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For generations, Stanford Medicine—made up of Stanford Children’s Health, Stanford School of Medicine, and Stanford Health Care—has leveraged its combined power, precision, and innovation to keep our communities safe and healthy. Thank you, Bay Area, for placing your trust in Stanford Medicine.

We are here for you.
Nearly 75 years of vital services, enabling seniors to age in place.

“PVI’s Meals on Wheels is a life changer for me. You give me hope. I am beyond grateful.”

Hunger has more than tripled in the Bay Area. Our senior community is most affected.

Let’s ensure no senior in our community goes hungry.

With your support PVI’s Meals on Wheels delivered 288,000 nutritious meals during the pandemic.

LEARN MORE AND DONATE TODAY AT PENVOL.ORG

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 6 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 4,083 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 fall services for a week at Rosemer 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.

VISIT US ONLINE TO READ THE STORIES OF LOCAL SENIORS LIKE NORMA, WESLEY, AND ANNETTE

For nearly 25 years, Peninsula Volunteers, Inc., a duly recognized 501 © (3) non-profit organization, has enabled seniors to age in place, driven by a profound legacy of caring and our core values of respect, commitment, trust, dedication, and compassion. Our essential programs serve over 6,900 Peninsula households and address the most pressing issues of aging adults by offering critical services to sustain their daily physical, nutritional, emotional, and mental health while achieving dignity and independence in their lives. PVI’s innovative programs: Nutrition Services; Meals on Wheels; Adult Day Services at Rosemer House; Health, Wellness and Lifetime Enrichments offerings at Little House; and on-demand Transportation Services at Little House, the Roslyn G. Morris Activity Center.
The lingering pandemic continued to dominate headlines in 2021, so it’s no surprise that a fair number of articles on the Palo Alto Weekly’s list of most-read stories of the year are related to COVID-19 and its fallout.

But that wasn’t the only topic readers were interested in. Land-use issues and crime also captured people’s attention, including multiple high-value retail heists and a plague of hate crimes. Complaints that a billionaire’s residence was being used for business purposes also garnered plenty of interest.

Here’s our curated list of stories that received the most views on Palo Alto Online during 2021.

10: Diners to give way to drivers on University

Dining al fresco came to an end on University Avenue in mid-October, when the city’s main downtown thoroughfare reopened to vehicles after more than a year. The pedestrian-street format pitted restaurants, which gained ample room to accommodate customers outside, against retailers, who saw no increases in sales.

During a September meeting, the Palo Alto City Council unanimously voted to reopen University ahead of the holiday shopping season, a crucial time for retailers. At that same meeting, the council decided to keep California Avenue car-free for the foreseeable future and to make the city’s parklet program, in which parking spaces are converted into outdoor dining spaces, permanent.

9: Residents-only rule for Foothills Park outlawed

The Foothills Park saga ultimately ended in January when a U.S. District Court judge issued a permanent injunction on the city, which was barred from reinstating its residents-only policy at what is now known as Foothills Nature Preserve. The order settled a lawsuit filed by a coalition that included the American Civil Liberties Union, NAACP and residents from Palo Alto and other cities.

The council had earlier considered a plan to have voters decide on the park access issue in 2022, but the injunction also bans the city from sponsoring a ballot measure that "has the purpose or effect of prohibiting or restricting access to Foothills Park by non-residents of Palo Alto.”

8: Census reveals greater diversity

Few new homes and growing diversity: That’s what early data from the 2020 U.S. Census showed us about Palo Alto. The decennial report confirmed that the city had grown by more than 4,000 residents since 2010 and that its racial diversity trended upward, with the Asian community leading the way. The population of multi-racial persons also increased significantly in the past decade. But the data also detailed the city’s slowness at facilitating the addition of new housing and identified which neighborhoods saw their housing stock actually drop.

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7: Fuki Sushi owner subjected to racial-hate tirade

Lumi Gardner, owner of Fuki Sushi restaurant on El Camino Real, found herself in a tense situation with a customer who became enraged when told the restaurant wasn’t accepting cash due to the pandemic. He screamed at Gardner, a Palo Alto native, and told her to “go back to your country.” Community members responded to the Aug. 1 incident with a rally to celebrate diversity and to support Gardner and the restaurant.

It was one of many events in 2021 in which people spoke out against discrimination against people of Asian heritage. Data shared in the spring showed reports of hate crimes and hate incidents have significantly risen in Palo Alto and Santa Clara County, as well as across the nation.

6: Farewell to the Counter, Tesla and others

The Counter restaurant was just one of many businesses that bid farewell to Palo Alto in 2021. The owner of the burger franchise over the summer declined to renew its property lease on California Avenue, a street where vacancies have been stacking up in recent years. It was replaced by Local Kitchens, a digital food hall with multiple restaurants that allows customers to place orders and pick up their food at one location.

One of the year’s most high-profile departures was Tesla, which joined the California exodus by moving its headquarters to Texas. CEO Elon Musk said the move was prompted by high housing costs, long commutes and the region's growth limitations.

5: Families leave Palo Alto for in-person education

Frustrated with Zoom classes at home and stalked school reopening decisions during the pandemic, some Palo Alto parents opted to temporarily leave the Palo Alto Unified School District and enroll their children in in-person education programs in places as far away as Denmark, Norway and Texas. “I’m really sad, and I’m also really angry. I feel like we’ve been left no other choice,” one mother said.

4: Google’s Larry Page warned about use of home for business

After an Old Palo Alto neighborhood connected to Google co-founder Larry Page caught fire on Sept. 14, it came to light that one or more neighbors had complained the home was being used not as living space but for business purposes, in violation of city laws. The city of Palo Alto issued a notice of violation to the entity allegedly operating out of the house, stating that the post-fire home was uninhabitable and referencing the neighbors’ complaint.

The home, located at 2175 Bryant St., is one of the handful of Old Palo Alto homes owned by Page or limited liability corporations associated with him. Neighbors who were interviewed say that visitors who arrive at the house in a steady flow take up parking spaces on the street but that the people are generally quiet.

