Stanford begins clinical trials to expand Pfizer vaccine access to young children

By Kevin Forestieri

Stanford Health Care has begun laying the clinical groundwork to expand COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to the country’s youngest children, joining in a nationwide trial to see how safe and effective the Pfizer vaccine is for people ages 2 to 5.

The early-phase study, which involves 144 children, is taking a close look at how young children respond to the Pfizer vaccine and whether they can handle the same dose size or experience the same side effects as adults. No vaccines are currently approved for those under 16 years old, and public health officials say extending the vaccine to children will be a key factor in curbing the spread of the virus.

Pfizer is already moving full steam ahead to get the vaccine approved for use in children ages 12 to 15, and the Food and Drug Administration is expected to approve the vaccine’s use in children in that age category either this month or in May, said Dr. Yvonne Maldonado, professor of pediatric infectious diseases and of health research and policy at Stanford.

‘(COVID-19) is deadly and fatal in children. It’s not common, but it’s not rare either.’

Dr. Yvonne Maldonado, Stanford Health Care

But still in its infancy are trials to determine whether the vaccine remains both safe and effective in children under age 12, which is where Maldonado said Stanford is currently focused. Participants are getting the same Pfizer regimen — two doses three weeks apart — but the first cohort of children are

Local agencies are preparing for another big wildfire year

Drought sparks concerns as vegetation dries out

By Sue Dremann

Amid the ruins of last summer’s CZU Lightning Complex fire, a fire still burns in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Its smoke and flames may not be visible, but it’s deep underground, in the root systems of charred redwoods.

The fire would normally be extinguished by winter rains. This year, with 27 inches less rainfall than normal, there wasn’t enough water to finally douse it, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s CZU Unit Division Forester Rich Sampson said.

“It’s like a peat fire. When you see a 60-foot redwood, think of a root system that can go out 30 to 40 feet on each side and down deep,” he said.

But just because the flames are underground doesn’t mean they’re not dangerous. Fallen needles and leaves have created a new duff layer, and if there is just enough oxygen, dry weather and wind, the surface will catch fire. Then, burning material carried by the wind can ignite trees, shrubs and grasses, he said.

Such a fire has already broken out. In San Mateo County’s Butano State Park, fire moved from the redwoods’ underground root systems to the surface, scorching 6 acres on April 2, he said. This year’s continued drought is an ominous sign to Sampson and other local fire officials. Last year’s dry weather, combined with lightning, caused the 86,509-acre CZU conflagration in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

“We’re going to see fires like this in the summer,” Sampson said of large wildfires similar to the CZU fire.

Cal Fire has already seen five fires in San Mateo County between March 31 and April 3, the majority caused by people burning piles of vegetation or trash. In one case, a controlled burn of grass thatch spread 100 feet to the adjacent timberland before firefighters could extinguish it, he said. The larger, 15-acre North Butano Fire occurred on Jan. 18 when the Bay Area should have been in the midst of its rainy season. Statewide, Cal Fire has logged 2,887 acres burned and 845 incidents, according to its website.

Now some land managers, local agencies and the state of California are seeking to stay a step ahead through their plans to manage vegetation. On April 13, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a $536 million funding plan to help improve California’s wildfire resilience with support from the state Legislature. The funding is welcome news to agencies, but even as they await the additional funding, they are already taking proactive measures.

Sampson said fire agencies are currently stepping up patrols. Wildfire cameras enable the agency to check areas quickly and remotely. Cal Fire is also adding staffing: In March, Newsom authorized $80.74 million in emergency funds for 1,399 additional firefighters with Cal Fire to help with fuels management and fire fighting. Some of those seasonal firefighters have already been hired; they usually don’t start work until August.

