

Weekly

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for vehicle dwellers**

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Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

City eyes 'safe parking' in Baylands for RV dwellers

County would partner with nonprofits to provide services to unhoused individuals

by Gennady Sheyner

When Move Mountain View launched its "safe lots" program in 2018, it faced a daunting but critical mission: provide temporary shelter to the growing population of vehicle dwellers parked on city streets at two church parking lots

and help these individuals obtain permanent housing.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the program both expanded and adjusted its mission. It added two large Mountain View lots: one at Shoreline Amphitheater that can accommodate 30

vehicles and another at a former Santa Clara VTA site on Evelyn Avenue and Pioneer Way with room for about 29 vehicles. Its lots became shelter-in-place havens for their inhabitants, with monthly testing for the coronavirus, a food program that serves meals to residents and monthly visits from a medical team, said Amber Stime, the nonprofit's executive director.

Taken all together, its five lots accommodate about 132 individuals, Simes said. So far, all of them have been COVID-free.

The nonprofit, which was founded in 2016, is also continuing to grow, both within Mountain View and beyond city borders. Another lot on Terra Bella Avenue will have enough space for eight to 10 vehicles, Stime said. In Palo Alto, it plans to

open a similar lot at 2000 Geng Road, next to the Baylands Athletic Fields, east of U.S. Highway 101.

For the Palo Alto City Council, which has been discussing ways to encourage safe-parking sites for more than a year, the city-owned Geng Road site would be Palo Alto's first such program.

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Haunting hues

Tree lights illuminate University Avenue under an eerie orange sky that enveloped downtown Palo Alto in darkness throughout the day on Sept. 9. The unusual colored sky was caused by wildfire smoke settling on top of a marine layer.

PUBLIC HEALTH

More businesses allowed to reopen

With COVID cases dipping, schools, salons can resume indoor operations

by Lloyd Lee

After nearly two weeks of being in the purple, Santa Clara County has moved to the less restrictive red tier in California's color-coded classification system that determines how counties can move forward with reopening businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With a lower rate of COVID-19 cases and positive tests, the county will now allow indoor operations of nail salons, gyms and museums; expanded capacity in shopping malls; and the reopening of K-12 schools if the county can maintain those lower numbers for two weeks, a period that started Tuesday, Sept. 8.

The businesses are required to follow guidelines set by the county's risk-reduction order, which outlines directives pertaining to each industry set by the county and state, according to a county press release.

Despite satisfying the state's conditions for reopening indoor operations of restaurants, places of worship and movie theaters, the county will continue to prohibit those sectors until case rates are lower. (California Gov. Gavin Newsom has said on multiple occasions that county health officers can override state guidelines as long as they don't reopen faster than the state.)

At a news conference on Tuesday afternoon, County Counsel

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DEVELOPMENT

Castilleja wins key vote for contentious expansion

Commission OKs environmental analysis but warns city needs to impose stringent conditions

by Gennady Sheyner

Castilleja School received a long-awaited boost Wednesday in its bid to rebuild its campus and expand student enrollment when the Palo Alto Planning and Transportation Commission endorsed the environmental analysis for the contentious project.

In doing so, however, commis-

sioners also indicated that Castilleja still has plenty of work to do to regain the trust of skeptical neighbors and earn the final approval for its phased remodeling plan, which calls for demolishing and replacing most of the campus buildings, shifting its swimming pool to an underground level, building an underground garage

and gradually increasing enrollment from 426 to 540 students.

For Castilleja, which has been pursuing the campus renovation for the past four years, the commission's 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Doria Summa dissenting and Vice Chair Giselle Roohparvar and Commissioner William Riggs absent, represents a small

victory in the school's long and highly controversial approval process. A vocal group of neighbors have been fighting the proposal, with dozens attending the commission's Aug. 26 meeting to raise concerns about the underground garage, the high number of school

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



I don't want to be your canary in the minefield.



—Sandy Conklin, Gunn High School teacher, on re-opening classrooms for high-need students. See story on page 7.

Around Town

PLASMA PALS ... The coronavirus pandemic has brought together strangers in countless, unexpected ways. For **Shanti Minkstein**, it was a donation of COVID-19 convalescent plasma (CCP) made at the **Stanford Blood Center** and given to **Lance Becker**, a banker roughly 1,800 miles away in Des Moines, Iowa. The donor and recipient, both COVID-19 survivors, recently met through a virtual meeting set up through the blood center on Sept. 2. "I thought you might have been Tom Hanks. I'm not disappointed, but they wouldn't give me your name at first so I'm like 'OK, it's a movie star!'" Minkstein told Becker. (On March 11, Hanks announced his COVID-19 diagnosis on Twitter while in Australia.) The pair described their experiences with the disease. Minkstein said she felt fatigued after a trip to Mexico and later tested positive for COVID-19. The photographer and San Francisco mother of two quickly recovered and made her plasma donation in early April, becoming the second patient to donate plasma at the center. She was inspired to give after learning her friend's husband became critically ill. Becker tested positive for the virus after a business trip and was hospitalized on April 1. After receiving Minkstein's plasma on April 10, Becker's lungs began to clear and he returned home by month's end. "The fact that the symptoms range from a couple days of discomfort to full blown hospitalization ... it's a gamble if you don't take it seriously," he said. "You're gambling with your life." Becker's now paying it forward by donating his plasma at **LifeServe Blood Center** in Des Moines. Watch a video of Minkstein and Becker's conversation at stanfordbloodcenter.org/sbc-tv. For information on donating to Stanford Blood Center, visit stanfordbloodcenter.org/covid19plasma.

BANDING FOR RELIEF ... Face masks have become a necessity in the effort to prevent COVID-19 from spreading in the community, but they can become uncomfortable for essential workers after a long shift. A group of local high school students from **GENCare**, an organization with a goal of helping people during the health crisis, is working to give workers

more relief by making them ergonomic headbands. "Instead of the straps going around one's ear, they hook around a button on the headband, therefore reducing tension and discomfort," according to the **GENCare's** website. Last month, the group donated 75 headbands to the **Ravenswood Education Foundation** through its partnership with the **Essential Heroes Campaign**, a nonprofit founded by a group of **Gunn High School** students with a goal of recognizing local essential workers. Since launching in June, **GENCare** has raised \$650, exceeding its \$500 goal, through a **GoFundMe** campaign to buy supplies for the headbands. The teens planned to donate the surplus to the **World Health Organization's COVID-19 Response Fund**. The group plans to tackle more projects with the goal of bringing care to as many groups as it can. To learn more about **GENCare**, visit gencare.godaddysites.com.

NEW NAME, SAME PURPOSE ... With fall fast approaching, Palo Alto has rebranded its **Summer Streets** program under a new name: **Uplift Local**. The change announced Tuesday was made as the effort enters the fall and winter months. Expanded through Dec. 31, **Uplift Local** closes streets in the city's main commercial areas to provide ample space for outdoor dining, shopping and curbside pickup services for restaurants, retailers, salons and fitness centers, among other businesses. After roundtable discussions with business leaders from multiple industries, the program rolled out June 11 on **California Avenue**, where traffic has been blocked from El Camino Real to Birch Street. **University Avenue** followed on June 26, when the city closed downtown's main strip between Cowper and Ramona streets. The city has also closed Ramona Street from Hamilton Avenue to just past New Orleans-themed restaurant Nola. The city has encouraged the public to walk or bike to both districts. The program has continued to grow through a parklet program to help restaurants provide outdoor dining and more signage to assist businesses in publicizing their curbside pickup and delivery options. Learn more about **Uplift Local** at cityofpaloalto.org/upliftlocal. ■

EDUCATION

Palo Alto schools, closed since March, reopen for high-need students

Cohorts of 14 returned to school on Wednesday

by Elena Kadvany

After being closed for six months, some Palo Alto Unified schools reopened this week to serve small groups of struggling and special-education students in person.

The school district announced its plans for the in-person instruction on Sept. 4, about a week after the California Department of Public Health issued guidance allowing schools to reopen to serve students with “acute” needs, including students with disabilities, English learners, students at higher risk of further learning loss or not participating in distance learning, students at risk of abuse or neglect, foster youth and students experiencing homelessness.

The first group of students to return in person are part of the district’s new PAUSD+ program, which is providing support services for middle and high school students who have been identified by the district as struggling academically, are socioeconomically disadvantaged or are English language learners.

Cohorts of 14 students returned to school on Sept. 9. Each middle

and high school campus is housing one or two cohorts, with no more than two supervising adults for each cohort. The program runs Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and is “designed to reduce the impact of school closures on our families during distance learning,” Superintendent Don Austin’s weekly update stated.

The district invited specific students to participate in the program and is starting small, then expanding as safely as possible, Austin said. Through the program, the students have access to internet, materials, free breakfast and lunch and academic support.

“This is for kids who really, really need us,” Austin said. This was underscored for him when last week he visited families who live in recreational vehicles on El Camino Real after hearing that students living there were having trouble accessing their online classes, even with Wi-Fi hot spots provided by Palo Alto Unified.

The district then mounted wireless access points outside the district office and pointed them

toward the RVs to improve the students’ internet access.

On Sept. 10, about 20 special-education students in the district’s postsecondary Futures program returned to in-person school at Cubberley Community Center. Austin said they are bringing those students back in person first because the space available at Cubberley makes sense for that program, which is focused on developing work skills. The decision was based on feedback from staff who had experience from an in-person summer program with the students and “a small enough number of students that we thought we could be successful with that right away.”

The state released updated guidance on Sept. 4 that allows school districts more flexibility with the make-up of cohorts, a “victory” for students with moderate to severe disabilities who require one-on-one aides, Austin said. Cohorts are limited to no more than 14 students, with no more than two supervising adults in a supervised environment, or cohorts can include no more than



Students in the Palo Alto Unified School District’s Extended School Year program attend in-person classes at Greene Middle School on July 9.

16 individuals total — including children and youth or adults, the revised guidelines state.

“Cohorts can — and often will — be smaller than 14, staffed by one or two consistent adults,” the guidance states. “For example, a cohort could be six students with one adult or eight students with two adults that stay together throughout the day.”

Palo Alto Unified plans to resume in-person instruction for more special education students this month but has not yet set a date, Austin said.

All of the in-person programs will adhere to the state Public Health Department’s guidelines, including forming stable groups of 14 or fewer students who stay together for all activities and physical distancing “balanced with developmental and socio-emotional

needs of the age group.”

Both students and adults must wear face coverings. They will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms daily — time for this is built into the PAUSD+ daily schedule released by the district — and students riding the bus can only do so if their parents have completed a health screening.

District leaders are continuing to negotiate the return to face-to-face instruction with the teachers and classified employees unions, with bargaining sessions on Sept. 4, 9 and 11. The teachers union has voiced concern in the past about reopening schools earlier for some students.

At Tuesday’s school board meeting, several special education teachers asked the district to

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LAW ENFORCEMENT

Lack of data is the biggest hurdle to Sheriff’s Office reforms, says oversight group

Auditor: Without access to law enforcement data, identifying needed changes is difficult

by Lloyd Lee

Two months after the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted for policy reforms in the county Sheriff’s Office — a response to national calls for stricter law enforcement accountability in the wake of George Floyd’s death in Minneapolis — there have been no significant changes within the agency.

According to a 26-page report compiled by the Office of Independent Review (OIR) Group, an outside law enforcement auditing group, major obstacles to meaningful reform include a lack of extensive data collection and inaccessibility to information.

Micheal Gennaco, an auditor for Los Angeles-based OIR and head of the county’s new Office of Correction Law Enforcement Monitoring (OCLEM) committee, suggested during a board meeting on Aug. 25 that the current lack of data and access from the Sheriff’s Office makes it difficult to pinpoint where exactly changes are needed and advised that a better “information-sharing


agreement” is one place to start.

“I’ve been doing this work for 20 years, and with regard to access issues, in my prior experience ... we’ve always been able to work this out in a week or less,” Gennaco told the supervisors on Aug. 25. “I’m a little bit stymied here.”

One of 10 recommendations outlined in the report is for data to be gathered “on the types of calls and enforcement activity (the county’s) enforcement personnel respond to and perform, broken down by time and shift” and for that information to be shared with the public. This could mean showing the number of 911 calls deputies responded to or how much time is spent on traffic enforcement or responding to mental health crises.

Other OIR recommendations included: the creation of extensive reporting protocols for the agency’s deputies and officers (e.g., that they provide full accounts of any attempt to de-escalate a

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News Digest

Man allegedly fatally shoots ex-girlfriend

A man who allegedly shot and killed his ex-girlfriend during her birthday party and a memorial event for her brother in East Palo Alto on Monday night was arrested Tuesday in Stockton, police said. East Palo Alto police was first alerted to the shooting through a ShotSpotter activation in the 1700 block of West Bayshore Road, just west of U.S. Highway 101, at 11:11 p.m. on Monday.