3: $150K in handbags stolen from Neiman Marcus

High-profile flash-mob heists struck the Bay Area in 2021, including a theft of more than $150,000 worth of handbags from the Neiman Marcus department store at Stanford Shopping Center on the afternoon of May 19, according to Palo Alto police.

The attack by what police called a “coordinated group” involved at least 10 people who was the first in a string of thefts targeting expensive handbags in Palo Alto within a month. Another group stole $100,000 worth of handbags from Louis Vuitton, also located at Stanford Shopping Center, during a similar heist on June 7. Two weeks later, a group of seven men raided The RealReal, a luxury consignment shop on University Avenue, taking about 20 handbags worth $50,000, police said.

2: What’s allowed under the state’s ‘purple’ tier

Santa Clara and San Mateo counties returned to the state’s most restrictive COVID-19 level, the “purple” tier, after California health officials lifted statewide regional stay-at-home orders on Jan. 25. The return to the purple tier under California’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy was one of many restrictions that were reimposed or lifted throughout 2021. Under the purple tier, outdoor dining, personal care services and professional, collegiate, adult and youth sports were allowed to resume with modifications. Mandatory travel restrictions, which require a 10-day quarantine for most persons who return to Santa Clara County after traveling farther than 150 miles, stayed in effect.

1: Here’s who’ll be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine

At the start of 2021, the first phase of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution program was well underway in Santa Clara County, with health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities receiving the initial batches of vaccines. Then health leaders announced that the next phase of the program could roll out as soon as the end of January, expanding eligibility to people ages 75 and older and workers in education, child care, emergency services, food and agriculture.

The doses from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna conferred a 95% immunity from the deadly coronavirus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Over the months, eligibility was extended to younger and younger groups, and in the fall booster shots became available to help people ward off the delta and omicron variants.

About the cover: The Palo Alto Weekly looks back at the stories and photos that defined 2021. Photos by Magali Gauthier, Adair Purdie and courtesy Sydney Ling. Cover design by Douglas Young. Security footage shows a group of people outside the Neiman Marcus department store at Stanford Shopping Center, from which the individuals allegedly stole 43 handbags on May 19.
The Weekly’s year-end news quiz

A 21-question challenge about 2021 local news

by Jocelyn Dong, Sue Dremann, Lloyd Lee, Zoe Morgan and Gennady Shemyner

How well did you keep up with local news this year? Palo Alto Weekly reporters want to see how closely you’ve been paying attention. Before 2022 arrives, test your knowledge through this quiz and see if you can count yourself among Palo Alto’s true Know-It-Alls. The answers, with explanations, are on page 16.

1. Which of the following Palo Alto movie theaters closed permanently this year?
   A. CineArts at Palo Alto Square
   B. The Aquarius
   C. The Stanford Theatre
   D. Fine Arts Theater

2. In January, Pastor Paul Bains announced his nonprofit United Hope Builders plans to create a factory in East Palo Alto to manufacture what?
   A. Electric vehicles
   B. Laptop computers
   C. Modular tiny homes
   D. Tunnel boring machines

3. Which public figure visited Barron Park Elementary School in March?
   A. Donald Trump
   B. Mark Zuckerberg
   C. Gavin Newsom
   D. Kamala Harris

4. Which of the following convictions in 2021 was for the most notorious local crime?
   A. Local parents in the college admissions scam
   B. John Arthur Getreu for the murder of a woman on Stanford University property
   C. Jingyan Jin for the stabbing death of Palo Altan Jenny Shi
   D. The Fireworks Terror Gang, which launched thousands of explosives for months

5. The Palo Alto Fire Department responded to about 14 mutual-aid deployments to battle wildfires in 2020. This year, the number of deployments went down to how many?
   A. 10
   B. 5
   C. 2
   D. 0

6. The Palo Alto City Council agreed in October to strengthen the city’s tree-protection rules by expanding the roster of “protected trees,” which is currently limited to three native species of the coast redwood, the coast live oak and which other tree?
   A. Valley oak
   B. Blue oak
   C. Scarlet oak
   D. Emory oak

7. When Palo Alto resident Jolly Bosse was lost in the Sierra National Forest for two days, what food did she survive on?
   A. Granola bar
   B. Squished In-N-Out burger
   C. A frozen tangerine
   D. None, just water

8. U.S. Census data was released this year. Which group of Palo Altans grew from 27% of the city’s population in 2010 to 35% in 2020?
   A. White residents
   B. Asian residents
   C. Hispanic residents
   D. Labradoodles

9. Palo Alto finally completed a bike bridge over the U.S. Highway 101, which opened in November. The project, which was conceived about a decade ago, had been delayed by which reason(s)?
   A. The city staged a design contest judged by a panel of architects. The council then overruled the panel’s choice and selected the runner-up design instead.
   B. Supply chain issues made it harder for the city’s contractor to obtain steel for the bridge’s railing
   C. The city had to transport the middle portion of the span from Arizona and it had a hard time finding state troopers to escort the giant component
   D. All of the above

10. What decision did the Palo Alto Unified School District make this year about its Cubberley Community Center land?
    A. To retain at least 20 acres for a possible future school
    B. To sell the land to Santa Clara County
    C. To build a museum about the district’s history
    D. To build teacher housing

11. Palo Alto continued to winnow down its options for separating the railroad tracks from roads at rail crossings. One option that was officially eliminated this year was:
    A. A trench in south Palo Alto
    B. A train tunnel between Palo Alto Avenue and San Antonio Road
    C. A viaduct near the Churchill crossing
    D. A car underpass at Palo Alto Avenue

12. The Weekly analyzed local sources of water this summer after Santa Clara County, and eventually the whole state, was placed under a drought emergency. How much of Palo Alto’s water is recycled?
    A. 7%
    B. 25%
    C. 30%
    D. 19%