Along Highway 35 in La

Eloise LaCour, 3, receives the Pfizer shot at Stanford’s Clinical and Translational Research Unit on April 14. Courtesy Stanford Health Care

See CHILDREN’S VACCINES, page 30

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

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It’s time for radical empathy

Former Menlo College provost releases new book on tackling racism

By Kate Bradshaw

For Terri Givens, the former provost of Menlo College and a resident of unincorporated West Menlo Park, the key to overcoming racial barriers in America comes down to two deceptively simple words: radical empathy.

As a Black woman who’s been an academic, a professor of European politics, a college administrator, a community member active on local nonprofit boards, and a mother, sister and daughter in America, she reflects on how perceptions of race have shaped her life experiences in her new book, “Radical Empathy: Finding a Path to Bridging Racial Divides.”

Givens’ book, released in February, shares a number of her personal experiences as she discusses the importance of vulnerability and empathy in her own life and how those traits have enabled her to overcome obstacles and become a leader.

In the book, Givens describes herself as a girl who grew up in a military family away from her extended relatives in Spokane, Washington. A diligent student, she eventually made her way to Stanford University as a first-generation college student, then UCLA for her doctoral degree. She went on to teach at the University of Austin at Texas, where she became a college administrator. She then worked as provost at Menlo College.

‘Let’s focus on the fall’

Sequoia principals push back at parents’ pressure to reopen more extensively this spring

By Angela Swartz

The Sequoia Union High School District expanded in-person learning to 50% capacity this week, but some parents are expressing frustration that students are not back on campus more regularly.

School principals have asked parents to rein in their complaints and have patience. During an April 14 district governing board meeting, Menlo-Atherton High School Principal Simone Rick-Kennel explained that it’s complicated to configure the 50 classrooms in use at the Atherton high school with social distancing guidelines — although San Mateo County’s guidance was recently updated to require that desks are placed 3 feet apart, the district submitted its reopening plan in early March with desks 6 feet apart before the change was made. She said it would take about 30 minutes to remeasure each classroom for the new social distancing guidelines.

Some parents don’t understand why the district doesn’t update its distancing between desks to 3 feet now to allow more students on campus at a time.

“The sense of urgency doesn’t mean tomorrow, but it means it’s a priority,” said Rick-Kennel, who will leave her role at Menlo-Atherton High School bilingual resources teacher.

County officials hopeful for boost to vaccine supply in coming weeks

By Astrid Casimire/Bay City News Service

Following weeks of supply constraints, San Mateo County may get a higher supply of COVID-19 vaccine doses in the coming weeks, officials said Tuesday.

This week, the county received around 31,000 first and second doses overall, which includes allocations to both San Mateo County Health and to multi-county vaccine providers such as Kaiser Permanente and Sutter Health.

Projections from Blue Shield of California show that the county’s weekly vaccine supply could triple by the end of June, according to Dr. Anand Chabra, San Mateo County Health COVID-19 mass vaccination section chief.

Chabra said these are the longest set of projections Blue Shield has provided so far in terms of future supply.

"Those projections are helpful," Chabra said. "Even though we recognize they can always change, at least it gives us something to work with in terms of planning.

The Blue Shield arrangement has not been hugely beneficial to the county’s vaccine rollout so far, Chabra said, but they have made it work.

“I feel like we had a good network of providers," Chabra said about the county’s vaccine rollout prior to Blue Shield’s involvement. “Collectively, we were getting vaccines out very quickly and we were vaccinating a good number of people and doing it quite equitably, so I don’t think there were a whole lot of problems to fix in San Mateo County.”

Chabra said he looks forward to the day they’re no longer constrained by the vaccine supply.

Given the promising supply projections, County Manager Mike Callagy said that Blue Shield seems to be hitting its stride.

But Callagy acknowledged that the last several weeks have been frustrating given the supply constraints for the health department. In addition, the limited lead time around dose projections made it hard to plan for vaccine clinics.

“It just takes so much coordination and resources to get clinics going, especially the neighborhood clinics," Callagy said. “And you want to get information out. It’s just so sporadic right now.”