The man, 55-year-old Joey Harris, turned himself in to the Stockton Police Department for the death of 56-year-old Cynthia Mose, according to a police press release. They had previously dated and lived together for two years.

Officers who responded found Mose suffering from gunshot wounds and performed life-saving measures while firefighters and paramedics were en route. The woman ultimately died of her injuries at the scene.

Witnesses who spoke to officers named Harris, Mose's ex-boyfriend, as the suspected shooter, according to the release. Harris allegedly shot Mose outside of the party with a firearm before taking off in a car.

The fatal shooting marks the city's fifth homicide this year. ■
—Palo Alto Weekly Staff

Wildfire smoke turns Bay Area sky orange

Smoke from the August Complex fires in Mendocino County settled on top of a marine layer in the Bay Area Wednesday, turning the sky various shades of red and orange.

According to Bay Area Air Quality Management District spokesman Ralph Borrmann, the smoke is filtering out blue light, giving skies around the Bay Area a red-orange tint.

In addition to smoke from the August fires, the Bay Area branch of the National Weather Service noted on Twitter that lower temperatures and weaker winds compared to the last several days are allowing wildfire smoke suspended in the air to fall closer to the ground, contributing to the sky color change.

Borrmann said that while the air district extended its Spare the Air alerts through Friday, air quality is not being adversely affected by the smoke because the marine layer is, in effect, insulating low-lying areas.

Parts of the Bay Area at higher elevations may be more susceptible to poor air quality, but parts of the Bay Area that lie at or close to sea level are not being adversely affected like in previous days.

Updates about air quality in the Bay Area can be found at baaqmd.gov. ■

—Bay City News Service

Study: Mail-in voting offers no partisan edge

Mail-in and absentee ballots improve voter turnout and make elections more democratic, but the argument that one political party would have an advantage over another in a mail-in ballot election doesn't appear credible, studies by multiple Stanford University researchers have found.

Implementing a broad mail-in ballot program could have some potential pitfalls in the November election, however, for states and counties when putting together the necessary infrastructure for distributing and sorting the ballots and ensuring that all of the votes are counted, they said.

In one study, Stanford political scientists Adam Bonica, an associate professor, and Hakeem Jefferson, an assistant professor, both of the Department of Political Science, analyzed election results in Colorado, one of the few states that conducts its elections completely by mail. Voter turnout increased about 9.4% after the program was rolled out in 2013, according to a working paper they co-authored, which studied data from five elections between 2010 and 2018. That percentage was even higher among people ages 30 and younger, among whom voter turnout increased by 15%.

Turnout was also high for blue-collar workers, voters without a high school diploma, those with less wealth and people of color, the researchers found.

Bonica and Jefferson did not find that Colorado's all-mail voting disproportionately benefited either the Republican or Democratic parties, but turnout among Independents was nearly 12% higher than in previous elections, the researchers said.

"Colorado's experience demonstrates that all-mail voting is not only safer than in-person voting but also better for democratic representation, with all age, income, race, occupational and education groups benefiting from its introduction," according to the working paper.

To help voters and election officials, the Healthy Elections Project has prepared resource guide (healthyelections.org), which includes tips on signature verification and vote tallying. ■

—Sue Dremann



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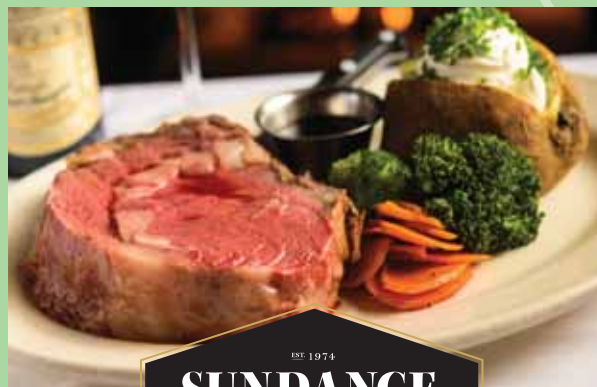
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EDUCATION

District hires new student-services director after reviewing past claims

San Ramon Valley High School principal to start work on Sept. 21

by Elena Kadvany

The Palo Alto Board of Education unanimously approved the hiring of Jason Krolikowski as director of student services on Tuesday evening, stating that they were confident district staff had properly vetted allegations made against him in a 2017 student free-speech lawsuit.

In a lawsuit that included Krolikowski as one of nine defendants, Nathaniel Yu, who was a 17-year-old San Ramon Valley High School junior at the time, alleged the school district violated his constitutional rights under the First Amendment when it disciplined him for his role in creating what his lawyers called “a James Bond-style parody video” in February 2017 during his campaign for student body president. Krolikowski was not principal of the school at that time and was not named as



Jason Krolikowski

a defendant in the original lawsuit filed in 2017 but was added in an amended complaint filed in February 2018, according to court records.

The lawsuit alleged that Krolikowski, who became principal of San Ramon Valley High School in the fall of 2017, “failed to investigate, document, or to prepare an investigation report” when Yu reported incidents of vandalism and hate speech against him at the start of the 2017-18 school year. It also alleges Krolikowski and other administrators did not address Yu’s reports of “threats of violence and death” made against his family on social media sites.

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District settled the lawsuit in April, awarding Yu \$665,000 and later issuing a public apology.

Palo Alto Superintendent Don Austin, who requested that the agenda item be pulled off the school board’s consent calendar so it could be discussed, said during the virtual meeting Tuesday that the incidents of vandalism and hate speech were in fact

investigated, according to Krolikowski and confirmed by other district staff.

“Mr. Krolikowski’s involvement in this case was a tiny sliver of an amended claim, and by all accounts for everyone that we spoke to in positions to know, (he) acted the way they would have hoped and expected,” Austin said.

Board members said they talked at length with Austin about Krolikowski’s background and agreed to support the superintendent’s recommendation to hire him. Board President Todd Collins said he reached out to people in the San Ramon Valley district who “knew about the investigation and all its details and independently was able to verify the facts that Dr. Austin presented.”

“I’m confident these issues are not material and shouldn’t concern us about Mr. Krolikowski,” board member Ken Dauber said.

“Our job is to let staff do their jobs, and staff is recommending to us that this is the person,” echoed board member Jennifer DiBrienza. “The explanations

How would the candidates vote?

As part of the Palo Alto Weekly’s election coverage, we will be asking the non-incumbent candidates running for Palo Alto Board of Education how they would vote — and why — on significant issues that the board takes action on before November.

This week, the Weekly asked how the candidates would vote on the hiring of Jason Krolikowski.

Katie Causey: I cannot say how I would have voted because I haven’t reviewed the information that was privy only to the board. Board members expressed they felt Mr. Krolikowski had been properly vetted, but the community does not know what that looks like.

Jesse Ladomirak: As a non-incumbent, I am not privy to any of this confidential information, all of which would be critical to me in deciding whether or not to support the

superintendent’s decision to hire him, and it would not be responsible of me to decide one way or the other without it. However, as a community member and PAUSD parent, I very much hope that all candidates, not just white men like Mr. Krolikowski, are given the same chance to explain past incidents and receive the same understanding and forgiveness during the hiring process.

Matt Nagle: I would have voted “no” because administrators should have never let it reach the board level. Don Austin, as well as the human resources administrators, should have anticipated the negative optics of anti-Asian racism that this hire would bring. The board’s “yes” votes showed a lack of respect and understanding of many in our Asian community.

Karna Nisewaner didn’t respond by the press deadline. ■

we’ve been given satisfy me. I’m ready to see this person come and do a good job in this district.”

Krolikowski’s appointment is effective Sept. 21. He will replace current Director of Student Services Miriam Stevenson, who is “going into the private sector,” Austin said. In her role, Stevenson

worked to address disproportionate suspension and attendance rates, social-emotional learning, the district’s Family Engagement Specialist Program and other projects. ■

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



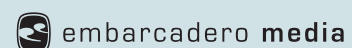
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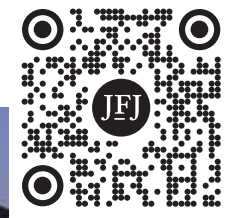
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Great things are happening in Sunnyvale and this home is just one-half mile to the total transformation of downtown along with famed Murphy Street shops and restaurants. A new Whole Foods Market is scheduled to open this fall and future shops and cinemas are well underway. A just-completed refresh of this home has turned it into a stylish residence with beautiful wood floors throughout, freshly painted interiors ready for any personal style of belongings, and more than enough room for today's work-from-home and distance learning needs.



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COMPASS

Safe parking

(continued from page 5)

On Sept. 14, the council will consider an agreement that would allow Santa Clara County to lease the land for three years. The county, which currently partners with Move Mountain View at the nonprofit's existing lots, would establish a similar agreement with Palo Alto.

For Palo Alto, the decision to focus on the Baylands site represents an abrupt change of direction. While the council has been exploring a "safe parking" program for the past year, the city was primarily focusing on small programs at local congregations, with each accommodating up to four vehicles.

The effort to establish safe-parking programs like the ones in Mountain View and East Palo Alto gained some momentum in June 2019, when a memo by Vice Mayor Tom DuBois and Councilwoman Lydia Kou advocated for exploring new services to accommodate the growing number of vehicle dwellers in the city.

"RVs and other vehicles can be found on main thoroughfares and quiet residential streets for extended period of time," the memo stated. "The city must address this matter from a health and safety standpoint."

Earlier this year, the council approved a permit process for what it called the "tier one" safe-parking program, with the understanding that tier two would focus on privately owned commercial sites and tier three on city-owned land. The council voted to approve the rules governing the first tier, including a requirement that the program be limited to overnight parking at houses of worship.

The pandemic has upended that strategy and ushered in financial challenges and a shutdown, which forced churches to close their doors. A new report from the Planning and Development Services Department notes that because of limited resources and the challenges of responding to the pandemic, no congregations have been able to launch safe-parking programs.

Rob Schulze, pastor at the

Peninsula Bible Church, said that while his congregation was planning to move ahead with a safe-parking program, the pandemic forced it to shift to new priorities. This includes completing construction of the church's commercial kitchen, which allows the church to increase its charitable feeding program.

"With COVID-19, we've redirected all of our energies to food, delivery and care for the community in other ways," Schulze said.

"Safe parking has been on the backburner until we can be on campus on a more regular seven-days-a-week basis," he added, noting that shelter-at-home order has made it hard for church members to launch the on-site parking program.

Despite the setback, a church committee is still exploring the safe-parking logistics, he said, with the hope of getting a permit for such a program in the coming months.

"As far as safe parking, we recognize that our unhoused vehicle residents have increased in numbers in our broader area, which is partly why we want to formalize an agreement with the city," Schulze said.

But while the prospect of congregation-led programs has temporarily dimmed in Palo Alto, the city has found a willing partner at the county level. Santa Clara Supervisor Joe Simitian, who has been a champion of safe-parking programs, has led the county effort to support the programs by allocating \$750,000 for such programs in January and by looking for opportunities to lease land to operate the programs.

In April, Simitian announced the county's agreement with Live Nation Entertainment to allow the use of a Shoreline lot year-round for safe parking. Meanwhile, the former VTA lot, which is now owned by Alta Housing, would also provide 24/7 parking for vehicle dwellers.

He noted that unhoused residents are "among the most vulnerable to infection during the COVID-19 crisis."

"While not a long-term solution, safe parking allows residents to have stability in where they sleep each night while they



Palo Alto's "safe parking" lot would be a 15,000-square-foot lot near the Baylands Golf Links Course.

seek permanent housing," said Simitian, whose office worked with city and business leaders in Mountain View and Palo Alto to identify potential sites.

"This stability is critically important, now more than ever," Simitian said in a statement at the time.

If approved by the council, Palo Alto's safe-parking program would be similar to ones in Mountain View, with lot monitors who will make sure all the lots are safe, that all parking rules are being followed and that none of the vehicles are leaking gas, Stime said.

The 15,000-square-foot Geng Road site will accommodate up to 12 vehicles. Unlike the church program, which was limited to overnight parking, the Geng lot will provide 24/7 parking.

The space will also come with services. The nonprofit would work with partners, much as it does in Mountain View, to provide case management for each vehicle dweller, with the goal of finding permanent housing. To date, Move Mountain View has been working with the nonprofit Community Services Agency to provide case-management services, though it is also planning to hire two case workers.

Move Mountain View is also working with school districts to ensure that the children who live on the lots have internet access, Stime said.