13. When the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo opened its upgraded facility to the public in November, the zoo’s executive director especially lauded the space for what?
    A. Its rare carriage of Simba, a baby tiger from India
    B. Its accessibility features for people with disabilities
    C. Its 50,000-square-foot addition
    D. Its vertical wind tunnel where children can feel like they’re flying

14. Local schools faced staffing shortages in which positions this fall?
    A. Substitute teachers
    B. Instructional assistants
    C. Crossing guards
    D. All of the above

15. In June, Palo Alto city officials donned hard hats to celebrate the ground breaking of what long-awaited project?
    A. Free Google WiFi project for the whole city
    B. Public safety building
    C. 100,000-square-foot public gym
    D. Electrified fence to protect El Palo Alto

16. This word or phrase best describes Palo Alto’s primary approach to addressing climate change:
    A. Telecommuting
    B. Meatless Monday
    C. Electrification
    D. Fake news

17. Former Stanford sailing coach John Vandemoer, who pleaded guilty in the nationwide college admissions scam in 2019, released a memoir about the scandal in late September. What was the book’s title?
    A. “Rigged Justice: How the college admissions scandal ruined an innocent man’s life”
    B. “Purged: How Stanford cleansed its hands in the college admissions scandal”
    C. “Convinced: Why I pleaded guilty in the college admissions scandal!”
    D. “Stanford v. John Vandemoer”

18. Todd Quackenbush and Suzie Scher, both 45, were classmates at Palo Alto’s Juanita Briones Elementary School back in the day, but that’s not their only bond. What happened this year to bring them closer?
    A. They earned the Guinness World Record for longest continuous tango dance (36 hours)
    B. They invented a new fermented acai drink called Happy Gut
    C. They became Facebook friends
    D. Scher donated a life-saving kidney to Quackenbush

19. On Oct. 28, CEO Mark Zuckerberg changed his company’s name from Facebook to what?
    A. Hacker Way
    B. Oculus
    C. Social Media Giant Co.
    D. Meta

20. Which other college’s campus did Stanford University make plans to purchase this year?
    A. Foothill College
    B. Notre Dame de Namur University
    C. UC Berkeley
    D. Santa Clara University

21. For more than two decades, Palo Alto has sought unsuccessfully to join the SFO Community Roundtable, a panel of Peninsula city representatives that works with the San Francisco International Airport on the issue of airplane noise. What happened on Dec. 1?
    A. The roundtable majority at last welcomed Palo Alto and threw a coming out party.
    B. The roundtable majority rejected the city’s latest bid, despite sending promising signals over the summer.
    C. The roundtable majority postponed the decision but gave the city 10 airline vouchers for free trips to anywhere.
    D. None of the above.
When Palo Alto City Council members met in January 2021 to consider their top priorities for the year, pandemic recovery was clearly at the top of their list.

“You can make an argument that that is the only one on the list,” Council member Alison Cormack said at the council’s annual retreat.

The statement proved only partially true. The pandemic certainly shaped many of the city’s decisions this year, from whether to hold in-person meetings (no, then yes) to whether University Avenue should be closed to cars to facilitate outdoor dining (yes, then no). In some cases, the prolonged economic hardh hitting the city’s ability to provide services, as witnessed by shorter library hours and the only partially staffed fire station in College Terrace, a legacy of the council’s 2020 budget cuts.

But despite COVID-19, the city made significant progress this year on some priorities that preceded the pandemic, including the start of construction of a new police headquarters, moving ahead with a citywide fiber network and figuring out what to do about the city’s rail crossings, which must be redesigned to accommodate an expected increase in train traffic.

With the difficult year coming to an end, the council also had some news to celebrate. The local economy is showing signs of recovery, the long-awaited bike bridge over the U.S. Highway 101 cal economy is showing signs of expected increase in train traffic.

The $23.1-million overpass of- open in 2022, as the police build- infrastructure” in City Hall speak) is projected to cost about $22 million.

The trend continued into 2021. Just months before the city opened the bike bridge, it broke ground on a project with an even lengthier prequel: an $18 million public safety building that council members have been listing for decades as their top priority.

Then there is the invisible infra- structure. A municipal fiber system bringing broadband-speed internet to every corner of the city has been debated since 1998, with numerous proposals flickering in and out of existence over the decades. Finally, this past May, the council unanimously approved a proposal from the consulting firm Magellan Advisers to gradually expand the city’s existing fiber network. The first phase of the expansion, which will roughly double the existing network, is projected to cost about $22 million.

The city’s switch to “smart me- ters” (or “advanced-metering in- frastructure” in City Hall speak) also received the green light this year, with the council voting in October to approve $18 million in contracts to eventually convert all electric, gas and water meters. The building boom will con- tinue in 2022, as the police build- boom amidst financial pain. Since COVID-19 became a fixture of everyday life starting in March 2020, the city’s sales- and hotel-tax revenues plummeted and the council slashed $40 million worth of services. And yet, also in 2020, the city opened its new six-level garage near California Avenue and a completely rebuilt fire sta- tion near Rinconada Park.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

2022

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City (continued from page 8)

Even if the projects don’t materialize for some time, their ancillary benefits may arrive sooner. Several council members advocated for enhancing the city’s bike boulevards and constructing new underpasses near the tracks well before construction begins on grade separation. These proposals are also scheduled to be discussed in 2022.

POLICE REFORM
One step forward, two steps back

After vowing last year to support racial equity and improve transparency and accountability in the Police Department, Palo Alto struggled this year to live up to its bold commitments. As soon as the year began, the city’s Police Department encrypted its radio communications, effectively barring journalists and residents from monitoring breaking news over the scanner. In addition, the department eliminated its public information officer position and decreed that all requests for information would henceforth be processed through an online portal.

On their own, either of these moves would have been a setback to transparency. Together, they effectively gave the police complete discretion over what information gets released to the public.

City officials have maintained that the police department had to encrypt its radio transmissions to remain consistent with an order from the state Department of Justice. But that order requires law enforcement to protect only private information, such as an individual’s social security number and criminal record, and allows for continued publicly accessible dispatch communications. The fact that California Highway Patrol continues to openly broadcast its communications belies the assertion that Palo Alto needed to go to full encryption and calls into question whether the switch was made for the sake of the department’s convenience.