Limited supply prompted the county to pause its mass vaccination sites and focus on neighborhood clinics in the hardest-hit communities.

As soon as the vaccine supply increases, Chief of San Mateo County Health Louise Rogers said, the county is ready to begin mass vaccination sites again.

“We have not dropped the ball on planning these mass vaccine events. We are ready," Rogers said.
The Planning Commission participates in the administration of the planning laws and policies of the Town. It is responsible for recommending to the Town Council ordinances and resolutions necessary to implement the General Plan and adopted development policy. The Commission also conducts necessary public hearings to administer the planning laws and policies of the Town and acts upon applications for zoning amendments, conditional use permits, variances, subdivisions, and other related functions as may be assigned by the Council.

During COVID-19, the Planning Commission meets virtually on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Interested residents may check residency requirements, request information, and submit applications to the Town Clerk by emailing Jennifer Li at jli@woodsidetown.org.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, May 14, 2021, by 5:00 p.m.
INTERVIEW AND APPOINTMENT BY TOWN COUNCIL: Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Coronavirus central: County’s upgrade to yellow tier unlikely this month

Health officials say residents must continue taking COVID-19 tests, get vaccines to avoid setback

By Embarcadero Media staff

San Mateo and Santa Clara counties are approaching lower COVID-19 infection rates that could move them into the most lenient yellow tier for opening the economy under state COVID-19 guidelines by the beginning of May at the earliest.

Much of that continued forward momentum is contingent on the availability of vaccines, continued public involvement in testing for the virus and buy-in to being vaccinated, county officials said.

San Mateo County’s COVID-19 positivity rate is about 0.9% overall and 1.4% in the state’s lowest Healthy Places Index census tracts, which tracks community health and poverty, county Chief of Health Louise Rogers told the Board of Supervisors. Counties’ positivity rates must remain below 1% in combination with other factors for three weeks before moving into the next least-restrictive tier.

Santa Clara County, which has hit yellow tier numbers at times, saw a slight rise in its overall positivity rate from below 1% to 1.2% in the past two weeks, COVID-19 testing and vaccine officer Dr. Marty Fenstersheib said during his county’s Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday afternoon.

The counties still face multiple challenges. Health officers remain watchful as infection rates rise in some other states such as Michigan, Minnesota, Florida, Colorado and Illinois, in addition to New England states. Both counties continue to face precarious vaccine supplies, waning public interest in being tested for the virus and some public hesitancy in getting the vaccine.

About 58% of Santa Clara County residents and 63.2% of San Mateo County residents ages 16 and up have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, health officials said.

In Santa Clara County, Fenstersheib said testing for the virus has gone up “slightly” after a significant decline. In a mid-April statement, he said testing was down 34% from two months ago. Some of the current rise is likely due to Stanford University testing faculty and students regularly, he added on Tuesday.

In San Mateo County, the number of people being tested for the virus has declined by 10% since Rogers’ last report four weeks ago, she said.

“Testing remains an important way to track how the virus — and its more contagious emerging variants — are spreading in communities,” Rogers said. And although the majority of adults have been vaccinated with at least one dose, she cautioned against complacency.

COVID-19 testing should continue until the county has reached its 90% goal of all residents being vaccinated — and until the science can fully explain the duration and efficacy of the vaccines, she added.

People who have been vaccinated can still acquire and transmit the disease. Even in people who have already been vaccinated, it’s important they be tested if they show any symptoms, she said.

In both counties, availability of vaccines continues to be uncertain. San Mateo County’s supplies from the state have decreased by one-third in the past few weeks, said Dr. Anand Chabra, the county’s COVID-19 mass vaccination section chief. The vaccination supply has also been complicated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s recommendation to pause the use of the Johnson & Johnson single-dose vaccine.

Also known as the Janssen vaccine, it has been suspected in blood clots in six women ages 18 to 48, with one death, he said.

