the sentencing, which would maintain continuity and speed cases along.

The current policies regarding defendants are also burdensome.

“If we are trying to hold the defendant accountable, we need to do it in a fair way,” he said.

Weak cases shouldn’t be overcharged to extract plea bargains. The use of special allegations and enhancements for crimes, which can add years to a sentence, should be used sparingly with the object of protecting public safety, he said.

A district attorney should also focus on serving the community and should not be in the business of self-promotion and pursuing personal ambition. The DA’s office should focus on policy upgrades such as revising the sexual assault manual and obtaining new software that allows prosecutors to better follow their cases, something he said hasn’t occurred under Rosen.

“When a defendant gets re-arrested, we don’t even know,” he said.

Chung said that building in efficiency would reduce costs of prosecutions while freeing up funding for programs that address the root causes of crime.

Chung’s other rival, Public Defender Saajd Khan, is running as a “true progressive” for the DA’s seat with a focus on rooting out systemic racism, shrinking mass criminalization and addressing the root causes of crime. Chung casts himself instead as a “moderate.”

Khan is a reformer who supports eliminating disproportionate sentences under the three strikes law; supports ending the money bail system that disproportionately impacts poor and marginalized people; and advocates for diversion programs and alternatives to imprisonment. He would not prosecute children as adults nor cases in which police violate the Constitution or engage in racially discriminatory practices when collecting evidence, according to his website.

“He’s a super nice guy,” Chung said of Khan, but Khan has never been a prosecutor.

“He has only been a public defender and his job has been to poke holes in the prosecution’s case,” he said.

A prosecutor’s job is to build a case that is proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

“When he comes into office, he can’t just clean house. There are a lot of limitations,” Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com.

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Winter Lodge (continued from page 3)

It takes a village

parcel to be exchanged for the Winter Lodge property, he said.

Both measures passed by a historically wide margin, according to Jensen. Now the nonprofit leases its land from the city of Palo Alto.

In 1986, Jensen, who had once been a high school employee at the Winter Club, was named executive director of the newly renamed Winter Lodge.

Maintaining the outdoor rink requires a “constant dance with the weather,” according to Jensen. That means keeping tabs on the sun, rain, wind, humidity and how it’ll change every hour.

While she was explaining this, the outdoor rink was covered with a thin insulated tarp to keep the sun off the ice and reflect heat.

Over the years, the facility has developed into what it’s best known as today: one of the largest skating schools in the country with a reputation for old-fashioned fun.

“You just feel welcome when you walk in,” said Kelley Bay, a manager and all-level instructor at Winter Lodge. “It’s a cozy, family place. Everyone comes here and can relax.”

She said her favorite part of the job is seeing the enjoyment her young students experience when they master a new skill on the ice.

“That’s what’s worth it — when they get it and, you know, land a hard jump. It’s like, ‘Oh, that’s what I’ve been working for.’”

It takes a village

Winter Lodge had been humming along under Jensen’s leadership — until COVID-19 struck.

“Clearly, you can’t run an operationally funded nonprofit when you’re not allowed to run,” she said. “We were shut down for seven months.”

The damage would have been worse, Jensen said, had the team at Winter Lodge not been able to work with Assemblyman Marc Berman (D-Menlo Park) and his office to iron out the language in California’s COVID-19 restrictions. State and county pandemic regulations clearly stated that all ice rinks had to close until the county reached the “yellow” tier, she said, in which the risk of infection was determined to be “minimal.”

Yet outdoor rinks, like other outdoor activities, pose far less of an infection threat than indoor activities.

“They didn’t think about us,” Jensen said of the state officials who made the regulations. “There aren’t any other permanent outdoor ice skating rinks in California.”

“I was more than happy to make the case to (the California Department of Public Health) that outdoor ice rinks provided a safe — and desperately needed — opportunity for fun and recreation at a time when there weren’t many of those,” Berman said. “I have many fond memories of parties at Winter Lodge as a kid, and I’m glad that even during COVID children (and adults!) were able to have those fun experiences in a safe way.”

Berman’s office, Jensen said, helped to alter the wording of those regulations to permit outdoor ice rinks to reopen — albeit under a number of new restrictions — in late October 2020, she said. Capacity was limited to roughly 35% of what the nonprofit rink offered during a regular season, “which is not sustainable,” she said.

However, between being able to open in October 2020 and receiving federal, state and community financial support through the pandemic, Winter Lodge was able to make it through the last two years with its management team intact, Jensen said.