The moves to shield information from the public came at a time when one recently retired police officer is facing a criminal trial for slamming a man into a car windshield during a 2018 arrest and then failing to disclose the incident in a police report, as city policy dictates. And the city is still facing a lawsuit from an individual who alleged police brutality, with video evidence at hand. (A second lawsuit alleging brutality was settled last week, but the details were not made public.)

In addition to defending its officers from lawsuits, the city this year found itself in the awkward position of defending itself from its own officers’ lawsuit. In June, five officers — Eric Figueroa, Michael Foley, Christopher Moore, Robert Parham and Julie Tannock — sued the city over its “Black Lives Mural,” claiming that city-commissioned mural amounts to discrimination and harassment (a sixth officer, David Ferreira, joined the lawsuit later in the year). Their big issue with the mural involved the images of Assata Shakur — a civil rights leader who was convicted in 1977 of killing a New Jersey state trooper — and a black panther. The mural, which was painted in June 2020, was intended to be temporary and was removed four months later.

That said, Palo Alto did take some steps toward reform in 2021. In November, the city announced the launch of its Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT), which pairs an officer with a Santa Clara County clinician for calls involving mental health crises. The city is also in talks with Mountain View and Los Altos police departments about teaming up on a program that would replace officers with mental-health professionals for certain calls, along the lines of the Cahoots program pioneered in Eugene, Oregon.

The city also expanded the scope of work by its independent police auditor, The OIR Group, which was scheduled to release its latest report in late December but is now eyed for early 2022. Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@pawekly.com.

2021: How it started, how it’s ending
Still under the shadow of COVID-19, what difference has a year made?

By Sue Dremann

January

Mask mandate is in effect for indoor and outdoor venues.

Vaccinations first distributed to health care workers and vulnerable seniors.

The alpha variant of COVID-19 spreads to the Bay Area.

Regional stay-at-home order and partial lockdown hobbles businesses and limits activities.

A winter surge of COVID-19 cases continues from the 2020 holiday season but then drops off quickly.

Governmental and public meetings are conducted virtually over Zoom.

University and California avenues are closed to through traffic and on-street parklets are built to serve diners.

Palo Alto public elementary schools are partially opened, with most other students learning online, and the return of high schoolers to campus is still pending.

Stanford University delays reopening the campus to freshmen and sophomores during the winter quarter due to COVID-19.

Reported hate crimes had doubled in Palo Alto by the end of 2020 and into the new year, particularly those targeting Asian Americans.

December

After months of allowing vaccinated people to go mask optional, California mandates indoor masking through Jan. 15, 2022.

Multiple variants circulate, with the delta variant becoming the dominant strain; in December, Dr. Sara Cody warns of a coming ‘deluge’ of omicron.

The order is gone and businesses have gradually reopened, with social distancing and masking restrictions.

Santa Clara and San Mateo counties are seeing a fifth surge in cases.

Many clinics are allowing visitors who don’t have appointments and have shut their entrance testing stations. Masks and other precautions are still mandatory.

Traffic returned to University Avenue before the holiday, after much back-and-forth between the city and downtown businesses over a reopening date.

All public school campuses reopened to full-time classes.

Chart by Kevin Legnon

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Year in Review

The ‘never-ending year’: Palo Alto education leaders look back on 2021

In a year dominated by the pandemic, school reopening decisions took center stage

By Zoe Morgan

For Palo Alto Unified School District Superintendent Don Austin, the past 12 months have felt a bit like a “never-ending year” — with the pandemic’s disruptions to the education system making 2020 and 2021 blend together.

“It’s hard to separate out the last calendar year without going all the way back to March of 2020,” Austin said in a recent interview.

The pace of decision-making during the pandemic has meant there hasn’t been time to reflect in a typical way on all the changes that have occurred since the beginning of 2021, Austin said.

The year started with elementary schools open only in a hybrid model, meaning that some students had returned to campuses for a portion of the day or week, while middle and high school campuses were essentially closed. By the end of the spring semester, elementary schools had reopened for five days a week and middle and high schools were operating with some students on campus part-time.

Things changed this fall, when the district fully reopened and classes resumed in person. Safety precautions, such as mandatory masking, were still in place, but the normal pace of schooling largely returned.

Shounak Dharap, who served as president of the Board of Education this year, pointed to school reopenings as the biggest story of the year.

“This is the year that we brought all of our students back,” Dharap said.

Austin said it was “frustrating” to see all of the kids on campus again.

“I could hardly walk across a campus without having to choke back my eyes filling up with tears,” Austin said. “It was emotional on a level I didn’t expect.”

At the same time, Austin lamented that high school students hadn’t been able to return sooner. Although Palo Alto began bringing back elementary schoolers in the fall of 2020, it wasn’t until this school year that older students returned to a regular schedule.

The complexities of reopening a high school mid-year, with students rotating between classes throughout the day, just made it impossible to resume in-person instruction in the same way that elementary schools were able to, Austin said. He noted that this was a problem all districts faced but said it didn’t make it any less disappointing.

“Like it or not, we had to make decisions as they were presented to us,” Austin said.

Dharap similarly said it was a challenging but rewarding year to be board president. School reopening decisions inevitably upset some people in the community, who either felt the district wasn’t moving quickly enough or was moving ahead without proper safety precautions.

With everyone stuck at home and grappling with personal challenges, people were feeling “constant anxiety, frustration and anger,” Dharap said.

“It was a pressure cooker of a year for everyone, and it makes complete sense that in those times you look to your decision-makers to make the decisions that are going to be the best for you,” Dharap said. “The people who were upset had every right to be upset. At the same time, it doesn’t necessarily make it any easier to make deci-

(continued on page 12)
Palo Alto Unified has also seen ongoing enrollment drops accelerate during the pandemic. The district’s enrollment declined 8.4% in 2020 over the prior year and then another 2.6% this fall. In prior years, the student body had already been shrinking, but more slowly — with 2.1% declines in 2018 and 2019.