Housing, though, remains the main goal. Stime said that the

program had about 20 vehicles in its first year and that it was able to find housing for half of the population. This, she notes, doesn't always mean finding public housing or helping someone lease an apartment. At times, it means evaluating other options, such as housing with family members.

"Sometimes people just need the opportunity to explore ideas," Stime said.

The Palo Alto lot offers some inherent advantages. It is fenced off from the surrounding commercial area and it already includes structures with restrooms and showers, small garages and a building with three bedrooms and a bathroom — amenities that make it "an ideal location for safe parking," according to a report from Planning and Development Services Department.

While the site is currently vacant, the Palo Alto Fire Department recently used the Geng Road building as a temporary fire station while the city was rebuilding the station at Rinconada Park (the project was completed in March).

Stime said the existence of showers "is itself a gift." The nonprofit will be looking for a way to allow use of the showers on a rotating basis and to make sure the facilities are completely clean and sanitized between users.

If the Palo Alto council approves the program, the nonprofit will visit local vehicle dwellers and inform them of the program, either by talking to them or by leaving a card on their vehicles.

Stime believes the demand is there. All of its Mountain View lots are full and there are about seven vehicles on the waiting list, she said.

To date, she said, the programs have been well-received, both by neighbors and by participants. Some residents have "high expectations and want more," while most are happy to be grounded in one place and "not worrying from night to night where they will be parking and if they will be ticketed."

The nonprofit also made an effort in Mountain View to reach out to nearby businesses and inform them about the new program before it launched, which helped establish a "good neighbor" relationship, Stime said. It also asks the program's clientele to be good neighbors, she said.

"Of course, people are fearful of what they don't know, and our imaginations are greater than what is real," Stime said. "But overall, it has gone very smoothly. A majority of the people we have in parking lots are very grateful — especially during COVID, when all public bathrooms were shut off and you couldn't go to McDonald's to wash your hands. This has been a life saver." ■

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

MORE NEWS: The Upfront section continues on page 30.



High Holy Days 5781

Keddem Congregation

Community-led Reconstructionist services
Please join us for services held in your own home!

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all Keddem High Holy Day services will be held online this year — 2020.
Advance registration is required. Links to services will be sent to email address of registrants.

Rosh haShanah

- Friday, September 18, 6:30 PM Kabbalat haShanah Seder
- Saturday, September 19, 10:00 AM Shacharit Service (with Shofar)

Yom Kippur

- Sunday, September 27, 7:00 PM Kol Nidrey (Erev Yom Kippur)
- Monday, September 28, 10:00 AM Shacharit Service
- Monday, September 28, 6:00 PM Yizkor, Ne'ilah

To register for High Holy Day Services, please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/Keddem-form> or Send Email to: hhd_reservations@keddem.org or Call us at: 650-494-6400

Employment

Multiple Positions

Rubrik, Inc. in Palo Alto, CA seeks Eng Mgr-Core (#EMC01); S/W Eng (#SWE22); Product Mgr (#PM021); multiple Sr S/W Engs (#SSE21); S/W Eng-Product (#SWEP20); Mem of Tech Staff, S/W Eng-Data Platform (#MTSEDP01). Fax resumes to (650) 729-1078, quoting respective job #.



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John Lambert Sommer

January 23, 1927 – September 1, 2020

John Lambert Sommer, M.D. (93) died on September 1, 2020, from the effects of a stroke, at his home in Palo Alto. Born on a farm outside Pekin, IL, and raised as a Mennonite, he was the youngest son of the late Nora Sommer (Lambert) and O.J. Sommer. He married Donna M. Sommer (Meddaugh), M.D. on June 14, 1953.



Surviving are younger son Matthew and daughter-in-law Ih-hae Chang (of Stanford, CA), and grandchildren Anne and Joseph. He was preceded in death by his older son Andrew (2012) and wife Donna (2017).

Drafted by the Army in 1945, John served as a noncombatant in various stateside posts, including New York City, where he was enthralled by the Museum of Modern Art. In 1948, John participated in a bicycle tour of Europe with the American Youth Hostels, during which he saw the bombed-out cities of Germany and other scars of World War II.

John received his undergraduate (1948, 1950) and medical (1953) degrees at the University of Chicago, where he met wife Donna. Sons Andrew and Matthew were born in Chicago. He taught and practiced urology at the University of Chicago's School of Medicine until 1966, when the family moved to Fremont, CA and he and Donna joined the Permanente Medical Group and began practicing medicine at Kaiser's Hayward facility. He also served as Physician-in-Charge of Kaiser's Fremont Medical Offices for several years. He retired in 1990. In 2005, he and Donna moved to Palo Alto.

John's passions were travel (including Europe, Turkey, Central Asia, Russia, China, Japan, Armenia), listening to classical music, and collecting textiles. In retirement, he became active in the world of Oriental rugs and participated in many related organizations. He served as president of the San Francisco Bay Area Rug Society for ten years and also as Secretary General of the International Conference on Oriental Carpets. He was a trustee of the Textile Museum in Washington, DC and a member of the Board of Directors of the Textile Arts Council of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

John was particularly fascinated by the textiles and nomadic culture of Kyrgyzstan, which he visited eight times, beginning in 1992. He published two books stemming from that experience: "The Kyrgyz and their Reed Screens" (1996) and "Klavdiya Antipina, Ethnographer of the Kyrgyz" (2002, with Bibira Akmoldoeva).

For the present, no memorial service is planned. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the Kauffman Museum (North Newton, KS), the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, or a charity of your choice.

PAID OBITUARY



Palo Alto Unified School District

Notice is hereby Given that proposals will be received by the Palo Alto Unified School District for bid package:

Contract NO. 20-R-01-M

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK: The work includes, but is not limited to: Juana Briones OH Re-roof Project. Bidding documents contain the full description of the work.

There will be a **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference and site visit at 10:45 a.m. on Monday, September 21st, 2020 at the Juana Briones Elementary School located at 4100 Orme Street, Palo Alto, California.

Bid Submission: Proposals must be received at the MOT Conference Room located at 85 Churchill Ave. Palo Alto, CA. by 1:30 pm on Thursday, October 1st, 2020.

To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California contractors' license(s): **C-39**. In addition, the Bidder is required to be registered as a public works contractor with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to the Labor Code.

Bonding required for this project is as follows: Bid Bond 10% of the total bid.

PREVAILING WAGE LAWS: The successful Bidder and all subcontractors shall pay all workers for all Work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to section 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are also available on the Internet at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov>. This Project is subject to labor compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1771.4 and subject to the requirements of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall furnish electronic certified payroll records directly to the Labor Commissioner weekly and within ten (10) days of any request by the District or the Labor Commissioner. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, Articles 1-5 of the Labor Code.

Bidders may examine Bidding Documents during the mandatory bid walk on Monday, September 21st.

The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive responsible bidder based on the base bid amount only.

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

All questions can be addressed to:

Adam Faville with The Garland Company Inc. Cell # (408) 332-2504 or Ron Ellis at Palo Alto Unified School District, MOT Department, (650) 329-3726



Palo Alto Unified School District

Notice is hereby Given that proposals will be received by the Palo Alto Unified School District for bid package:

Contract NO. 20-R-02-M

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK: The work includes, but is not limited to: J.L. Stanford Middle School Girl's and Boy's Locker-room Roof Project. Bidding documents contain the full description of the work.

There will be a **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference and site visit at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 21st, 2020 at the J.L. Stanford Middle School located at 480 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto.

Bid Submission: Proposals must be received at the MOT Conference Room located at 85 Churchill Ave. Palo Alto, CA. by 1 pm on Thursday, October 1st, 2020.

To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California contractors' license(s): **C-39**. In addition, the Bidder is required to be registered as a public works contractor with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to the Labor Code.

Bonding required for this project is as follows: Bid Bond 10% of the total bid.

PREVAILING WAGE LAWS: The successful Bidder and all subcontractors shall pay all workers for all Work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to section 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are also available on the Internet at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov>. This Project is subject to labor compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1771.4 and subject to the requirements of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall furnish electronic certified payroll records directly to the Labor Commissioner weekly and within ten (10) days of any request by the District or the Labor Commissioner. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, Articles 1-5 of the Labor Code.

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Charles Albert Drekmeier

September 10, 1927 – August 25, 2020

Charles Drekmeier, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Stanford University, died at home in Palo Alto on August 25, 2020, just shy of his 93rd birthday. Known for his creativity, intellectual curiosity, and liberal politics, he was adored by his students, many of whom went on to distinguished careers in politics, law, academia and the nonprofit sector.



Born in Beloit, Wisconsin to Albert and Marion Drekmeier, Charles earned degrees from the University of Wisconsin (BA), Columbia University (MA) and Harvard University (PhD). Interspersed with his studies, he was drafted into the army near the end of World War II, interned for the State Department to study the effects of the European Recovery Program (Marshall Plan), and received a Fulbright Scholarship to study the history of law and politics in India, where he lived for a year while compiling notes for what eventually became his PhD thesis, published as "Kingship and Community in Early India."

While at Harvard, Charles met his wife-to-be, Margot Loungway. Shortly after marrying in 1958, they moved to Palo Alto to join the Stanford faculty – Charles in the Political Science and Sociology Departments, and Margot in the History Department.

A social theorist, Charles was fascinated by the origin, evolution and history of ideas. His interdisciplinary approach to education earned him the admiration and respect of his students. As adults, his children recall hearing from numerous former students that Charles and Margot were their favorite teachers at Stanford.

Charles and Margot were deeply engaged in the Civil Rights and Anti-War Movements. They sponsored courses in Peace Studies, and in 1965, Charles co-founded the Stanford Committee on Peace in Vietnam, which sponsored a 24-hour campus teach-in (the second in the nation). His liberal politics and fierce independence at times put him at odds with the more conservative Stanford administration.

For 23 years, Charles and Margot co-lead an honors seminar (meeting at their home) called Social Thought and Institutions. The program focused on a single topic, such as "community" or "utopia," for an entire academic year. Right up until his death, Charles was participating in Zoom gatherings with former students from the 1966/67 seminar focused on "Myth and Symbol."

In 1969, with three children under five in tow, the Drekmeiers participated in the Stanford Overseas Program, spending an academic quarter in England and another in Vienna. That summer they took advantage of the opportunity to explore Europe in their VW camper van.

After 40 years teaching at Stanford, Charles retired in 1998, and was able to relax and enjoy his senior years. He loved classical music (he played flute in the Peninsula Symphonic Band), reading, art, enjoying an occasional martini at Antonio's Nut House, spending time with family and friends, and keeping in touch with former colleagues and students. His house, lined with books and personal artwork, is considered by many to be an unofficial museum. He was appreciated for his typewritten letters, poems and Christmas cards.

Charles was preceded in death by his wife, Margot, and his daughter, Nadja May. He is survived by his two sons, Peter (Amy Adams) and their son, Aidan, and Kai (Sarah) and their daughters, Emily and Beatrice, his sister, Mary Alice Stephen, and numerous nieces and nephews.

An online memorial will be held for Charles on Saturday, September 19, 2020. For details, email pdrekmeier@earthlink.net. To view his memoir, an oral history and other details of his life, visit www.Drekmeier.org.

PAID OBITUARY

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Invitation for Bids

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) will receive bids at the Office of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA **1:30 p.m. on October 5, 2020** for the furnishing of all labor, materials and services required for the following designated scope of work: invasive species treatment which includes manual, mechanical, chemical, biological, and/or cultural techniques. **All bidders must attend the mandatory virtual pre-bid conference** which will be held at 3:00 P.M. on September 14, 2020. Reservations required. Contact: Coty Sifuentes-Winter at 650-691-1200 x 560 no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 11, to make a reservation and receive directions. The project budget is \$275,000 for one (1) year. At the District's discretion, the contract may be extended for up to three additional years, for a total not to exceed \$1,100,000.

Complete project information is contained within the project Bid Package, which will be available no later than Tuesday, September 1, 2020 online at the District's website: http://www.openspace.org/news/request_for_bids.asp

A hard copy is available for review at the District Administrative Office by appointment.

Michael Bergin Brennan

June 28, 1941 - August 22, 2020

Michael "Captain" Brennan was born in San Jose. He grew up in Atherton, attending Saint Joseph, Sacred Heart schools, Bellarmine Prep in San Jose, he excelled in football, receiving an All American honorable mention

Mike attended San Jose State University and received his BA from San Francisco State.

His family was a great supporter of Nativity Church in Menlo Park where Mike was an altar boy for several years. His family spent most summers in Carmel which remained a favorite haunt in his adult years.

After leaving the Marine Corp he joined TWA as a pilot. He retired as captain on the 767 aircraft. Mike flew out of SFO and JFK during his 33 year career at TWA.