Community Skating, Inc., the name of the nonprofit organization that runs Winter Lodge, received a total of $289,065 in two rounds of federal Paycheck Protection Program loans, which have since been forgiven.

The rink also received funding from a triple-matching grant from the Anne Wojcicki Foundation, Jensen said.

“It took a village,” she said.

Just when things were starting to feel darkest during the pandemic, in November 2020, the rink was announced as the top-voted ice skating rink based on Yelp results, as reported by USA Today. Jensen said the announcement, she said, felt “extraordinarily good” and gave the team inspiration to keep going.

“We need to keep doing it and have faith that we’re going to get back to ... our mission, which is just being a really fun family place for kids, families ... recreation (and) wholesome fun.”

That mission seems to also resonate with a number of the staffers at Winter Lodge. In interviews, each spoke of their own childhoods spent at the rink and the friendly atmosphere they found there.

Corey O’Farrell, a college-aged man who helps manage and maintain the ice, said he grew up playing hockey at Winter Lodge and has been working there since he was a high school sophomore, when he began handing out skates and “ice guarding” — which is like being a lifeguard but on ice.

“This place is like a community,” O’Farrell said. “It’s kind of like walking into a neighborhood of a bunch of people that you know.”

Karlie Nanez, assistant director at Winter Lodge, said she’s skated at Winter Lodge since she was 9 years old and has worked there since she was 13. Her aunt coached there once, and her sister also coaches. The place, she said, “feels like a home away from home. ... It’s very a comforting atmosphere here.”

She coaches the performing teams and says she’s been working with many of her students since they were little. Working with the same girls from roughly age 4 through high school, she’s developed a bond with them and enjoys how rewarding it is to see them develop through higher levels of skating. It feels like a luxury to not have to compete, she said.

“The only thing we’re about is being supportive and having fun doing your sport that you love. I don’t know that you get that everywhere.”

If you go

Winter Lodge, located at 3009 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto, is open this season through April 10, with planned closures for the holidays on Dec. 24, 25 and 31 and Jan. 1. Admission is $16 per person, and skate rentals are $8 per person.

Public sessions are offered from 3 to 5 p.m. every day, from 8 to 10 a.m. on Wednesdays through Fridays and from 8 to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. An additional adult session is offered Wednesdays from 8 to 10 p.m., and an additional family session is held Sundays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Skate rentals are available from a toddler size 6 up to a women’s size 14 and a men’s size 15. Classes at Winter Lodge are available for ages 5 and up. More information is available at winterlodge.com.

About the cover: Skaters glide around a Christmas tree in the center of the ice rink at the Winter Lodge in Palo Alto, which has been in operation for more than 65 years. Photo by Magali Gauthier. Cover design by Douglas Young.
**POLICE CALLS**

**Palo Alto**

**Dec. 16- Dec. 21**

**Violence related**

East Meadow Drive, 12/11, 5:06 p.m.; battery.

Pasture Drive, 12/11, 7:17 p.m.; sexual assault.

Tasso Street, 12/16, 10:32 p.m.; spitting.

Lyton Avenue, 12/18, 3:10 p.m.; robbery.

**Theft related**

Burglary ........................ 1
Financial elder abuse ......... 1
Glue theft .................................. 2
Identity theft ...................... 4
Potty trash ......................... 1
Shoplifting ......................... 1
Theft theft ......................... 1

**Vehicle related**

Auto recovery ................... 2
Auto theft ....................... 1
Driving w/ suspended license 1
Hit and run ....................... 1
Theft from auto .................. 1
Vehicle accident/mirror injury 1
Lost keys .......................... 1
Vehicle accident/prong damage 1
Vehicle stored .................... 1

**Alcohol or drug related**

Driving under influence ........................ 2
Possession of drugs ................. 1
Possession of paraphernalia ....... 1
Under influence of drugs .......... 2

**Miscellaneous**

Battery ......................... 1
Brandishing weapon .............. 1
Court order violation ............ 1
Disturbance ..................... 1
Found property .................. 1
Lost property .................... 3

Medical assist .................. 1
Mental evaluation .............. 1
Mental health crisis .......... 1
Missing person ................ 1
Outside warrant arrest .......... 5
Possession of statutorily prohibited 1
Unattended death .............. 1
Vandalism ...................... 3

**Menlo Park**

Dec. 15- Dec. 21

**Violence related**

El Camino Real, 12/17, 2:54 p.m.; assault w/ deadly weapon.

Hacker Way, 12/17, 3:10 p.m.; battery.