The district may ultimately see enrollment rebound from its pandemic-induced fall, Dharap said, but added that he believes the overall decline will continue due to the area’s high cost of living.

“I think that trend has very much to do with the fact that people my age can’t afford to live in Palo Alto,” said Dharap, who is 31.

Looking beyond the pandemic

While the pandemic and school reopening dominated much of 2021, district leaders have also begun tackling other issues not directly tied to the pandemic.

In November, the school board voted to change its priorities for the 27 acres it owns at Cubberley Community Center. The city of Palo Alto owns the remainder of the 35-acre site.

The school board decided to set aside roughly 20 acres for a theoretical future high school and removed two of its prior goals: moving the district office to the space and having staff housing on the site. The board’s decision to name the number of acres it wants can be struck, citing the possibility of the district either selling, leasing or land-swap part of its acreage at Cubberley.

The district is separately participating in a housing development in Palo Alto spearheaded by Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian that will house educators.

District administrators and board members have also been working on creating a comprehensive equity plan for the district, aimed at reducing disparities, particularly for groups such as students of color, those with disabilities and those from low-income backgrounds.

“We’ve always ... focused on equity as a priority, but the pandemic really opened those wounds and showed us how deep it went,” Dharap said.

Looking ahead to 2022

With 2022 on the horizon, district leaders say they are looking forward to moving ahead with issues beyond the pandemic, while not forgetting what they’ve learned over the past two years.

Dharap called the present moment an inflection point when district leaders should take the insight they’ve gained out of necessity and apply it to future challenges.

At the same time, the emergence of the omicron variant has meant that the district, and society more broadly, may not be out of the woods yet when it comes to COVID-19. Austin said in a text that he, and educators more broadly, are concerned about the rapid spread of the new variant.

“It is our job to manage the numbers, adhere to best practices as identified by health professionals, and to work with our professional associations,” Austin said.

Routine testing is more important now than ever, he said, pointing to the free testing program that the district operates for staff, students and the broader community.

Even with some concerns on the horizon, Austin said that there’s never been a time in his more than 20 years as an administrator when he’s been more excited to start the new year.

“This year’s been fantastic — given all the challenges, I’ll take it — but I’m really excited about next year because I think we’re back to building some good momentum, some momentum that we were starting to hit right before the closures,” Austin said.

The board saw a first draft of the equity plan this month and it’s set to come back for a vote during the spring semester.

This fall, the district has also faced claims from the families of six Gunn High School students, alleging that administrators failed to protect the youth from violent and racist bullying. Dharap said he couldn’t discuss specific cases but did say that the district has a good bullying policy and that the important part is making sure it is implemented and enforced, which he said is a district priority.

Answers to this week’s puzzles, which can be found on page 27.

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Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to elect its new mayor and vice mayor and pass a resolution of appreciation for Mayor Tom DuBois. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 3, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 350 Hamilton Ave. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 362 027 238.

UTILITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION ... The commission plans to meet in a closed session to discuss the city’s cybersecurity programs. It will then discuss permit processes for various energy technologies; consider the objectives and scope of its Energy Resiliency and Reliability Plan; and discuss a possible amendment to the city’s rules and regulations pertaining to billing. The closed session will begin at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 5. The rest of the virtual meeting will follow immediately after the closed session. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 966 9129 7246.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD ... The board plans to meet at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 6. The agenda for the virtual meeting was not available by press deadline.

CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council

The council did not meet this week.

Year in Review

Round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council

The council did not meet this week.

The city has previously expressed interest in creating a new community center on the land, while the district has been hesitant to give up acreage that it could use in the future. Dharap said he is optimistic that a deal can be struck, citing the possibility of the district either selling, leasing or land-swap part of its acreage at Cubberley.

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Year in Review

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News Digest

City may relax rules for Foothills park entry

A year after tightening the daily visitor cap at Foothills Nature Preserve, the city of Palo Alto is now exploring new policies that would make it easier for people to enjoy the park.

According to Community Services Department staff, the spike in visitors, traffic and parking problems that plagued the park at the end of 2020 when the city opened the once-exclusive preserve to the broader public, has substantially diminished. The number of visitors remains far higher than it had been historically, when only Palo Alto residents and their visitors were allowed to visit the preserve, but the park’s capacity limit of 500 has not been reached since early April, according to staff.

The Parks and Recreation Commission recommended on Dec. 14 that the city raise the lower limit of the visitor cap from 300 to 400 (though under most circumstances it would remain at 500). It also suggested that the city halt exploration of a reservation system, which is now deemed unnecessary, and that it loosen the rules for students wishing to visit the park. Currently, students who drive to the park get free entry. Under the new rules, students would get a 50% discount on annual passes. However, they would only have to be present in the car and not actually driving.

The commission also recommended new policies that provide free annual passes to members of the military, veterans and individuals with disabilities, as defined by the California State Parks system (this includes mental, hearing, speech, visual, mental and physical disabilities).

While most of the revisions are designed to make visitation to the park easier, the commission balked at removing one existing rule that makes the bicycling community want to see gone: a prohibition on bicycling through Gate D, which serves as an access point between Araratadero Preserve and the Foothills Nature Preserve.

— Gennady Sheyner

Auditors scrutinize public safety building costs

The city of Palo Alto has charged its city auditor with examining every change order and invoice associated with the new structure.

To date, Baker Tilly has already uncovered irregularities that had resulted in more than $7,000 in additional costs to the city. One dates back to 2017, when the city’s construction manager, Nova Partners, billed the city for an estimator at a rate of $175 per hour rather than the agreed upon amount of $160 per hour. This resulted in an overcharge totaling $6,975, according to the audit.

Public Works Assistant Director Holly Boyd said the city had included $7,300 in the contract that amount on the contractor’s recent invoice, resolving the issue. In the audit, the auditor found the main construction company, Swinerton Builders, requesting a duplicate charge for $356.77 for equipment money that has also been reimbursed, according to city staff.