The county health care system received just 11,080 vaccine doses last week, which does not include doses at providers such as Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Kaiser Permanente and pharmacies, he said.

Fenstersheib said Santa Clara County’s allotment of 300,000 doses through the federal Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), which it received on April 13, enabled vaccinating 40,000 people on April 15, with a seven-day average of 27,000 vaccinations administered per day. The county is currently in discussions with the HRSA to receive a commensurate number of second doses, County Executive Jeff Smith said.

Vaccine hesitancy is also a concern, both county officials said. During Santa Clara County’s door-to-door outreach program in census tracts hardest hit by the virus, 8% of those canvassed said they won’t or are now hesitant to have the vaccine, and most were young people, said Brain Darrow, a program manager in the County Executive’s Office. He posited that with 76.1% of people in the most vulnerable age group of 65 and older having received at least one vaccine dose, some
Chauvin verdict ‘a start’ toward social justice

Elected leaders react to police officer’s murder conviction in George Floyd case

By Bay City News Service

Tuesday’s guilty verdict on all three counts against ex-Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin in the death of George Floyd drew swift reactions from Bay Area, state, and national leaders.

“I can’t breathe. Those were George Floyd’s last words,” U.S. President Joseph Biden said on Twitter after the verdict.

“We cannot let them die with him. We have to keep hearing them,” Biden said. “We must not turn away. We cannot turn away.”

“This can be a moment of significant change,” the president said.

Chauvin was charged with second-degree unintentional manslaughter, third-degree murder, and second-degree manslaughter for kneeling on Floyd’s neck for more than nine minutes on May 25, 2020, in Minneapolis. He was acquitted on the third-degree murder charge.

In a statement released Tuesday, Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, called for reform.

“Today, the verdict of justice was served to the family of George Floyd and it echoed across our country. It is a beginning to an effort so long overdue due to police killing must be addressed. We feel relieved but we must reform by passing the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. Our Pledge of Allegiance states ‘liberty and justice for all’ and now the moment has arrived to make these words a reality in America.”

The Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, thanked the jury in a series of tweets, quoting prosecutor Steve Schleicher’s closing argument: “This wasn’t just a trial today, this was murder.”

“Today’s verdict is our start toward achieving true social justice,” Becker wrote.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said Floyd’s family and it echoed across the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, made the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors official statement, according to the district.

“We are in desperate need of some Woodside town parcels to allow for more outdoor community gathering spaces. Current land use regulations limit two residentially zoned pieces of land adjacent to the Town Center, a town-owned complex along Woodside Road from Whiskey Hill Road to Roberts Market that includes government buildings and commercial businesses, and Cañada Corners at the Cañada Road intersection (owned by Roberts Market). To overturn these rules, established by ballot measures J and 1 in 1988 and 1989, respectively, residents must submit a petition to the town for a ballot measure to reach voters.

The measure would allow the property behind Cañada Corners to be outfitted with surface parking to accommodate permanent outdoor dining, trails and play structures, all of which are now prohibited. It would also allow for the possible construction of a public building — an amphitheater or gazebo — for community events in the residentially zoned Town Center area.

“We don’t have a community center (in Woodside),” said Alex Tauber, who has lived in town for about 11 years and helps formalize the effort in February. “COVID brought the idea of, ‘How do we get together in an open environment that’s safe?’ How do we create permanent open spaces? It should be the town’s option — depending on how citizens feel — to not be constrained by the zoning code.”

So far, Peter Bailey, a Woodside Elementary School Board member, and Tauber have gathered about 400 of the 428 valid signatures needed to qualify the measure to be placed on a ballot, Tauber said. They’re hoping to finish gathering signatures, which must come from at least 10% of Woodside’s 4,277 registered voters per California law, in the coming weeks. They are aiming to gather 800 signatures. “It’s been more difficult to canvass during a pandemic, so local restaurants have agreed to put the petitions up for diners to sign.