Thoroughly enjoying his international travel, he loved the cultures and cuisines of the world. His personality was uplifting and entertaining. Always a fun and exciting tale to be told by Mike. He was an avid reader spending a generous amount of free time relaxing with a good book. It was not uncommon for him to be reading several books at one time.

Mike and his wife of 40 years, Colienne, traveled extensively throughout the world. Loving the Hawaiian lifestyle, they were married on the beach in Kona Hawaii in 1980. In the last 15 years their entire family and friends joined them at their villa in Cabo San Lucas.

Mike is survived by his wife Colienne Auxier-Brennan, sister Cate Sullivan (Jim), brother Stephen (deceased), daughters Kelly Weinberg (Bo), Catherine Williams (Chico) and Jennifer Coriell (Jeff), son Christopher. Grandsons Dusty Weinberg, Reece Weinberg and Holden Coriell, Gavin Neri and Gus Neri. Nephews Jon Sullivan, Mike Sullivan, Derek Llewellyn and niece Sage Neri. Dog, "Como" and cat "Lily".

Where never lark or even eagle flew, while with silent, lifting mind trod, the high untrespassed sanctity of space, put out my hand and touch the face of God.

We thank you Michael for letting us share your wonderful life. Donations may be sent to St. Jude Children Hospital.



PAID OBITUARY

Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

POLICE CALLS

Palo Alto	
Sept. 3-Sept. 9	
Violence related	
Simkins Court , 8/31, 6:15 p.m.;	
domestic violence/battery.	
Theft related	
Grand theft	9
Identity theft	4
Petty theft	2
Prowler	1
Residential burglaries	1
Shoplifting	3
Vehicle related	
Auto recovery	3
Auto theft	2
Auto theft attempt	1
Bicycle theft	6
Driving w/ suspended license	2
Lost/stolen plates	2
Parking/driving violation	1
Theft from auto	3
Vehicle accident/minor injury	4
Vehicle accident/prop damage	6
Vehicle tampering	1
Vehicle tow	2
Alcohol or drug related	
Drunk in public	1
Possession of drugs	2
Possession of paraphernalia	1
Under influence of drugs	1
Miscellaneous	
Found property	1
Misc. penal code violation	2
Other/misc.	6
Possession of stolen property	1
Suspicious circumstances	5
Trespassing	1
Vandalism	4
Warrant/other agency	7

Menlo Park	
Sept. 2-Sept. 8	
Violence related	0
Theft related	
Burglary attempt	2
Commercial burglaries	1
Fraud	2
Identity theft	2
Petty theft	4
Vehicle related	
Bicycle theft	4
Driving w/ suspended license	2
Lost/stolen plates	2
Parking/driving violation	2
Theft from auto	1
Vehicle accident/minor injury	1
Vehicle accident/no injury	2
Vehicle tow	1
Alcohol or drug related	
Drunk in public	1
Sale of drugs	1
Miscellaneous	
Coroner case	1
Court order violation	1
Found property	1
Indecent exposure	1
Lost property	2
Medical call	1
Mental evaluation	2
Other/misc.	2
Outside assistance	1
Possession of stolen property	1
Welfare check	1

OBITUARIES

A list of local residents who died recently:

Gerhard Steiner, 76, a former head chef at Dinah's Shack, died on Aug. 2. **Charles Albert Drekmeier**, 92, professor emeritus of political science at Stanford University, died on Aug. 25. **John Lambert Sommer**, 93, a Palo Alto resident and former urologist, died on Sept. 1.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at PaloAltoOnline.com/obituaries. ■

Palo Alto School Board CANDIDATES DEBATE

Wednesday, September 30 from 7 – 9 p.m. via Zoom

Featuring the six candidates running for three seats on the Palo Alto Unified School District Board of Trustees:



Katie Causey



Todd Collins



Jennifer DiBrienza



Jesse Ladamirak



Matt Nagle



Karna Nisewaner

PANEL: *Jocelyn Dong*
Editor, Palo Alto Weekly

Elena Kadvany,
Reporter, Palo Alto Weekly

Editors of Paly & Gunn publications



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TO REGISTER: PaloAltoOnline.com/pausd

We invite you to submit questions in advance to: editor@pawebly.com

City Council Candidates Debate

Thursday, September 24 from 7 – 9 p.m. via Zoom

Featuring the ten candidates running for four seats on the Palo Alto City Council:



Pat Burt



Rebecca Eisenberg



Lydia Kou



Ed Lauing



Steven Lee



Raven Malone



Greer Stone



Greg Tanaka



Cari Templeton



Ajit Varma

PANEL: *Jocelyn Dong*, Editor, Palo Alto Weekly
Gennady Sheyner, Reporter, Palo Alto Weekly



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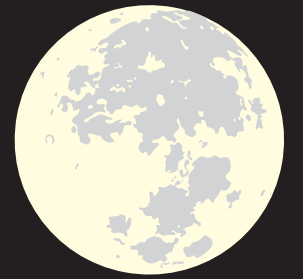
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An Alternative View

Is the city keeping information from the public?

by Diana Diamond

Nineteen-plus months — that's how long it's taken so far for Palo Alto to choose a new auditor, a position required in the city charter. Residents still haven't been told officially whether there has been a selection, or when it will be announced, and that bothers me.



I do know one firm was chosen more than a month ago in a closed session of the City Council — at least that's what I was told by two of my sources.

Why should we care at all if it takes a long time? Why is an auditor so important?

I'll answer my own question: We should care because the auditor's job is to try to keep the city honest. And if there is no auditor around to check on what city staff, including city managers, are doing, then they don't have to worry much.

And if one is hired? Then they have to worry more.

I think the council made the wrong decision to hire a firm from outside rather than an individual to serve as a full-time auditor inside city hall, as has occurred in

the past. Council members talked about saving money by using an outside firm — and yes, a full-time employee does cost more, but a good auditor can save the city hundreds of thousands of dollars, if the right person is on board.

An inside auditor, as former Auditor Sharon Erickson has described, can get into interesting conversations with employees in the coffee room or at a lunch table. And her door was always open for an employee to drop in — often-times, she said, because the employee felt something was amiss in his or her department. An inside auditor can build up trust and confidence with city employees.

But if an outside firm is around doing the auditing, the representative is not poking around all day. And few employees will dare venture to make an appointment with some auditor they don't even know.

Secrets and silence

Keeping the hiring process secret for months is not the only example of lack of transparency in this city. There's a whole series recently of keeping things under wraps so the public doesn't know what's happening, especially in investigating police problems, and keeping many findings quiet.

And this whole "keep the public

unaware" practice is getting worse.

The council has hired lobbyists in Sacramento, and when some members ask for a progress update, they are told, "We are working on it," said Council member Lydia Kou.

"So we don't know what's happening, and residents are kept in the dark," she added.

The council, she said, was also promised a report in October or January as to whether companies are staying in town or moving elsewhere because of the coronavirus. And there has been no update since May on the economic effects of businesses downtown and on California Avenue on the city budget.

Some \$40 million has already been cut from the \$238 million general fund budget, and as I see businesses close downtown, I know things are getting worse in terms of future city revenues. Why not monthly reports? Why are we not being told what's happening?

Then there were the Police Department problems that were kept quiet. In 2014, Capt. Zach Perron allegedly used a "racial slur" in discussing an incident in which another officer, Marcus Barbour (who has since left the department) jumped into a creek and rescued a suspect. In 2017, public

interest in this case arose.

The city's police auditor, the prominent OIR Group from southern California, has been regularly issuing semi-annual reports to the council and public for years that were detailed, specific and well-received.

OIR investigated the Perron case, and its assessment was included in a mid-year report. But OIR was asked by the city manager not to release the completed report so that city officials would have time to devise a policy that shields public cases that involve officer-to-officer incidents.

The city staff devised a policy of sending all internal police department matters to the city's HR department, not to OIR. Why is that bad? Because once something goes into HR, it never comes out. It is declared a "personnel matter" and information cannot be released to the public, the HR department declares.

When OIR's contract was reappraised in late 2019, it disallowed the auditing firm from conducting investigations on internal police matters — allowing only those involving the public. The council finally learned about this when in late 2019 City Manager Ed Shikada told the council of the plan. The council was told this was a minor

change and everything would be the same, and the council went along with it.

It wasn't a minor change. Michael Gennaco of OIR described this as a major change.

The public loses again.

There's always a delicate control line between the city manager, who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the city, and the City Council, who is elected by residents to oversee the city and oversee what is going on.

In my view, Shikada tends to assume too much authority for making city decisions — in all sorts of matters. He is overstepping his bounds because I've talked to several council members about a variety of issues, and many say, "I'm not sure what is going on." Or, "I haven't been updated on that matter. The city manager doesn't act like it's important to let council know what is going on."

It's time for the council members to exert their rightful authority. Public knowledge of what is happening in their city is at stake. ■

Diana Diamond is a longtime Palo Alto journalist, editor and author of the blog "An Alternative View," which can be found at PaloAltoOnline.com/blogs. You can email her at DianaLDiamond@gmail.com.

Letters

We need increased power grid capabilities

The recent Flex Alerts remind us that the more people living in a given area, the more power they require. People require housing, yet the California Legislature that created the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) in 1998 is requiring that cities build more housing without requiring an increase in the power grid capability to support those housing units.

Yes, we need more housing, especially really affordable housing for our teachers, fire, police and other essential workers, but the state needs to increase the power grid capability to support those housing units. The state needs to require an increase in the power grid capability before any new housing units are approved.

Rich Stiebel
Talisman Drive, Palo Alto

Are you prepared?

This year has seen the perfect storm of disasters and human suffering in the United States: COVID-19, sheltering in place, ongoing fires, bad air, the economic crisis and more. These disasters have caused much misery and sorrow. I perish the thought that we might also experience an earthquake!

This is a reminder to be personally prepared. The Red Cross advocates "Build a Kit, Make a Plan and Be Informed." I encourage people to dust off their plans and review their supplies and records. If they haven't already done so, there is no time like the present. The Palo Alto Neighborhoods website (neighborhoods.org/aare-you-ready) has all the details to get ready. Don't forget financial preparedness and how to shut off utilities, if necessary. Also sign up for ALERTSCC (at ALERTSCC.com) and the city notices for emergencies on apps

such as Nixle, Twitter, Facebook and Nextdoor.

At the city level are many community volunteers who have joined the city of Palo Alto Emergency Service Volunteer (ESV) program to reach out to support their neighbors during times of crisis. Kudos to these folks and the many others who have supported our community during COVID-19 by running errands, delivering food and medications, providing information and much more. Many are still doing so.

Volunteering and helping neighbors is more necessary than ever before. There are many benefits to doing so: connections with neighbors, enhanced confidence and self esteem, a sense of purpose, improved sense of self and more.

September, National Emergency Preparedness month, is a great time to support friends and neighbors by becoming an emergency service volunteer. Go to cityofpaloalto.org/emergencyvolunteer.

Annette Glanckopf
Bryant Street, Palo Alto

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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



How do you feel about students returning to campus?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 300 words to letters@pawebly.com. Submit guest opinions of 1,000 words to editor@pawebly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted. Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Palo Alto Weekly and Embarcadero Media to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square. For more information, contact Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee at lle@pawebly.com or 650-223-6526 or Editor Jocelyn Dong at editor@pawebly.com.