**Theft related**

Fraud .......................... 4

**Vehicle related**

Abandoned auto .............. 1
Auto theft ..................... 1
Driving w/ suspended license 1
H&G run ....................... 1
Lost/stolen plates ............ 1
Parking/dmv ..................... 1
Theft from auto ............... 1
Vehicle accident/mirror injury 1

**Alcohol or drug related**

Sale of liquor to minor ........ 1

**Miscellaneous**

CPIS referral .............. 1
Lost/stolen property ......... 1
Medical call .................. 1
Mental evaluation ............ 1
Property for destruction .... 1
Pursuit ....................... 1
Suspicious activity ..... 1
Vandalism ..................... 3
Warrant arrest .............. 3

**997 Other Legals**

**AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

Case No.: 21CH068910 ALL INTERESTED PERSONS; Petitioner: TERESA CORONA DEL CONDE filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

TERESA CORONA DEL CONDE to TESSA CORINA DEL CONDE.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes above must file a written statement including the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to state why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is received by the court, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: 01/18/2022, 8:45 a.m., Room PROBATE of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, 191 N First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

A copy of the ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in Palo Alto: PALO ALC WEEKLY.

Date: Dec. 8, 2021

/s/ Julie A. Emde

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(Palo Alto Weekly Dec. 17, 24, 31, Jan. 7, 2022)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

ANN E. KANE also known as ANN ELIZABETH KANE.

Case No.: 21PR191519

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

The Petition for Probate requests that:

LINDA ANN KANE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent’s will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waive notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 02/25/2022 at 9:01 a.m. in Dept. 13 of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, located at 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA, 95113.

If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

For information, call Frances Raple Smith at (650) 327-0888.

To read the full obituaries, please visit PaloAltoOnline.com/Memories.

OBITUARIES

A list of local residents who died recently:

Oakley Hewitt, 84, an orthopedic surgeon at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation (formerly the Palo Alto Medical Clinic), died on Nov. 6; William John Hollingsworth, 71, a longtime Palo Alto resident, died on Dec. 5; and Mary Frances Raple Smith, 101, a longtime local resident and nurse, died on Dec. 5.

To read the full obituaries, leave memorances and post photos and memories at PaloAltoOnline.com/obituaries.
A collaborative mural created by the Palo Alto Art Center’s first mural-making class for teens has a theme that highlights the process of making art, as well as the natural beauty of California, with redwoods and poppies representing the state. Photo by Heather Zimmerman.

Visitors to the Palo Alto Art Center and the Rinconada Library are getting a fun, colorful welcome these days. A dense cityscape and a lush forest have sprung up near the Newell Road entrance to the complex, all brought to life by the hands of a friendly artistic character who seems to reside between the city and the wild.

This vibrant world appears in a mural created by the Palo Alto Art Center’s first mural-making class for teens. The mural, which was unveiled on Saturday, Dec. 18, hangs on the fence outside the art center’s classrooms, facing the Rinconada Library.

The class brought together 10 teens ages 12 to 18 this fall to collaboratively design and paint a mural. San Francisco-based artist Corey Pang, who goes by the artist name Sidy, led the class.

“Creating art is the overall theme, where we have the character in his bear hat, painting the city a rainbow color,” Sidy said. “It’s hard to get 10 ideas together, so we all made compromises and it was an interesting process.”

The class included not only the essentials of public art but also background about the process.

“We started the class with an introduction to murals and public art and how it plays a role, so the kids could understand what makes public art and what a positive impact it has on the community, how it can be made and the different types of public art,” he said.

Sidy works in a variety of media, including digital, watercolor, acrylic paint and spray paint. He has worked extensively with murals, including many collaborative projects as a third of the Pineapple Dream Team, with fellow artists Stay Bacon and Nito Owl, and in the annual Powwow Hawaii mural event, collaborating with many different local artists. Murals that Sidy has created or collaborated on can be seen around the Bay Area, including in Oakland and San Jose, as well as the Hawaiian islands.

He came to teach the class through a call for artists put out jointly by the Palo Alto Art Center and San Jose arts nonprofit Local Color.

“One of our goals in the Children’s Fine Art Department here at the Art Center is that we’re always looking for new teaching artists to expand the media that students are able to experiment with and also looking for a diverse range of teaching artists,” said program coordinator and education director for the Palo Alto Art Center, Larson. Larson reached out to Local Color, which has extensive contacts with Bay Area muralists, to partner on the project.

The new mural’s location at the Palo Alto Art Center helped inspire the general theme of the piece, which also has strong nods to California, with depictions of redwood trees, poppies and more subtly, bears, as in the character’s bear hat.