“We don’t have a lot of restaurants or retailers in Woodside,” Tauber said. “COVID has affected the few restaurants we have for the worst. One of the things it’s done is brought home the notion of doing things outdoors. I don’t think anybody will be able to invest in outdoor dining or a community center if it’s not (able to be) permanent.”

Dylan MacNiven, one of the brothers who manages Buck’s, located at 3062 Woodside Road, said he supports the petition and that the family’s restaurant suffered at the start of the pandemic. Buck’s closed from mid-March until July 2020. Business has picked up again and they are looking to hire wait staff, and he said outdoor dining has been “instrumental” to its survival.

“It would be a way to keep an outdoor dining component in the center of town — it would be a really great thing for the community,” he said. “A longer-term approval would help us build a real (outdoor) infrastructure. We could build a true trash enclosure and maybe have something more comfortable than just asphalt, like AstroTurf or tan bark. We have a temporary outdoor pizza oven; we could see that as something more permanent and built-in.”

In June, the business received a $392,062 Paycheck Protection Program loan to keep the restaurant afloat, according to ProPublica.

Roberts Market president Christine Roberts said the grocer would love for the zoning of the Cañada Corner parcel to change.

“We are in desperate need for some more parking for the shopping center and the grocery store,” she said. She noted there are only about 40 parking spots for the store and nearby restaurants. “Over the years our business has grown. We have more employees in the grocery store and of course the restaurants have gotten more popular and everyone needs parking for employees and the customers.”

County officials announce free college education for 500 eligible students

T he San Mateo County Community College District will offer free community college courses to 500 students through a $2 million grant from the county.

David Canepa, president of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, made the announcement at a news conference on Monday, April 19, at Skyline College in San Bruno.

“This is a huge investment in our youth who have struggled mightily during the pandemic with many of them seeing their family members lose jobs, battle food insecurity or miss rent payments,” he said.

The free college education is available for students who enroll in the district’s Promise Scholars Program, which offers scholarship and support services to first-time, full-time students at Cañada College in Redwood City, College of San Mateo in San Mateo and Skyline College in San Bruno. Students receive full tuition and fees, as well as credit for $750 in books per year, according to a community college district press release. The grant will help expand the program from 2,000 to 2,500 students, district officials said.

Participants in the Promise Scholars Program are more than twice as likely to graduate in two years than students not in the program, according to the district.

The grant is being allocated from county Measure K funds.

The application for the fall 2021 Promise Scholars Program is open online at xsmccd.edu, and prospective students can find information about eligibility and applying to the program online at xsmccd.edu/promise. Students must first apply to the college.

—Angela Swartz and Bay City News Service

Cars drive by the entrance of Cañada College in Redwood City on Feb. 10. Some 500 students within the district will receive free tuition through a $2 million grant from the county.
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Local high school sports updates

**Baseball: M-A tosses a shutout**
Menlo-Atherton’s Griffin Williams made it a pleasant all-around day for Bears baseball. Gunn’s Charlie Deggeler helped turn a bad situation into a walk-off celebration.

Williams pitched a three-hitter, striking out 11 without a walk, and M-A beat host San Mateo 7-0 in a Peninsula Athletic League opener Tuesday. Deggeler singled in the bottom of the seventh, capping a wild come-from-behind 10-9 SCVAL victory over visiting Mountain View.

Raines retired 12 of the first 13 hitters he faced, including the first four by strikeout. The Bears made it interesting for him, committing back-to-back errors to open the fifth. Williams got the next batter on a flyout and then induced a double play ball, that he started, to erase the only threat of the day.

Williams also helped himself offensively, driving in three runs on a sacrifice fly in the third and a two-run single in the sixth.

John Quinlan had three hits, scored three times and drove in a run. Tommy Eisenstat contributed three hits, including a double, and Will Cronin doubled, singled and drove in a run.