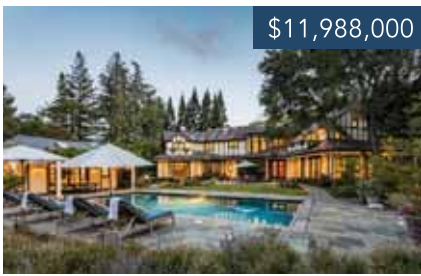
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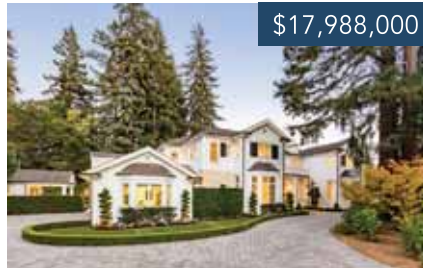
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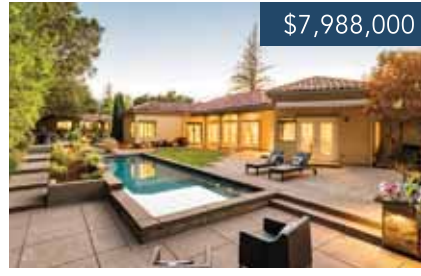
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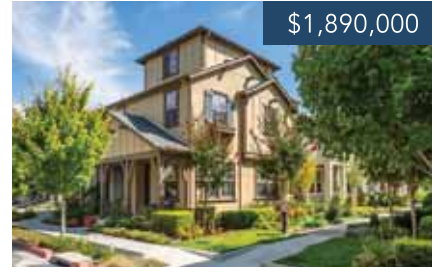
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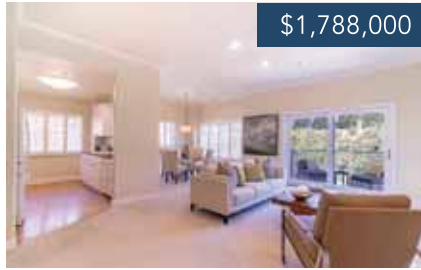
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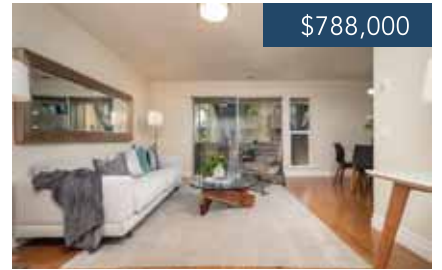
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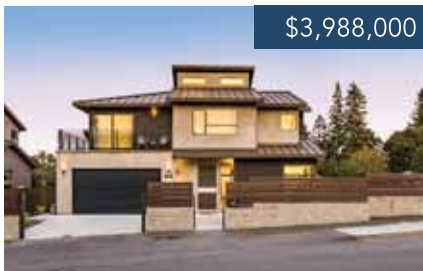
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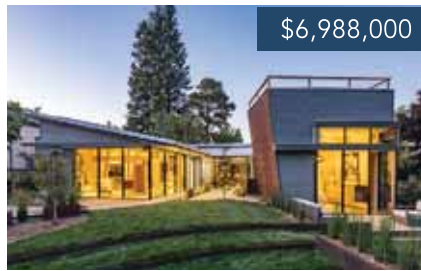
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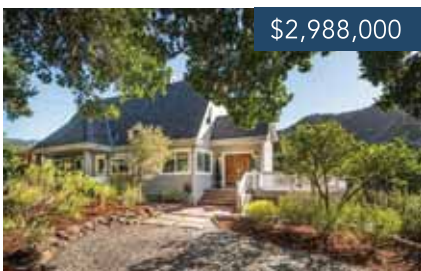
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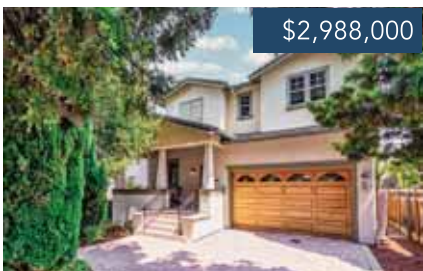
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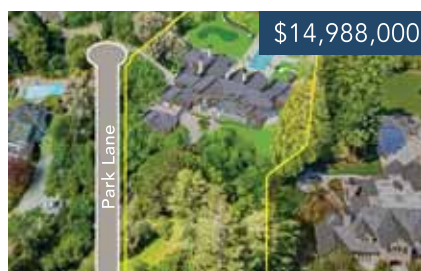
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For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

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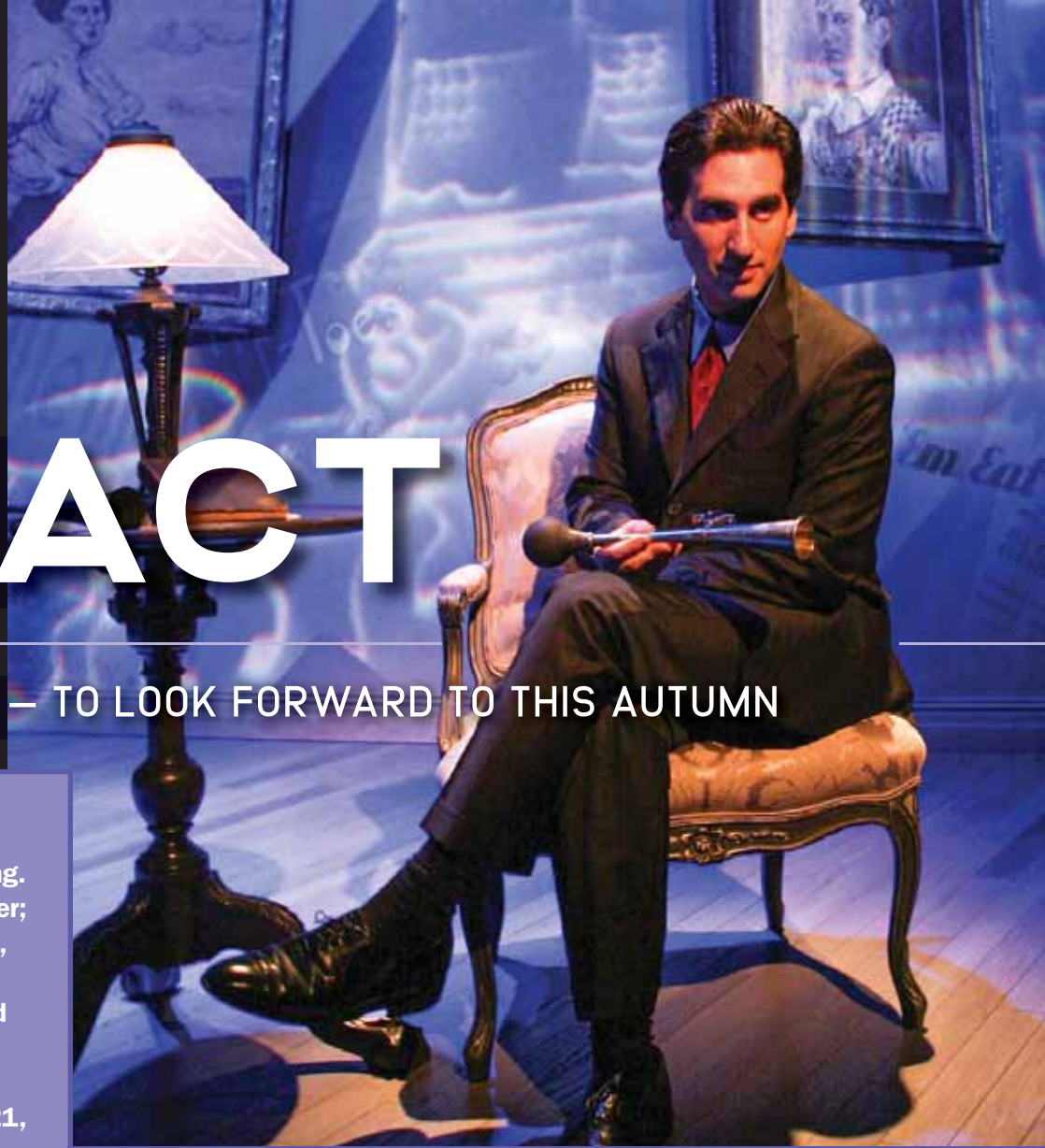
ART'S NEXT ACT

EVENTS — *YEP, MOSTLY ONLINE* — TO LOOK FORWARD TO THIS AUTUMN

by **Karla Kane and Heather Zimmerman**

As everyone knows, 2020 has been, uh, challenging. It was an unusual spring; it's been a weird summer; as autumn rolls around it seems clear that it, too, will be a strange season. Arts organizations have been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. They've had to adapt; to go virtual; and face the very real threat of disappearing altogether. Nevertheless, arts persist. And though some groups are delaying their seasons until 2021, there are still plenty of options for fall.

Below are some highlights of the upcoming season. Many events will take place in cyberspace. Some groups are not yet sure exactly when — or in what format — their events will take shape. This year more than ever, plans change and evolve swiftly, so readers are advised to check with organizations directly for the latest details. For continuing coverage, check PaloAltoOnline.com/arts, subscribe to our Weekend Express email (sign up at PaloAltoOnline.com/express) and browse event listings (or submit your own) at PaloAltoOnline.com/calendar.



TheatreWorks Silicon Valley will offer streaming access for a performance of "Hershey Felder as George Gershwin Alone" on Sept. 13. Photo courtesy Mark Garvin/TheatreWorks.

Performing-arts organizations

PALO ALTO PLAYERS: Kicking off its 90th season, presents a show that mixes the ancient with the oh-so-modern: the comedy "An Act of God," performed via livestream through Sept. 20. Written by David Javerbaum and based, fittingly enough for these online times, on a Twitter feed, the show stars the energetic Emily Scott as God, with support from her two "wing men": the deferential angel Gabriel (Steve Schwartz) and the peskily curious angel Michael (Brandon Silberstein). This divine trinity (with the actors streaming from their respective homes) leads a webinar, through which God can communicate directly with humanity, clear up some misconceptions and offer an updated version of the Ten Commandments. She may even let you know which book in the Old Testament she finds funnier than The Book of Mormon and "The Book of Mormon." Though the 90-minute one-act play, directed by Debi Durst, was originally planned to hit the Palo Alto stage in June, it works quite nicely in Zoom form, including making use of the chat function. Due to explicit language and adult themes, the suggested viewing age is 16 and up). Other Palo Alto Players autumn plans include "Allegiance" (Nov. 6-22); paplayers.org.

FROM STANFORD LIVE: As of early September, the full details on Stanford Live's upcoming season have not yet been released, but many plans are percolating. Starting Sept. 27, the campus-based organization will begin presenting an HD virtual concert series filmed in Bing Concert Hall and featuring the St. Lawrence String Quartet, Garrick Ohlsson, Vân Anh (Vanessa) Võ, and the Kronos Quartet. Other performances filmed remotely will be made available, along with a Stanford Live podcast, a virtual book tour event with

comedian Colin Quinn, an "interactive theater experience" with 600 Highwaymen, and more events still in the works. Artist Constance Hockaday, in association with Stanford Live, is developing the podcast project "Artists-in-Presidents: Fireside Chats for 2020," for which she has invited 50 artists to present fireside chat-inspired addresses (with guidance from presidential speechwriters) along with the presidential campaign; live.stanford.edu.

FROM LOS ALTOS STAGE COMPANY: While it has a full slate of shows scheduled for the year, as of early September, Los Altos Stage company was "in a holding pattern" and not yet sure in what format it would present its planned autumn shows ("Tiny Beautiful Things," Sept. 24-Oct. 18; "I and You," Nov. 4-29) in order to best follow Santa Clara County's health guidelines, Managing Director Ed Sengstack said; losaltosstage.org.

FROM THE PEAR THEATRE: The Pear will be presenting an eight-person production of the ancient Greek comedy "Lysistrata," filmed live outdoors and streamed online (Oct. 2-Nov. 8). "Somewhere" is planned for Dec. 4-20. Meanwhile, the Pear Improv Crew will perform its next show on Sept. 26 via Zoom, and "Hamlet's Ghost," written by Pear playwright Guild's Neva Hutchinson, will receive a Zoom reading Sept. 25-26; thepear.org.

FROM DRAGON PRODUCTIONS THEATER COMPANY: The Dragon has a number of autumn events, including an adaptation of Trevor Allen's "The Creature" as an episodic podcast (starting Oct. 8) and visual poems, with original animations (Starting Oct. 17). "All We Have to Fear ...," an original, online immersive experience set in an 8-bit world, combines



Yulia Fomicheva will perform a virtual concert Nov. 7.

About the cover: Emily Scott plays God in Palo Alto Players' streaming comedy "An Act of God." Courtesy photo by Scott Lasky Photography.

video gameplay with live actors and artists. The production will be available in October through November. Other plans include an Agatha Christie audio book club (Tuesdays, Sept. 15-29), "Live at the Dragon," circus shows and more; Dragonproductions.net.

FROM ENACTE ARTS: Online upcoming productions include the family drama "Swapna" (Sept. 12) and "Letters to a Daughter from Prison" (Oct. 16-18); enacte.org.

FROM PENINSULA YOUTH THEATRE: "Stories on Stage" shows for children are moving online for autumn, including "The Wizard of Oz" (Oct. 9-10) and "My Father's Dragon" (Nov. 6-7); pytnet.org.

THEATREWORKS SILICON VALLEY is delaying the start of its official 51st season until March 2021. However, it's offering a smattering of theater from a distance, including access to a streaming-video performance of "Hershey Felder as George Gershwin Alone" on Sept. 13 and an online workshop reading of "Pandora," by playwright Laurel Ollstein Sept. 24-28; theatreworks.org.

FROM THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS: Online concerts hosted on CSMA's YouTube channel include faculty members Vong Bringhurst (voice, Oct. 10) and Yulia Fomicheva (cello, with pianist Keisuke Nakagoshi, Nov. 7), and Sarah Cahill (piano, Dec. 19); arts4all.org/events.