To better facilitate the collaboration, Sidy said he asked the students what types of subjects they wanted to paint, and grouped them accordingly, with a group interested in nature, another in cities and landscapes and a third that wanted to paint characters.

Once the design was sketched, the students also worked in groups to paint the piece. The mural is painted on two large pieces of plywood, which facilitated mounting the mural on the center’s fence, but also made it easier to divide the tasks.

“We would split them into two groups. If it was (spray painted) we needed to spray it outside and then the other students would hand paint it on the inside of the classroom. So there was a trade off and they were really good about being flexible and just helping each other on what needed to get done,” Sidy said.

Although these students worked together in the same space to create the mural, inspiration for the class came partly from a well-received mural project that the Palo Alto Art Center organized with its teen leadership group while stay-at-home orders were in effect last year. Larson said. Participants painted individual canvases at home and brought them all together to make one large piece, which is now hanging in the teen room at the Rinconada Library.

“I think after the year that we have had, having kids come together to talk and share ideas, brainstorm together and then work together, side by side, it’s just been really exciting to see them coming together for a project like this,” Larson said, noting that so much of the experience since the pandemic has been about working on one’s own, on isolated projects.

Sidy said that he hopes students not only learned something new and enjoyed the process, but gained a new perspective on what art can be.

“If they enjoyed creating public art, and just have an appreciation for murals, ... To put in the work, the effort and make your ideas come to life — I want them to get that fulfillment from start to finish,” Sidy said, noting that he also hopes students learn that a work of art doesn’t have to exist within a certain scale, on a small canvas or paper.

“They could take that idea and transform it onto a giant wall or a piece of plywood. So just to show them that there are different canvases that can be used, and it doesn’t have to be ‘just so’ or be one dimension.”

The Palo Alto Art Center will be offering two more mural-making classes for youth this winter, both taught by Sidy, with one class offered for younger students, ages 9 to 12, and the other for students ages 12 to 18. Each class has a maximum of 12 students. As with this first mural, the completed pieces produced in each class will be installed at a public location for all to enjoy. Larson said she’s working on finalizing the locations for those new works.

The Palo Alto Art Center is located at 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. For more information, contact the art center at 650-329-2366 or artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org, or visit cityofpaloalto.org.

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@paweekly.com.
Here, we don’t just live life—we lead it.

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A s a smooth-moving black and white robot glides through the dining room of Roger Bar and Restaurant in Mountain View, food and beverages director Jacky Li observes, “Right now, Servi is more of a ‘Bus-1,’ I guess you could say.”

Servi the robot pauses where people load it up with dishes after a meal. Then, the robot rolls away to the kitchen with a quiet, upbeat chirp.

Servi, from Redwood City’s Bear Robotics, is like a sleek, modern hybrid of a “Star Wars” Stormtrooper and Rosey the Robot from the 1960s cartoon “The Jetsons.” Unlike Rosey, however, Servi is not meant to be a “Jill of all trades.”

“Obviously we’re in Silicon Valley, so we wanted to combine technology and bring it into the restaurant,” Li said.

Other tech tools found at Roger have become ubiquitous in Bay Area dining. On the customer side, since the start of COVID-19, people have started to use contactless systems with their smartphones to make reservations, view menus, order and pay.

On the restaurant’s side, teams use appliances and tools that are sensitive to weight, volume and temperature to ensure food output is consistent. “A lot of (this technology) has been developed before, and during the pandemic, it’s been brought more to light,” Li said.

Servi is one of the many tools the Roger team is using to support a dining model that depends on moving high volumes of food and drink in a fast-paced environment. The team uses software like OpenTable for reservations and digital platforms like Toast for point of sale transactions, which has the side benefit of cutting back on paper use.

In the kitchen, the team has replaced Ice Wands with a blast chiller, and they have appliances like char-broil grills and vector ovens that control quality for perfect burgers and steaks, reducing energy and food waste.

“All of these are really at the press of a button. The great thing about it is that (food) comes out consistent — that’s one thing that a restaurant has to do,” Li said. “The real reason why everybody comes back (to a restaurant) is because you get the salmon, you come back again, and it’s the same salmon.”

Not all innovative technologies are totally new. For example, conveyor belts have long been used, but their application for banquets is creative. While plating dishes for big events, Roger’s team uses a conveyor belt to move dishes down a line, from one person to the next.