Williams, who took a no-hitter into the sixth, was efficient on the mound, throwing 87 pitches, 65 for strikes (nearly 75%). He used 13 pitches to complete the seventh, which included two strikeouts and two hits.

**Girls soccer**
Just over a year after playing in the CCS Division III championship game, Menlo opened its WBAL season with an 8-0 win over visiting Mercy-Burlingame on Tuesday.

Junior Carolina Espinosa converted a penalty kick less than two minutes into the match, and it was all Menlo.

In the first half, senior Stella El-Fishawy added two consecutive goals on assists by Gabby Kogler and finished with five goals.

Espinosa added another goal to start the second half and assisted on another for the Knights.

Ellie El-Fishawy, a sophomore, distributed three assists, including one to her sister Stella. Junior Ayla Seddignezhad got the shutout.

Sydney Adas and Megan Tinsley each scored, and Sacred Heart Prep opened its WBAL season with a 2-0 victory over visiting Priory on Tuesday.

Juliana Rosen assisted on Adas’ goal in the eighth minute, and Ellie Brew assisted Tinsley in the 79th minute.

**Football: M-A completes undefeated PAL football season**
Matt MacLeod completed all seven passes he attempted, two for touchdowns, and Menlo Atherton concluded an undefeated season by beating visiting The King’s Academy, 49-21, in a Peninsula Athletic League Bay Division football contest on April 16.

Thomas Taufuli, Dwayne Green and Raymond Price III each rushed for a score and Michael Osorio recovered a fumble in the end zone for another touchdown.

Price also threw a touchdown pass, a 34-yarder to Johnny Barbie, as the Bears (5-0) finished the season with an average score of 34-11.

MacLeod threw for 162 yards and rushed for another 41 yards. Green rushed for 43 yards, and Michael McNack added 42.

Price also completed the only pass he attempted and Billy Johnson, the third quarterback used, would have been credited with a completion had there not been a penalty called on the play.

See **SPORTS**, page 32

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**OBITUARIES**

Local residents who died recently include Kirk Broomhead, 68, a former Atherton resident and technical writer for VMware, on March 26; Antonio Javier Espinosa, 60, a Menlo Park resident and founder of Corelna Inc., on April 8; and Marjorie Hausmann, 95, a longtime Portola Valley resident, on April 8.

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

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**Teens around the world connect over pandemic experiences**
Menlo Park resident’s project with her niece is like pen pals for the Zoom era

By Kate Bradshaw

L ast year, when Menlo Park resident Desta Raines contacted an old friend in Italy on behalf of her curious 13-year-old niece, none of them could have predicted that a year later, they’d be leading international video calls with teens around the world hungry to connect over leadership and change-making.

It all started when Dalayna Carr, a now 14-year-old who lives in Virginia, asked Raines about how people in Italy were managing the pandemic, at the time when the country was being devastated by COVID-19.

Raines contacted her friend Tiffany Hogan, who is an English teacher in Venice, who invited her English-learner students to participate in a group video call to talk about it. About 10 students participated, far more than the one or two Carr had hoped for. They held more discussions, and students from Australia and beyond started to join.

The ability to connect with other students across the world who were also stuck going to school online, disconnected from their friends, and having their lives disrupted helped some students realize that they weren’t alone, even if they were stuck at home, or in their home countries, Raines said.

“People all over the world are having the same experience,” she said.

At the same time, the lock-down cycles around the world have meant that at any given point over the past year, some students have faced tightening restrictions while others had more freedoms.

And while the conversations may have started out on the topic of COVID, students have since expanded their horizons to other areas of discussion.

Through word of mouth, the conversations snowballed into a program Raines now calls Teens Connect Global, which has since spread all over the world. The student-led organization regularly hosts conversations with students from places like Ukraine, Pakistan, India, South Korea and Vietnam, as well as other parts of the U.S.