THE ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL will be held virtually this year, screening 60 documentary films from around the world online Oct. 15-25 with the theme of "The Power of Empathy"; unaff.org.



Vân Ánh (Vanessa) Võ will perform as part of Stanford Live's autumn season.

Galleries and museums

CANTOR ARTS CENTER AND ANDERSON COLLECTION: MUSEUMS FROM HOME

Stanford University's Cantor Arts Center and Anderson Collection have both been closed since shelter-in-place orders were issued this spring and will remain shuttered for the time being. But their Museums From Home program is offering a variety of new ways to experience art at the two institutions, even when it's not possible to be there in person.

Earlier this month, the Cantor rolled out its first virtual tour, which offers a look at "The Medium is the Message: Art Since 1950" exhibition. The self-guided tour provides a three-dimensional "visit" inside the gallery, with controls on the virtual tour that give users a 360-degree look at each room in the gallery, and allow them to get a closer look at the art on display and click on wall text for each piece. A Cantor spokesperson said that the museum plans to launch more

virtual tours this fall.

The tour rounds out a robust collection of videos of artist talks, discussions, new and archival lectures and online activities that offer deep dives into both individual works of art and overarching themes, including a "micro-video" series that tackles one painting at a time from the Anderson Collection.

Cantor Arts Center and Anderson Collection, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu.

(continued on page 25)

**"Wickedly FUNNY
and IRREVERENT!"**
-The Hollywood Reporter

AN ACT OF

GOD

by DAVID JAVERBAUM

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THRU SEPT. 20TH!**

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Photography: Digital SLR's and Photoshop, Darkroom Processing and Printing, Lighting and Studio Shooting

We're excited to offer these programs virtually over Zoom, onsite observing safety and social distancing standards or completely customized to your group at the location of your choice!





Courtesy Peter Hurley/Vilcek Foundation



Courtesy Cantor Arts Center

From left: Author Yaa-Gyasi speaks Sept. 22 in a virtual talk at Books Inc. Installation view of "The Medium is the Message: Art since 1950" at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University.

Fall arts preview

(continued from page 23)

"PENINSULA PHOTO CONTEST" (Sept. 12-Nov. 15), online only, at the Palo Alto Art Center. cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/csd/artcenter.

VIRTUAL GREAT GLASS PUMPKIN PATCH (Sept. 24-Oct. 4). Online only for 2020. greatglasspumpkinpatch.com.

"RISE UP! THE FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE" in-person outdoor exhibition through Jan. 31. Related to the exhibit are a series of online discussions: "Elected Women Speak Up" (Sept. 12); "Women's Suffrage in Santa Clara County" (Sept. 17) and "Race and the Suffrage Movement" (Nov. 10) at the Los Altos History Museum. losaltoshistory.org.

"REACHING FOR THE SKY," works by Jim Caldwell through Sept. 15; "Women in High Chroma" works by Chandrika Marla (Sept. 17-Oct. 23) in-person exhibits at Art Ventures gallery artventuresgallery.com.

STEVE DELLICARPINI (through Sept. 13); "Number Cruncher" by Shannon Wright (Sept. 19-Oct. 18); Cynthia Gonzalez (Oct. 24-Nov. 22); Paul Kos (Nov. 28-Dec. 28) in-person exhibits at the Art Kiosk; www.fungcollaboratives.org/projects/current/art-kiosk/description/.

"ESCAPE FROM COVID19" group show (through October) in-person exhibition at Gallery House. Also viewable online. galleryhouse.art

"ARTWORKS BY MARY STAHL" through Sept. 26; Karen White "Open Spaces" (Sept. 30-Nov. 1) in-person exhibits at Viewpoints Gallery. viewpointsgallery.com.

IN-PERSON EXHIBITIONS: "Nathan Oliveira: Muse"; "Seeking Nature" group show. Virtual exhibition: "Surreal Art for Surreal Times: The Salvador Dali Collection" at Pamela Walsh Gallery. pamelawalshgallery.com.

"LEO VILLAREAL, HARMONY OF THE SPHERES" through Oct. 10; Richard Pousette-Dart, Oct. 22-Dec. 23 at Pace Gallery. pacegallery.com/galleries/palo-alto/

"BEYOND 20/20," a group show celebrating the Pacific Art League's 99th anniversary, will have a virtual opening Oct. 2. pacificartleague.org.

Bookstores, libraries and more

PALO ALTO LIBRARY: PALO ALTO READS

Last month, the library kicked off Palo Alto Reads, a monthlong program aimed at encouraging the community to read and discuss a selected book that has themes relevant to our region. This year's selected book, "The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America" by Richard Rothstein, explores institutionalized racism in housing and city planning through redlining and other practices that segregated communities along racial lines. Rothstein's research includes a look at how in the late 1940s, the city of Palo Alto fought efforts to build integrated housing near Stanford University.

In addition to reserving a copy of the book from the library, readers can learn more about "The Color of Law" by watching a video of a virtual conversation with Rothstein that took place last month. Palo Alto Reads runs through Sept. 15. paloalto.bibliocommons.com.

BOOKS INC. (Mountain View and Palo Alto) virtual author events include: Kevin C. O'Leary (Sept. 15); City Arts & Lectures Presents Yaa Gyasi (Sept. 22); Ronny Joseph Lvovski with Michelle Tam (Sept. 23); City Arts & Lectures Presents Claudia Rankine (Oct. 1); booksinc.net

KEPLER'S VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENTS INCLUDE:

Story Time with Drew Daywalt (Sept. 15); Online Evening Literary Seminar: The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil, George Saunders (Oct. 12 or 14); Rick Riordan (Oct. 13); Nambali Serpell with Carmen Maria Machado (Oct. 19); Online Evening Literary Seminar: Let's Pretend This Never Happened, Jenny Lawson (Nov. 9 or 11); Online Evening Literary Seminar: A Manual for Cleaning Women, Lucia Berlin (Nov. 30 or Dec. 2); keplers.org

STANFORD UNIVERSITY'S ONLINE AUTHOR EVENTS AND SEMINARS INCLUDE: Daniel Yergin "The New Map: Energy,

Climate, and the Clash of Nations" (Sept. 14); Talks with the Artists: An Interview with fnnch (Sept. 17); 30th Annual Jonathan J. King ; Webinar — How Exercise Helps Us Find Happiness, Hope, Connection, and Courage in the Time of COVID (Sept. 23); Lecture, When Breath Becomes Air: A Conversation with Lucy Kalanithi (Oct. 6); events.stanford.edu/

OSHMAN FAMILY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER: BOOK FEST IN YOUR LIVING ROOM

To say that 2020 has brought numerous unexpected events is a tremendous understatement. But of the things most of us can say they never expected to happen, on the positive side, that might include the experience of watching a renowned author discuss their work from the comfort of one's own home. The Oshman Family Jewish Community Center is hosting "Book Fest in Your Living Room," which features virtual discussions with two respected authors who will share thoughts on their most recent books.

Jodi Picoult will talk about her new work, "The Book of Two Ways: A Novel," in conversation with Judy Blume on Sept. 23. The

following week, on Sept. 30, author Deepak Chopra will discuss his newest book, "Total Meditation: Practices In Living the Awakened Life."

Other events from the Oshman Family JCC: Community Conversations Presents Terrific Tastings: Piemonte on the Palate (Sept. 13); Community Conversations Presents a Rosh Hashanah Cabaret (Sept. 22); Community Conversations Presents The Wonderful World of Rodgers and Hammerstein (Oct. 27); paloaltojcc.org.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY LIBRARIES online events include: Yangsze Choo, "The Night Tiger" (Sept. 12). scccl.bibliocommons.com

MENLO PARK LIBRARY online events include: Bridget Quinn, "She Votes: How U.S. Women Won Suffrage, and What Happened Next" (Sept. 21); Menlo Park StoryFest, featuring storytellers sharing tales from around the world, for adults and children ages 5 and up. (Thursdays, Oct. 1-29); Author Gayle Romasanta, "Journey for Justice: The Life of Larry Itliong" (Oct. 8). menlopark.org/library ■

Arts & Entertainment Editor Karla Kane and Assistant Editor Heather Zimmerman can be reached at kkane@paweekly.com and hzimmerman@paweekly.com.

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Eating Out

MIDPENINSULA SEES RESTAURANT OPENINGS, NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Restaurants join forces to help stay afloat during shutdown crisis

by Elena Kadvaný

This month will mark several new openings, including the return of Mountain View's only Michelin-starred restaurant after six months of closure, plus the debut of an interesting new business model born of COVID-19. Read on for more details.

New partnership brings Proposition Chicken to Menlo Park

Proposition Chicken, a popular fast-casual chicken eatery in San Francisco and Oakland, has no physical presence on the Peninsula. But thanks to an unlikely partnership born of COVID-19, the restaurant is now delivering its food locally.

Through a new startup called Local Food Group, Proposition Chicken ingredients are prepped in San Francisco, then picked up and brought to the 20-year-old Shiook Singapore Kitchen in downtown Menlo Park, where kitchen staff cook the dishes to order.

The food is available for pickup at Shiook or delivery via third party apps like DoorDash and Uber Eats. This allows Proposition Chicken to expand to a new area without the costly overhead of opening a brick-and-mortar restaurant, while Shiook gets a small percentage of the orders.

Ari Feingold, owner of Proposition Chicken, said he's long wanted to open a location in the south bay but, after the pandemic hit, he started digging into alternative ways to grow his business.

"It's super important to be creative and figure out new ways to grow and new ways to do things during this time," Feingold said.

Dennis Lim, the owner of Shiook at 1127 Chestnut St., said the partnership is still new — it started a few weeks ago — but the Proposition Chicken orders have been keeping his staff busy, while Shiook's business is still down 50%.

"I'm hoping they make enough for me to keep my guys employed," Lim said. "Maybe chicken sandwiches have more mass appeal than my Singaporean food."

Jon Goldsmith, CEO and founder of Local Food Group, declined an interview request. According

to LinkedIn, Local Food Group's chief operating officer and co-founder is Andrew Munday, the director of operations on DoorDash's founding team.

The group appears to be pursuing a new coronavirus-era model: connecting restaurants interested in launching in delivery-only concepts with ones that, desperate for additional revenue, are willing to share their workforce for a cut. This is distinct from the growing trend of ghost kitchens, or spaces that restaurants use only to prepare and deliver food, with no service component. Virtual Kitchen Co and DoorDash also operate shared ghost kitchens on the Peninsula.

Proposition Chicken's menu revolves around chicken, which comes fried, flipped (rotisserie) or fake (actually barbecue tofu) on a salad, sandwich or as an entree. All the marinades, sauces, hand-cut fries and buttermilk biscuits are made from scratch. Feingold said his biggest concern about getting into the delivery-only world was that the quality of the food could suffer. They spent months taste testing until he was satisfied that a customer getting a fried chicken sandwich delivered in Menlo Park will have the exact same experience as someone getting takeout from the restaurants in San Francisco or Oakland.

"The food is cooked fresh. It's exactly the same as Proposition Chicken," Feingold said. "Because if it wasn't, I wouldn't do it."

The delivery-only menu is almost identical to one served at the brick-and-mortar Proposition Chicken locations; only three dishes aren't available locally (soup, potato wedges and chicken wings).

Feingold said they're looking to offer delivery soon through restaurants with extra capacity in Sunnyvale and San Jose, with "many more locations in the pipeline."

Chez TJ reopens with new chef, patio and alternative menu

Chez TJ, which has been closed since the start of the shelter-at-home order in March, will reopen this month in Mountain View with several major

changes in place.

The longtime Michelin-starred French restaurant at 938 Villa St. has a new chef, outdoor patio, new indoor air filtration systems and alternatives to its usual tasting menu, which pre-pandemic was served inside small dining rooms in a historic Victorian house and could last as long as three hours.

"Chez TJ wants to do everything on our end to ensure the well-being of our guests and employees," an email sent from the restaurant states.

The restaurant added "improved" air filtration systems to the four intimate indoor dining rooms, new sanitation and work stations in the kitchen and a new outdoor patio and lounge, according to the email.

Diners will also be able to now choose from Chez TJ's extended tasting menu, a shortened version or a new à la carte menu.

Chez TJ owner George Aviet has hired Christopher Lemerand to replace former executive chef Jarad Gallagher in the kitchen.

Gallagher, who led the kitchen for the last eight years, is helping to open several food and drink concepts in the ground floor of the Shashi Group hotel project at 1625 N. Shoreline Blvd. in Mountain View — a bar called Emerald Hour (opening in October), a casual Spanish restaurant called Broma (opening in 2021), a coffee shop called Carte Blanche and a fine dining restaurant called Belle Terre (opening in 2022).