Given that the firm has already reviewed more than $22 million in expenditures, the issues that the audit has uncovered are relatively minor, auditors with Baker Tilly said during a Dec. 14 presentation on the project in front of the City Council’s Policy and Services Committee.

— Gennady Sheyner

County mandates COVID vaccinations

With the increasing spread of the COVID-19 omicron variant, Santa Clara County health officials on Tuesday issued a new order that expands on the state’s vaccination requirements for workers in high-risk settings, including health care facilities, jails, shelters and long-term care facilities.

The Dec. 28 county health order mandates up-to-date vaccination for workers in certain health care and long-term care settings by Jan. 24. The workers would be required to be fully vaccinated and to have received a booster shot if they work in high-risk settings. The order also enhances the protection of the state mandate by requiring up-to-date vaccination for all medical first responders, jail staff and shelter workers.

The order also speeds up mandated boosters and vaccinations for these workers by Jan. 24 instead of the state’s Feb. 1 deadline.

County officials said they made that decision based on how quickly the omicron variant is spreading and the widespread availability of vaccines within the county.

The Aug. 2 health order that requires universal indoor masking remains in effect throughout Santa Clara County.

— Sue Dremann

995 Fictitious Name Statement


To all interested persons, notice is hereby given that a Petition for Probate has been filed by: ELLEN MARIA JENSEN, aka ANN E. KANE in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: ELLEN MARIA JENSEN, aka ANN E. KANE in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA.

The Petition 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 codicil, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicil are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you should appear at the hearing to show cause why the court should not grant the petition. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 2/22/2022 Time: 9:00 a.m. Dept. 13 Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, 3151 N. First St., San Jose, CA 95132.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file a written declaration with the court before the hearing that your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. You may also file a contingent creditor’s notice of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court and file with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file a written declaration with the court before the hearing that your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. You may also file a contingent creditor’s notice of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court. Other California statutes and legal authorities may provide additional requirements for claiming a debt.

You may want to consult with an attorney regarding the probate process. You may want to consult with an attorney regarding the probate process.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a personal representative or a subordinate official of a personal representative, as defined in section 580 of the California Probate Code, you may examine the file of the decedent’s probate case on any day of the week between the date of filing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 580 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authorities may provide additional requirements for claiming a debt.

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Wishing You and Your Family a Year of Joy, Health and Meaning

Expressing gratitude for my 2021 transactions

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BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
DELIVERING DREAMS

Dedicated to the finest real estate representation in Palo Alto, Atherton, Menlo Park and surrounding cities

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Talia Citron Knapp
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#1 Agent ENTIRE Bay Area
#5 Agent California
#1 Market Share in Menlo Park
4. B. California Gov. Gavin Newsom and his team from the Fresno County Sheriff’s Office on Oct. 19. The City Council agreed in October to address the local shortage of affordable housing, United Hope Builders will construct a roughly $60,000-square-foot factory on 7 acres of the old Romic Environmental Technologies site on Bay Road. The facility, a partnership with IndeDwell, an Idaho-based corporation that manufactures modular housing units, will churn out steel modular homes of between 640 and 960 square feet and employ 100 workers.


2. C. To address the local shortage of affordable housing, United Hope Builders will construct a roughly $60,000-square-foot factory on 7 acres of the old Romic Environmental Technologies site on Bay Road. The facility, a partnership with IndeDwell, an Idaho-based corporation that manufactures modular housing units, will churn out steel modular homes of between 640 and 960 square feet and employ 100 workers.

1. A. CinéArts at Palo Alto Square will not be reopening after the COVID-19 pandemic, the theater’s parent company confirmed in June, calling it “a business decision.”

8. B. The Asian population grew the most over the past decade. The proportion of white residents dropped from 64% to 50%, while Hispanic residents as a whole increased from 6% to 7%, and the Black population stayed at just under 2%. Sadly, there is no count of the city’s Labradoodles.

10. A. The Palo Alto Board of Education voted to reserve roughly 20 acres at Cubberley for a theoretical future high school. The board signaled the possibility of making a deal with the city of Palo Alto about the remaining land.

12. A. Palo Alto receives 93% of its water from the San Francisco Regional Water System (mainly the Hetch Hetchy reservoir), and just 7% is recycled. The recycled water is used for landscape irrigation and non-potable uses.

15. B. In June, the city broke ground on construction of the new public safety building near California Avenue, following the council’s vote in February to approve a $92.3 million contract with Swinerton Builders. Discussed for more than 15 years and listed as a top infrastructure priority since 2014, the building will serve as the Police Department and Fire Department headquarters as well as house the city’s Office of Emergency Services.

16. C. To meet its goal of reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2030, with 1990 as the baseline year, the council and city staff plan to spend the next few years launching programs to wean residents off natural gas and steer them to electric appliances. It will also continue to push for a broader switch to electric vehicles.

17. A. Two years after his conviction, John Vandemoer released a book that details how he was caught up in the college admissions scandal that federal prosecutors dubbed “Operation Varsity Blues.” In it, he recalled the day he met Rick Singer, the admitted mastermind behind the scheme. He also recounts the mistakes he made along the way and the fallout of his conviction.

18. D. When Suzie Scher heard that her childhood friend Todd Quackenbush was in kidney failure and needed a transplant, she volunteered to be his live donor. The successful surgery took place Oct. 26, and Todd has named his new kidney “Suzette.”

19. D. Mark Zuckerberg announced the new name, Meta, to introduce the social media giant’s shift towards virtual reality, which the company has taken to call the “metaverse.” The name change came amid demands from federal lawmakers to break up the company into smaller entities and greater public scrutiny after an ex-Facebook employee leaked troves of documents that revealed how the company was aware of the negative impacts its products had on teenagers.

20. B. Stanford University reached an agreement to “work toward” purchasing Notre Dame de Namur University’s roughly 50-acre campus in Belmont.