Generally, the calls are held over Zoom and involve guest speakers who present on a topic that the youth have selected, after which the students move into breakout rooms on Zoom to have discussions, Raines said.

The number of participants ranges from 10 to 60, with an average of about 20.

“I’d like to think of it as real-time pen pals,” Raines said.

With the advent of Zoom and video calls, having international video calls is a modern iteration of the old-fashioned pen pal program that enables students to interact far faster than “snail mail” or email would otherwise permit, she said.

Raines contributes to the organization as a facilitator who helps moderate the calls, which are restricted to teens ages 12 to 18. The calls have an adult present to supervise the discussions.

For Carr, the conversations have helped her realize that although other teens around the world may come from different cultures, they have many similarities in their day-to-day lives as they study, play sports and engage in extracurricular activities.

In addition, many of the students share a particular passion for the environment, she said.

Because all of the conversations are conducted in English, for many international students, participation comes with the added benefit of an opportunity to practice a language they are still learning.

One tricky piece of the initiative is finding times that work for busy students all over the world, Raines explained. Calls generally happen at 7 a.m. Pacific Standard Time, which may explain why she’s had some trouble recruiting students from the West Coast to join the calls, she added.

Topics range widely — the teens have talked about human rights, discrimination and refugees, as well as activism, the environment and LGBTQ+ issues, Raines and Carr said.

Another obstacle the organization faces is in connecting with students in places where Wi-Fi is not as readily accessible. They have been troubleshooting to help some students from Rwanda and Colombia who don’t have their own access to technology figure out how to participate as well. Generally though, the students who have logged into the program have had strong enough connections to participate fully in the discussions, Raines said.

Raines said that the program is aimed at fostering youth leadership and has enabled her to mentor her niece and other teens. The partnership between the aunt and niece has brought them closer, both Carr and Raines said.

To learn more about Teens Connect Global, visit teensconnectglobal.org.

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RADICAL EMPATHY
continued from page 5

before starting Brighter Higher Ed, a higher education consulting firm. At each step, she dissects how her racial identity created ripples and complications for her ambitions. As a child, she saw teachers make assumptions about the capabilities of Black students that “can inhibit their potential for success.”

At Stanford, her racial identity triggered stressful choices, like whether to attend orientation activities specific to Black students, or those focused on getting to know all of the other residents of her dorm. And even as a professor, her white, male colleagues were often more likely to have endowed chair positions with lighter teaching loads, she said.

In her personal life, she struggled with dating until she reconnected with a college classmate, Michael Scott, who is white, and they fell in love. Now, as parents to biracial teens, she’s navigated the complexities of helping their children understand their African American and Danish roots.

Along with Givens’ story, she provides broader information about how empathy can be applied to tackle racism in many different areas of life, including family dynamics, politics, health care, higher education and relationships, adding context with historical details and academic references.

One of the biggest areas where she saw racial inequality manifest in her life was in the health system. Givens said that the questions that would drive her to write the book started after her father died of a sudden heart attack in 2001.

‘Here we are in 2021, and we’re still just breaking into some parts of society.’

TERRI GIVENS

“I would go on to lose several other family members in that first decade of the new millennium — most of them to preventable illnesses,” she wrote.

The impacts of race on health continued to inspire her research and advocacy. Particularly striking is data that African American women, regardless of their class or education, are more likely to die of maternal mortality than their white counterparts, she said.

While living in Austin, Texas, Givens started “Take Back the Trail,” an initiative that encouraged women in East Austin to get out and exercise and provided them with healthy food donations, check-ins and mentoring.

As further confirmation of the ways that racial inequality shapes health, she said, she finished writing the book in the middle of a pandemic that has disproportionately harmed Black and Hispanic people throughout the U.S. Several of her extended family members are front-line workers who became sick with COVID-19, she added.

Leading with empathy

Givens also describes her experiences with leadership, and notes that there is a significant dearth of women and minorities in leadership positions. She cites a 2018 report stating that there has only been one Black woman CEO of a Fortune 500 company, Ursula Burns of Xerox, who retired in 2016.