Lemerand attended the Culinary Institute of America in New York, after which he worked with the Besh Restaurant Group in New Orleans, according to the Chez TJ email. In San Francisco, he worked at fine dining restaurants including Atelier Crenn, SPQR, Michael Mina's Bourbon Steak at the Westin St. Francis and Coi. Lemerand then traveled for a year before becoming the sous chef at Darioush, a winery in Napa, in 2018, according to his LinkedIn page.

Chez TJ will start serving dinner again on Sept. 15, with reservations available for Tuesdays through Saturdays.



Courtesy Udon Mugizo

Top, Proposition Chicken, which has locations in San Francisco and Oakland, recently launched a delivery-only outpost within Shiook Singaporean Kitchen in Menlo Park. Courtesy Proposition Chicken. Above, Udon Mugizo, which recently expanded into Mountain View, serves many variations of fresh udon noodles.

SF udon hot spot brings its noodles to downtown Mountain View

Fresh, handmade udon noodles are the name of the game at Udon Mugizo, a San Francisco restaurant that expanded in early September to downtown Mountain View.

Udon Mugizo opened for outdoor dining and takeout at 180 Castro St., the former home of hot pot restaurant Shabuway.

Carlos Herrador, executive vice president of franchise operations for the company that owns Udon Mugizo, said they wanted to bring a dedicated udon restaurant to Mountain View.

"There are a lot of restaurants in this area but no udon restaurants in the area," he said. (A few miles away in Palo Alto, Taro San Japanese Noodle Bar specializes in udon noodles.)

Udon Mugizo serves numerous styles of udon, including tonkotsu udon with chashu and egg, nabeyaki udon, curry udon and several kinds of cold udon.

Mugizo's "signature" udon is served with cream sauces, including the one that Herrador said "people always ask for": udon swimming in an uni-based cream sauce, uni, parmesan cheese, shiso, green onions and nori. All of the noodles are made in house, as are soba noodles, and can be customized with toppings such as fish cakes, vegetable tempura and pork belly.

The menu also includes gyoza, takoyaki, donburi (rice bowls) and tempura.

The Mountain View restaurant is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5:30-10 p.m. Udon Mugizo will soon add delivery, Herrador said.

Udon Mugizo is run by the same owner of Marufuku Ramen in San Francisco, which is also expanding to the Peninsula soon with a new location in downtown Redwood City. ■

Staff Writer Elena Kadvaný can be emailed at ekadvaný@paweekly.com. Check out her Peninsula Foodist blog at PaloAltoOnline.com/blogs.



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Castilleja

(continued from page 5)

events throughout the year and Castilleja's shoddy record at following the rules of its prior conditional use permit.

Some critics of the project also argued that the project's Final Environmental Impact Report is flawed because it fails to consider other alternatives, including moving its campus to another location and foregoing the proposed garage in favor of satellite parking sites and shuttle services.

Kimberly Wong, who lives

near the school, was one of several residents who argued in recent weeks that building an underground garage in a residential neighborhood would be inconsistent with the city's zoning code.

"They cause disruption in traffic, are not aesthetically pleasing even if you lace (them) up with greenery, and are not consistent with a single-family zoned neighborhood," Wong wrote to the council.

Palo Alto's planning and legal staff noted, however, that the restriction on underground parking applies to "single-family uses"

and thus would not apply to Castilleja. City staff similarly rejected the argument from the group Palo Alto Neighborhoods that the underground garage should be counted in the school's gross floor area because the facility constitutes a "basement." The city concluded that the garage is not a basement but an "underground facility" that does not need to be counted in square footage calculations.

While Summa challenged the staff interpretation, other commissioners were generally satisfied with the environmental analysis, which identifies as its preferred alternative a design with a smaller garage than what the school had previously presented. The revised proposal obviates the need for Castilleja to demolish two homes, reduces the number of trees that would need to be removed and allows the students to be dropped off at three locations to avoid queuing of cars at its 1310 Bryant St. campus off of Embarcadero Road.

Mindie Romanowsky, an attorney for Castilleja, said the school chose to build an underground garage to address neighbors' complaints about surface parking, including headlights and noise from car doors slamming.

"I remember taking it to the board and making a pitch that even though this was going to be a big task to take on, that it was what they wanted, because it was

going to be impact-reducing," Romanowsky said.

In voting to support the environmental report, various commissioners praised the thorough analysis of Castilleja's potential impacts as it expands. They also noted that the hard work will come next month, when the commission considers the conditions of approval that would govern Castilleja's expansion. These conditions will include rules that limit the number of events on campus, address an increasing student population and measures that limit traffic impacts. The commission plans to formulate the specific conditions on Oct. 14.

Commissioner Bart Hechtman alluded to the \$265,000 fine that Castilleja was forced to pay in 2013, when the city found that the all-girls school had exceeded its enrollment limit of 415 students. The city also required Castilleja to gradually reduce enrollment, which it has been doing, although its population is still higher than 415 students.

Hechtman observed that in addition to paying the penalty for its transgression, Castilleja lost the trust of neighbors. As such, the city's approval of the school expansion plan should include enforcement measures that ensure compliance.

"Castilleja needs to recognize that it is wholly their responsibility to adhere strictly to every

condition of approval," he said.

Hechtman also rejected an argument from some residents, including members of the group Preserve Neighborhood Quality of Life Now, that the Castilleja project does not benefit the Palo Alto community and that the school should seek another location if it chooses to expand.

"I believe that Castilleja is an asset to our city and should be supported and maintained," Hechtman said. "The benefit of having Castilleja here is that Palo Alto residents don't have to drive their daughters to some other city to get an education that no one disputes is world-class."

Hechtman also argued that the environmental review for the school's expansion has been extremely thorough and that he is ready to support its approval. Commissioner Michael Alcheck agreed and called the environmental review a "gold standard work-product."

Alcheck similarly noted that it will be critical for the commission to clearly understand how the city will enforce the conditions in the new permit, a topic that is expected to get scrutinized at the Oct. 14 meeting.

"My impression of the applicant is they are prepared to operate under that kind of seriousness," Alcheck said. ■

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

CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council (Sept. 8)

Evaluations: The council met in a closed session to discuss performance evaluations for the city manager, city attorney and city clerk. **Action:** None

Board of Education (Sept. 8)

Certificated personnel items: The board approved certificated personnel items as presented. **Yes:** Unanimous

Planning and Transportation Commission (Sept. 9)

Castilleja: The commission voted to recommend approving the Final Environmental Impact Report for Castilleja's proposed campus reconstruction. **Yes:** Alcheck, Hechtman, Lauing, Templeton **No:** Summa **Absent:** Riggs, Roohparvar



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Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to consider a zone change that would allow a "safe parking" program at 2000 Geng Road; hear a verbal update about business recovery efforts relating to the COVID-19 pandemic; and consider the city's positions on various state and local measures that will be on the November 2020 ballot. The virtual meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 14. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 362 027 238.

COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE ... The committee plans to discuss a proposal to renovate the Roth Building at 300 Homer Ave., which is eyed as the possible future site of the Palo Alto History Museum; and discuss the city's CalPERs obligations and policies for funding pensions. The virtual meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 992 2730 7235.

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to meet in a closed session to continue its evaluation of the city manager, city attorney and city clerk. The virtual meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 16. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 362 027 238.



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RECOGNIZING LOCAL HEROES

LOCAL HERO



Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto

For over 95 years, the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto has served the City of Palo Alto and dozens of non-profit groups with both financial support and hands-on service projects ranging from rebuilding and painting facilities at local parks and maintaining the Duck Pond, to planting trees and refurbishing preschool facilities. During the pandemic, the group has made targeted donations to needy groups and distributed educational materials, household goods, and protective equipment to the home-bound.

Submitted by: Judy Deggeller

LOCAL HERO



Maria Martinez

Maria exemplifies the best in community service to the residents at Buena Vista Mobile Park. She partners with PAUSD, donors, and volunteers to ensure children get school lunches and families receive canned foods, fresh vegetables and fruit. Maria promotes community health during this pandemic.

Submitted by: Amado Padilla

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PAUSD

(continued from page 7)

only bring back their students in person when schools are allowed to fully reopen, concerned that specialists working with multiple cohorts would be at higher risk for exposure to the coronavirus and that the district won't have the capacity for regular testing. They also asked for more communication and to be more directly involved in the reopening plans.

"I don't want to be your canary in the minefield," said Sandy Conklin, a teacher in Gunn High School's Futures program. "You're meeting virtually because of science; give us the same consideration, please."

Austin told the Weekly in an earlier interview: "We fully understand that there are differences in opinion about the pace at which schools should bring students back in person. Students need us. We definitely want to go as fast as possible but as slow as necessary

to do it right."

The high schools are also resuming in-person sports practices outdoors on Sept. 14, with athletes in stable cohorts of 14 or fewer that aren't allowed to mix.

As for when all students will be able to return to school, local school districts that aren't seeking or haven't been approved for a waiver (which are only available for grades TK-6) are waiting, under the state's new color-coded reopening plan, for the county to move into a less restrictive tier that allows in-person instruction. Santa Clara County this week moved into the red, or "substantial" tier, which means K-12 schools can fully reopen if the county remains in that category for two weeks.

Palo Alto Unified, however, has decided elementary schools won't fully reopen before Oct. 12, even if permissible, and has not yet set an opening date for the middle and high schools. ■

Staff Writer Elena Kadvanj can be emailed at ekadvany@pawekly.com.

COVID

(continued from page 5)

James Williams did not say why those businesses won't be allowed to resume indoor operations or provide a timeline for when they might be able to welcome customers back inside. Williams said only that the county wants to see a lower case rate, but he was not aware if the county aimed to meet a certain threshold.

In explaining the county's decision, Williams said that it follows a few fundamental public health "principles": "Outdoor is safer than indoors"; and masks plus physical distancing are key to reducing the spread of the coronavirus, he said.

As of Sept. 8, the following businesses were allowed to operate indoors, provided they submit and satisfy the county's "Social Distancing Protocol," which outlines all the safety modifications a business must make:

- Personal care services, such as nail salons and massage parlors
- Gyms and fitness centers at 10% capacity
- Shopping malls at 50% capacity
- Museums, zoos and aquariums at 25% capacity

The looser restrictions follow the state's recently updated reopening framework — a color-coded, four-tier system that determines which businesses and activities are allowed in counties, and at what capacity, based on a

county's COVID-19 case and positivity rates.

When the new framework was announced Aug. 28, the county was placed in the purple tier — the most restrictive level, indicating a testing positivity rate of more than 8% and/or a seven-day average of more than seven cases a day per 100,000 county residents. The county at that time reported a 3.5% positivity rate, but 8.6 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents.

In this tier, most businesses and gatherings such as nail salons or places of worship are prohibited from indoor operations.

Under the red tier (the second-most restrictive level that signifies "substantial" spread), schools can resume in-person classes if their county stays at the level for 14 days, during which time they continue reporting a seven-day average daily case rate of four to seven cases and a positive testing rate of between 5% and 8%.

If they choose to, counties in the red tier could allow restaurants, churches and movie theaters to operate indoors at 25% capacity or no more than 100 people — whichever is fewer — based on the state's guidelines.

On Tuesday, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Amador, Orange and Placer counties were moved into the red tier, Newsom announced during a noon press conference. Out of the five counties, Santa Clara County will be the only one following its

Understanding California's color-coded tracking system

WIDESPREAD

Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed
New cases: More than 7 daily new cases (per 100K)
Positive tests: More than 8%

SUBSTANTIAL

Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed
New cases: 4-7 daily new cases (per 100K)
Positive tests: 5-8%

MODERATE

Some indoor business operations are open with modifications
New cases: 1-3.9 daily new cases (per 100K)
Positive tests: 2-4.9%

MINIMAL

Most indoor business operations are open with modifications
New cases: Fewer than 1 daily new cases (per 100K)
Positive tests: Less than 2%

Source: COVID19.ca.gov

own tighter restrictions.

Other counties also have followed their own reopening timelines. For example, San Francisco has yet to allow indoor operation of hair salons even though it's currently in the red tier.

A news release from the Santa Clara County Public Health Department said that the state gives "counties credit toward their case rate if they test more people than the state average."

"We're testing 7,000 to 8,000 people a day," Dr. Marty Fenster-sheib, the county's COVID-19 testing officer, said at the news conference. "And the state has given us credit now for all of that testing."

As of Tuesday, the county reported a positivity rate of 3.5%, which satisfies a requirement in the orange tier, the second-lowest restrictive level, of the state's guidelines, which can be found at cdph.ca.gov.