21. B. Eager to have a voice about airplane noise, Palo Alto officials thought the city would be accepted into the roundtable this year after most roundtable members in June signaled support. Instead, 12 of 17 members voted on Dec. 1 against Palo Alto but accepted the city of Colma. Ironically, committee members reasoned that allowing Palo Alto would cause a “dilution of resources and priorities.”
**POLICE CALLS**

**Palo Alto**

Dec. 22-Dec. 29

**Violence related**

- El Camino Real, 12/18, 7:36 p.m.; robbery
- Sand Hill Road, 12/20, 3:12 p.m.; suicide
- University Avenue, 12/21, 4:59 p.m.; robbery
- Churchill Avenue, 12/22, 11:09 p.m.; battery
- Forest Avenue, 12/23, 2:10 p.m.; battery
- El Camino Real, 12/27, 11:36 a.m.; assault

**Theft related**

- Breaking and entering
- Fraud
- Grand theft
- Personal property theft
- Petty theft
- Shoplifting

**Vehicle related**

- Auto theft
- Driving with suspended license
- Hit and run
- Theft from auto
- Vehicle accident/mini injury
- Vehicle accident/no injury
- Vehicle tampering

**Alcohol or drug related**

- Driving under influence
- Possession of paraphernalia

**Miscellaneous**

- Disorderly conduct
- Evade police officer
- Found property
- Intimidation
- Located missing person
- Lost property
- Medical assist
- Mental evaluation
- Missing person
- Outside warrant arrest
- Trespassing
- Unattended death

**Menlo Park**

Dec. 22-Dec. 28

**Violence related**

- Mills Street, 12/23, 2:34 p.m.; battery
- Carlton Avenue, 12/24, 8:24 p.m.; assault and battery
- Coleman Avenue, 12/25, 11:16 p.m.; battery
- Willow Road, 12/27, 9:59 p.m.; spousal abuse

**Theft related**

- Burglary
- Fraud
- Petty theft
- Grand theft
- Residential burglary attempt

**Vehicle related**

- Hit and run
- Parking/driving violation
- Vehicle accident/mini injury
- Vehicle tampering

**Miscellaneous**

- Coronor case
- Disturbance
- Found property
- Lost property
- Shoplifting
- Suspicious circumstances
- Warrant arrest

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Associate sought by BofA Securities, Inc. to support the origination & execution of investment banking transactions, as well as capital markets, including debt & equity offerings. Prepare materials for clients & participate in client meetings during the course of investment banking deal origination & execution. Reqs: Bach or equiv. & 4 yrs exp. in: Executing investment banking transactions & processes in a global firm environment, incl both M&A & capital markets products; Preparing financial analysis, incl detailed valuation analysis, such as: LBO analysis, discounted cash flow, accretion & dilution, IPD pro forma analysis, comparative company analysis, & sum of parts analysis. In the alternative, the employer will accept 1 Bach degree & a minimum of 4 years progressively responsible experience. 10% domestic travel, as nec. Job Site: Palo Alto, CA. Ref#:649542 & submit resume to BofA Securities, Inc. NY1-S44-06-03, 1114 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036. No phone calls or emails. EOE.

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**Employment**

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Associate sought by BofA Securities, Inc. to support the origination & execution of investment banking transactions mandates for large-cap corporate clients in the technology, media and telecommunications sectors. Assist in the execution of corporate finance transactions including sell-side & buy-side M&A, debt & equity financing & strategic advisory. Reqs: Bach or equiv. & 2 yrs exp. in: Working in teams to execute investment banking transactions & processes in a global firm environment, including both M&A & capital markets products; Preparing presentation materials in connection with investment banking transactions & pitches. 25% domestic travel as needed. Job Site: Palo Alto, CA. Ref#:603089 & submit resume to BofA Securities, Inc. NY1-S44-06-03, 1114 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036. No phone calls or emails. EOE.
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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.

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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.

Donate online at siliconvalleycf.org/paw-holiday-fund
Thank you to our generous donors

As of December 24th, 290 donors have contributed $636,552 to the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund.

Donate online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com/holiday_fund/
As chief visual journalist at the Palo Alto Weekly, one of my earliest assignments of 2021 was to photograph seniors in East Palo Alto receiving their vaccinations against COVID-19. That moment was a turning point in my coverage of the pandemic: Knowing that the vulnerable people I was photographing were now protected from the deadly virus felt like a weight had been lifted off my shoulders.

I had spent most of the previous year fearing that I could catch, carry and spread the virus without knowing it. While I no longer methodically sanitized my camera equipment and showered and changed my clothes at the end of each work day, I continued double masking wherever I went, and the majority of my shoots remained outdoors.

By the start of May, I had completed my two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which allowed me into spaces and situations I hadn’t been in for over a year. I now felt safe photographing hundreds of people marching through downtown Palo Alto demanding an end to hate crimes against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. And I was allowed into a retirement community to capture residents hugging their children and grandchildren for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

In the second half of the year after California reopened, some of my coverage began diverging from the pandemic-related news stories that had dominated the past 16 months as businesses, local governments and people shifted their attention to other issues. I scaled the sides of local reservoirs with a telephoto lens and a drone to photograph the dire local drought conditions. I photographed two entrepreneurs crafting beer recipes out of one of their garages.

Life almost seemed back to normal. Things aren’t back to the way they were, obviously, and it feels like the “new normal” (excuse the overused phrase) may actually be upon us. We’re living in a world where there is a constant threat of new COVID-19 variants, such as omicron, but in which we’ve adapted to and are able to do many of the things we did pre-pandemic.

These images illustrate how our community has come back together over the last 12 months to celebrate, learn, protest, mourn and innovate. Take a look.

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**A year of hope and resilience**

From vaccine rollouts to protests and celebrations, photos show a community coping with the pandemic

BY MAGALI GAUTHIER

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**Back in class**

Freshman Rebecca Fakatou prepares her paint pallet in an art class taught over Zoom at Palo Alto High School on March 10. After moving from the purple tier to the less restrictive red tier in the state’s color-coded reopening plan, Santa Clara County opened schools for in-person learning on March 9. Students were able to return to campuses to take classes over Zoom with others who continued to learn remotely.