Executing chef Christian McCallion brought the idea back to Silicon Valley from a trade show in Colorado. “(The conveyor belt) is efficient: It gets you into the rhythm,” Li said. “When we’re plating dinners, it makes sure we’re not having any gaps.”

Meanwhile, Servi the robot is great at making runs between the dish pit and dining room, but it can’t do all that humans can. It can be programmed to say, “Excuse me,” but when confronted with an obstruction in its path, Servi eventually gives up. “I’ve had children run in front and try to block it,” Li said. “It’ll try to find another way and if it can’t, it’ll just stop.”

Servi also can be programmed to chirp out a polite, “Happy birthday!” but it isn’t capable of the finer interactions that make human-to-human interactions, well, human.

“(The robots) are never going to be able to serve, they’re never going to be able to take your order,” Li said. “If they even run food, they’re not going to be able to serve food. And if you’re a party of 10, Servi’s not really capable of that.”

That’s why Servi is used as an amenity, a tool — the robot isn’t a replacement for Roger’s team. Instead, the team programs Servi to ensure a constant flow of dishes to the dishwasher in the kitchen, limiting holdups in the dining room. With Servi covering this ground, the staff has bandwidth to stay attuned to guests’ other needs.

“We’re definitely more in front of your face. We make sure you have your ketchup, we make sure you have your straw. We make sure that you have your extra fork. We’re more on the floor, rather than having people constantly walk all the way back to the dish pit ... That’s where the robots are able to help,” Li said. “I can only imagine what is next.”

Roger serves brunch, dinner and drinks. Find it at the Ameswell Hotel in Mountain View. Roger Bar and Restaurant, 800 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View; 650-744-1030; n Email Associate Digital Editor Sara Hayden at peninsulafoodist@paweekly.com.
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Across
1 "The Lord of the Rings" army members
5 Hosp. employee
8 “First Blood” figure
13 Spring’s opposite, in tides
14 “I’m onto your scheme, forwards and backwards!”
15 “The Miracle Worker” subject
16 Vesuvius’s Sicilian counterpart
17 Mix-and-match
19 City where the Demon Deacons play home games
21 Wine bouquet
22 “SNL” cast member who plays Dionne Warwick
26 Strong longing
27 Oka unit
29 Grammy winner Erykah
30 Prepare eggs, in a way
32 Title words preceding “Cooking,” “Painting,” and “Missing Out”
33 Prokofiev orchestral work often played at children’s concerts
38 Angelic instruments
39 Slander counterpart
40 Fabric or liquid finisher?
41 Acronym for a drone-like robotic unit used for underwater research
42 Far from outgoing
45 Reason for optimism
50 Lauder of cosmetics fame
52 Movie (with a 2021 sequel) that features the characters in the circles
54 Burpee item that may yield a bunch
55 Eastern European
56 “First Blood” figure
57 Can’t pay up
58 Perfect examples
59 Bollywood actress Aishwarya __
60 Get higher
61 “The Silence of the Lambs” director
62 Causes of some EMT calls

Down
1 Like many downtown streets, directionally
2 Leave some work?
3 “1812 Overture” sound effect
4 Hiccup, for example
5 Totally unhinged
6 Did with minimal effort, so to speak
7 Disclaimer for some seasoning blends
8 Get more InStyle, e.g.
9 Game scheduled for December 29, 2021
10 Orioles’ org.
11 Actress Powley of “The King of Staten Island”
12 ___-Ida (Tater Tots maker)
15 Potter’s appliance
18 Chinese dumpling, or a 2018 Pixar short named for one
20 Becomes narrower
21 “Banana Boat Song” shout
23 “I’m hungry enough to ___ horse!”
24 Object of devotion
25 Hand-warming tube
28 Plant gametes
30 Restore from brainwashing
31 “The bad” cholesterol, for short
32 Valet in P.G. Wodehouse novels
33 “___ Lap” (1983 racehorse film set in Australia)
34 “And Just Like That...” network
36 Edge that sits on a car wheel
37 “And Just Like That...” network
42 Cartoon kid who said “What the deuce?”
43 Doctrinal rejection
44 Affirmative votes
47 Red___ (cinnamon candies)
48 CIA forerunner during WWII
49 Prefix with dactyl
51 Long-legged bird
53 Big name in gluten-free bread
54 El ___ (Spanish national hero)
55Suffix with lime
56 “Orange Crush” band
58 Perfect examples
60 Get higher
61 “The Silence of the Lambs” director
62 Causes of some EMT calls
Happy Holidays!

Wishing you and yours
A peaceful holiday season.

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