But to move into the orange tier, counties must remain in the red tier for 21 days and report a seven-day average of 1 to 3.9 daily COVID-19 cases as well as a positivity rate of 2% to 4.9%. At this next-lower level, counties can increase the capacity at which many businesses can operate indoors, allow bars to reopen outdoors and reopen indoor family entertainment centers such as bowling alleys. Counties are not allowed to jump tiers, regardless of their progress with mitigating the disease.

"If these metrics continue to improve, the county would be eligible to move forward in the framework to a less restrictive tier after three weeks," the county news release stated. "If these metrics worsen, the county would revert into a more restrictive tier as soon as two weeks from now." ■

Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee can be emailed at llee@pawekly.com.

Public Notices

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE
 (U.C.C. §6104, 6105)
 ESCROW #: 0126014684-PC
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to creditors of the within named seller that a bulk sale is about to be made of the assets described below. The names and business address of the Seller(s) is/are: SunLife Organics 11 LLC 344 South California Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306

The location in California of the Chief Executive Office of the seller is: same as above
 As listed by the seller, all other business names and addresses used by the seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the buyer are: None
 The names and business address of the Buyer(s) is/are: Zombie Runner Coffee, Inc. 344 South California Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306

The assets to be sold are described in general as: All stock in trade, furniture, fixtures, equipment and other property
 And are located at: 344 South California Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306

The business name used by the Seller(s) at those locations is: SunLife Organics
 The anticipated date of the bulk sale is: September 30, 2020
 At the office of Old Republic Title Company @ 1000 Burnett Avenue, Suite 400, Concord, CA 94520.

The bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2. If so subject, the name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is as follows: Old Republic Title Company @ 1000 Burnett Avenue, Suite 400, Concord, CA 94520 or E-Fax to 925-265-9040 or Fax 925-363-2276. The last day for filing claims shall be September 29, 2020 which is the business day before the sale date specified herein.
 Dated: August 26, 2020

Buyer(s):
 Zombie Runner Coffee, Inc.
 /S/ By: Gillian Ann Robinson, President
 /S/ By: Don Charles Lundell, CTO/Secretary 9/11/20
 CNS-3394343#
 PALO ALTO WEEKLY

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
 NORMA JEAN KING also known as NORMA JEAN ERICKSON
 Case No.: 20PR188579
 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of NORMA JEAN KING also known as NORMA JEAN ERICKSON.

Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email asantillan@pawekly.com for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: BRIAN CHRISTOPHER KING in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. The Petition for Probate requests that: BRIAN CHRISTOPHER KING be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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 waived 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 09-30-2020 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 object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:
 Deborah G. Kramer Radin / Lisa M. Kajani
 Kramer Radin, LLP
 280 Second St., Ste. 100
 Los Altos, CA 94022
 (650) 941-8600
 (PAW Sep. 4, 11, 18, 2020)

Answers to this week's puzzles, which can be found on page 39.

F	L	A	W	L	U	P	U	S	E	G	G	O
R	A	V	I	I	N	O	N	E	P	R	E	P
O	L	E	G	S	P	O	D	E	S	E	A	T
M	A	R	G	P	U	R	E	R	O	A	R	S
A	L	T	B	R	R	C	M	T				
A	N	G	E	R	L	I	C	A	S	S	E	T
D	E	E	R	E	I	C	H	C	A	C	T	I
D	I	J	O	N	S	H	A	A	L	O	H	A
G	O	O	D	C	H	A	R	L	O	T	T	E
H	E	M	H	E	R	G	E	S	T	L		
R	E	T	O	O	K	B	A	R	A	C	K	
A	W	A	R	D	E	D	D	I	N	E	S	E
C	A	L	C	I	U	M	T	A	G	S	A	L
E	N	C	A	M	P	S	S	N	A	P	P	L

5	8	7	2	3	4	6	1	9
4	6	9	8	5	1	7	2	3
2	3	1	7	9	6	5	8	4
9	1	4	6	8	2	3	7	5
7	5	3	1	4	9	2	6	8
6	2	8	5	7	3	4	9	1
8	7	2	4	1	5	9	3	6
1	9	5	3	6	7	8	4	2
3	4	6	9	2	8	1	5	7

Reform

(continued from page 7)

situation and write their “supplemental reports independent of any assistance or collaboration with others”); and the release of a list of lethal and less-lethal weapons as well as any “excess military equipment” that is acquired.

The OIR’s assessment did acknowledge that the Sheriff’s Office largely falls in line with Campaign Zero’s 8 Can’t Wait model — a package of eight policies aimed to swiftly and cost effectively reduce police violence. (Supervisor Joe Simitian used the model when he developed his proposal for reforms to the Sheriff’s Office and presented it to the board on June 12.)

Some of Campaign Zero’s policies include a ban on chokeholds, a mandatory warning before shooting, a ban on shooting at moving vehicles, exhausting alternatives before shooting and the requirement that an officer intervene when he or she sees a colleague using excessive force.

According to the OIR report, the Sheriff’s Office’s policies align with most of those in 8 Can’t Wait with the exception of its rule on shooting moving vehicles. Currently, firing at moving vehicles is prohibited except in cases of “a life-threatening situation (that) requires immediate action in the form of deadly force.” The agency also makes an exception in its rule against disabling moving vehicles with firearms for its emergency response team, which, according to the county website, responds to “extraordinary criminal events” such as “hostage or barricaded gunman situations.”

The 8 Can’t Wait agenda, in comparison, provides more specific instructions on how to deal with a moving vehicle. Officers can only fire in instances when the occupants of the vehicle are using deadly force — “the moving vehicle itself cannot be the basis for an officer shooting,” the OIR report states. In addition, the 8 Can’t Wait model does not make any exceptions to the rule on shooting at moving vehicles with the intent of disabling it.

Along with a recommendation to revise its policy on moving vehicles, Gennaco said a few tweaks would help the law enforcement agency better align with 8 Can’t Wait, including an outright ban on chokeholds and strangleholds with no exceptions. (Recently, the Sheriff’s Office amended its policy on chokehold and limited its use only in cases where deadly force may be necessary.)

The report also recommended that the Sheriff’s Office concretely outline what type of conduct disqualifies an applicant

during the agency’s hiring process.

“Even though the Sheriff’s Office has language that suggests they wouldn’t hire somebody with a troubled background, there isn’t a direct policy statement,” Gennaco said.

But some members of the public, most notably from a group of Stanford University students representing a campus advocacy group, urged the board during the meeting to go beyond 8 Can’t Wait and instead consider the policies set forth in a new campaign called 8 to Abolition, which includes defunding law-enforcement agencies.

Simitian said on Aug. 25 he recognized that having the right policies in place is only “a first step.” Restating one point made in the OIR report, Simitian said that only “training, oversight (and) implementation of policies” can ensure public safety.

Part of the process of ensuring policy implementation, however, circles back to the need for the oversight committee to collect and have access to more information on the Sheriff’s Office’s operations.

“Our ability to initiate audits, perform effective monitoring of the Sheriff’s Office internal processes, and respond to concerns or complaints from the Santa Clara community — key functions that are set forth in the Ordinance that established OCLEM — depends on the resolution of access issues and the development of regular lines of communication,” the report stated.

Gennaco added at the meeting: “The deeper dive that I’ve alluded to ... we are still not really able to do. We’re not able to observe training, we’re not able to take a look to see how these policies are implemented (and) how well they’re enforced.”

Gennaco acknowledged that OCLEM and the OIR group have no authority to make a law enforcement agency adopt reforms. Simitian suggested he would consider using the Sheriff’s Office’s budget allocation, which is approved by the board, as leverage.

“While there is some limit to the authority of our board, one of the places where we do have clear authority, indeed an obligation under state law, is in the budget,” Simitian said. “So I just want to be very clear that I won’t be able to support budget allocations for law enforcement functions that are not properly performed based on best practices as recognized in the 21st century.”

The board passed a motion on Aug. 25 for the OCLEM committee to provide an updated report on the Sheriff’s Office’s response to the recommendation in November. ■

Editorial Assistant Lloyd Lee can be emailed at llee@paweekly.com.

Idyllic Carbonera Estates Compound in Santa Cruz

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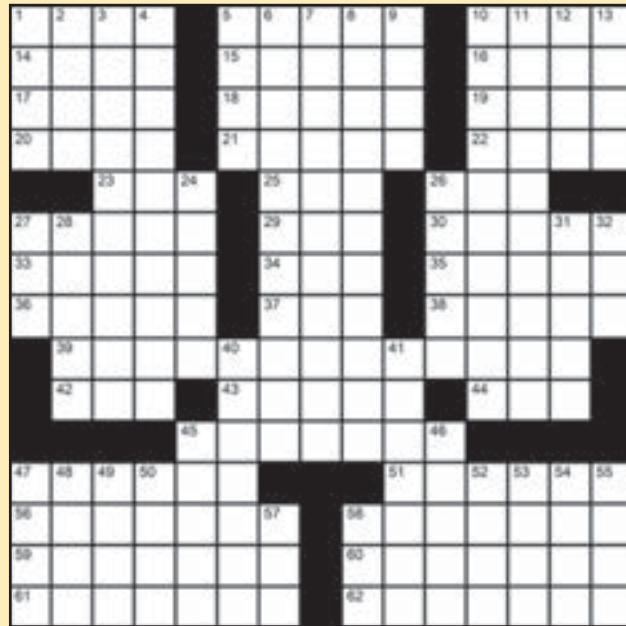
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Across

- 1 It may be fatal
- 5 Disease contracted by Seal at an early age
- 10 Brand that pops up frequently in crosswords?
- 14 Sitar master Shankar
- 15 ___ ear and out the other
- 16 Get ready for surgery
- 17 Couturier Cassini
- 18 British pottery manufacturer known for bone china
- 19 City that represents a county
- 20 Helgenberger of "Erin Brockovich"
- 21 Less polluted
- 22 Rowboat need
- 23 ___-country (Drive-By Truckers' genre)
- 25 "Damn, it's cold out!"
- 26 "Ty Murray's Celebrity Bull Riding Challenge" network
- 27 The Hulk's catalyst
- 29 Food vendor's requirement (abbr.)
- 30 Resource
- 33 Last name in riding lawnmowers
- 34 "___ bin ein Berliner" (famous JFK quote)
- 35 Desert landscape features
- 36 Spicy spread
- 37 ___ Na Na (group that preceded Jimi Hendrix at Woodstock)
- 38 It's said coming and going
- 39 Kiddie lit web spinner who gets a B?
- 42 Fashion line?
- 43 Cartoonist who created Tintin
- 44 Insignia on Cardinals caps
- 45 Hathor or Hera, e.g.
- 47 Won back
- 51 John's 2008 adversary
- 56 Gave high honors
- 58 "Out of Africa" author Isak
- 59 Element taken in supplements

"Report Card" — How did we do? [#373, Aug. 2008] by Matt Jones



Answers on page 34.

- 60 Flea market event
 - 61 Sets up tents
 - 62 Brand with the discontinued flavor Grape Watermelon
- Down**
- 1 "You'll hear ___ my lawyer!"
 - 2 "Ooh ___!"
 - 3 Singer Cocker who gets a C?
 - 4 Leeway
 - 5 Cindy Brady's impediment
 - 6 Like private phone numbers
 - 7 Billionaire Branson who gets an F?
 - 8 Price at a dime a dozen, perhaps?
 - 9 Fortune teller
 - 10 They're added to foot baths

This week's SUDOKU



Answers on page 34.

www.sudoku.name

- 11 "Dilbert" cartoonist Adams who gets an A?
- 12 Equipment
- 13 Makes a decision
- 24 Hot concept
- 26 Chocolate necessity
- 27 Sum up
- 28 It comes straight from the horse's mouth
- 31 Fred's wife, on "I Love Lucy"
- 32 ___ Maria (liqueur)
- 40 Get all emotional and teary-eyed
- 41 Part of GLAAD
- 45 Fade out, like a light
- 46 "We ___ song of sorrow ..." (lyric from Saves the Day's "What Went Wrong")
- 47 Beat too fast, like a heart
- 48 McGregor of "Angels & Demons"
- 49 Mineral that's the softest on the Mohs scale
- 50 Killer whale
- 52 Bodily system that includes the lungs (abbr.)
- 53 Acronym that sometimes means "right now"
- 54 Word after blood or fuel
- 55 Place to play horsey
- 57 Dungeons & Dragons game runners, for short
- 58 Withdrawal symptoms

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DO YOU WANT TO RECOGNIZE A LOCAL HERO?

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LOCAL HERO

SAMPLE AD



Liz Prado

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Submitted by: Victoria Thorp

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