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**A shot of hope**

Emiliano Preciado receives the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine from registered nurse Jill Vandroff at Ravenswood Family Health Center in East Palo Alto on Jan. 30. Santa Clara and San Mateo counties started vaccinating medical professionals and residents of long-term care facilities during the first phase of the vaccine rollout at the end of 2020. By the end of January, eligibility was expanded to people ages 75 and older, and workers in education, child care, emergency services, food and agriculture.

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**Magali Gauthier**
Gov. Gavin Newsom addresses reporters at Barron Park Elementary in Palo Alto on March 2 on new state legislation that would provide $6.6 billion to incentivize school districts to resume in-person instruction. The governor praised the Palo Alto Unified School District as a model that proves schools throughout the state can reopen safely.

After marching along University through downtown Palo Alto, hundreds of protesters listen to speakers decry the rising trend in attacks on the Asian American and Pacific Islander community outside Palo Alto City Hall on May 2.

Members of the Stanford University women’s basketball team wave as they parade through Palo Alto on April 5 in celebration of their NCAA tournament win on April 4.
Together at last

Solveig Brodsky hugs her daughter, Sonja Houssels, at Moldaw Residences in Palo Alto on May 5. The retirement community held the event for residents to reunite with their families for the first time since the pandemic shutdown in March 2020.

Youth get their first jabs

Dayna Chung waits in the observation area with her children Ana Chung, 16, and Aaron Chung, 13, after they receive their first doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School in East Palo Alto on May 15. San Mateo County began offering COVID-19 vaccinations to residents ages 12 to 15 years old on May 13.

Graduation ceremonies return

Masked graduates sit socially distanced on the Viking Stadium field during graduation at Palo Alto High School on June 2. The event marked the return of in-person graduation ceremonies, which had been put on hold at local high schools the previous year.
Year in Photos

Dry spell

A heron wades in the shallow waters of the Lexington Reservoir in Los Gatos on July 7. At the time, the reservoir was only approximately 25% full. On July 8, Gov. Gavin Newsom asks Californians to voluntarily cut their water use by 15% as extreme drought persisted throughout the state for the second consecutive year. (A month earlier, Santa Clara Valley Water District instituted a 15% mandatory reduction in water use among its customers.)

Music to their ears

Children dance as Andy Z performs at the Magical Bridge playground in Mitchell Park in Palo Alto on July 23. The event attracted about 160 masked and unmasked parents and children for the second community concert of the summer following California’s reopening on June 15.

Delayed farewell

Patti Irish returns to her seat after speaking at Sarah Johnson’s celebration of life ceremony at the First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto on July 17. Johnson died of COVID-19 complications on April 18, 2020. Her family, who flew in from different states for the memorial, had postponed services until it felt safe to gather again. The celebration marked the church’s first indoor gathering since closing its doors 16 months earlier due to the pandemic.
Kindergartners head to class on the first day of school at Los Robles-Ronald McNair Academy in East Palo Alto on Aug. 25. This marked the first time since the start of the pandemic that the campus had reopened full-time to all students. Some students had returned to campus the previous winter in small, stable cohorts.

RiSean “Bookie” Tinsley, right, and Denzel Jackson begin brewing grains to make beer outside Tinsley’s home in East Palo Alto on Oct. 17. The duo said their goal was to open a microbrewery and taproom in East Palo Alto. “This is my hometown,” Jackson said. “Understanding craft beer and sharing craft beer with our community, it’s a new frontier for us.”

Zookeeper Loree Lee Harper watches as a meerkat suns its belly at the Junior Museum and Zoo in Palo Alto. The zoo reopened on Nov. 12 after two years of construction. It was designed with a focus on accessibility for visitors of all mental and physical abilities, Executive Director John Aikin said during a media visit on Oct. 28.
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- Jill M.

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Across
1 George Eliot’s “___ Marner”
6 Intellect
9 Window framework
13 Opposite of obtuse
14 Turn towards
15 Nickname for the president of Mexico (based on his monogram)
16 Get gone, colloquially
19 Fiji-to-Samoa dir.
20 Voicemail noise
21 Capital of French Flanders (and birthplace of de Gaulle)
22 Burger King offering on the smaller side
26 Laundry challenges
28 First-string athletic groups
29 “The Christmas Song” composer Mel
30 “Gently worn,” really
33 30-Down, e.g.
34 Onetime seller of onesies
37 Electric guitar hookup
40 Jay who hosts a new revival of “You Bet Your Life”
41 Very slow tempo
43 ’40s pinup Betty
48 Clan of hip-hop notoriety
49 Fast asleep
53 Forename in fragrances
54 Remove with absorbent material
55 “Game of Thrones” airer
58 Right about now (and a hint to the closing word of each theme answer)
62 Poker holding
63 Part of a whole
64 ‘50s White House name
65 Airport postings, for short
66 Red No. 5, e.g.
67 Tiffs
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3 Tepid
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5 Black or Red
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8 "Dancing With the Stars" perfection
9 Contacts wearer’s solution
10 Earhart who shows up in the latter half of “American Horror Story: Double Feature”
11 Ski race with gates
12 Optimistic types
14 Producer’s nightmare
17 Uploads or downloads, in obsolete internet usage
18 Oversupply
23 She & ___ (Zooey Deschanel’s band)

"Time to Start Over” — only a few days left, Matt Jones

24 Ground floor apartment number, perhaps
25 Actress Pinkett Smith
26 Place for a short nap?
27 “Old___ Nightingale”
28 Purple base of some Filipino desserts
31 Roget’s entry (abbr.)
32 One of a Freudian trio
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36 Bathtub stopper
37 Object of loathing
38 Dew
39 Fad disc from the ’90s
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43 "Faust” dramatist
44 Charge towards
45 Show up to
46 Runs over the edge, as ink
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51 ’60s role for Michael Caine
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www.sudoku.name

Answers on page 12.

This week’s SUDOKU

Answers on page 12.

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