“Here we are in 2021, and we’re still just breaking into some parts of society,” she said.

Moving forward

As Givens describes it, radical empathy means having two kinds of empathy: emotional empathy, or feeling how another person feels, and cognitive empathy, or understanding how another person sees the world. It also involves taking action to change structural inequality beyond just being nice to other people, she said.

“We all have to understand that we live in this society that’s built around structural racism ... and it’s not just structural racism, it’s inequality,” she said.

Her recommended steps to build radical empathy are to be willing to be vulnerable, become grounded in who you are, open yourself up to learn about and understand other people’s experiences, practice empathy, take action, create change and build trust.

Despite the daunting inequality and structural racism that persists, Givens said she draws her inspiration to keep fighting them from both past generations and young people.

“I can’t forget that my grandfather was a sharecropper in Louisiana, and my mother was a seamstress, and I got a Ph.D.,” she said. “And my children are going to have great opportunities because of my education, and ... (are) getting great educations. In the end, I do see progress.”

People interested in purchasing the book can access it at is.gd/radicalempathy.

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.
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Council splits on pilot to deliver vaccines to homebound seniors

By Kate Bradshaw

A proposal from Menlo Park Mayor Russ Combs and Councilman Ray Mueller to partner with the San Mateo County Health Department and Menlo Park Fire Protection District to bring vaccines to homebound seniors moved forward Tuesday night, but not without controversy.

The idea is for the city to work with the county and fire district to hold a pilot program in vulnerable areas covered by the fire district, including Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and unincorporated Menlo Park. The pilot program would likely be limited to just 20 people, Mueller said.

While 76% of Menlo Park residents have been vaccinated against COVID-19, according to county health data, as of about two weeks ago, only about 10% of homebound county residents have received their vaccinations, Mueller said.

One challenge that county health leaders have faced in providing vaccines to homebound residents is that vaccinations have been required to be provided by registered nurses, and that going into people’s homes takes more than a day at mass vaccination sites, he said.

The county is interested in the initiative and has contacteed Blue Shield of California, which is administering the state’s vaccination network, to see if it would be able to get permission to use paramedics, such as those employed by the fire district, to administer the vaccines. The city would participate by conducting outreach and funding whatever parts of the initiative are not reimbursable, he added.

If the pilot program goes well, he said, county health leaders could amplify it throughout San Mateo County, authorizing fire districts to help vaccinate people who are homebound.

Three council members — Mueller, Combs and Councilwoman Jen Wolosin — ultimately agreed to authorize city staff to talk with county health officials at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday to develop a scope for the pilot project, and remain open to potentially providing some limited support to the initiative, such as funding or public outreach to develop a list of homebound seniors in the city.

Wolosin said she was open to exploring the city’s limited participation in the pilot and encouraged the organizers to consult with the county’s vaccination equity task force.

However, the proposal generated pushback from others. Vice Mayor Betsy Nash said she opposed the idea, voting unanimously to support vaccine initiatives with local governments and fire districts.

Mueller had left the City Council meeting via Zoom to briefly present information about the proposal to the Menlo Park Fire Protection District board, which also meets on Tuesday nights but only once per month.

She also objected to the proposal based largely on concerns about the process, saying more outreach and research should have been done first.

Separately, but nearly simultaneously, the fire district board ultimately issued a general motion of support for the idea, voting unanimously to express support for local efforts to increase access to COVID-19 vaccinations for vulnerable populations and be willing to work with local governments to support vaccine initiatives so long as they are approved by the San Mateo County Health Department.

The proposal will come back to the City Council for approval once more details are ironed out, Mueller said.

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.

Wildfire

continued from page 1

Honda, Cal Fire and the San Mateo County Parks Department have been cutting back vegetation to create shaded fuel breaks, areas where the understory growth has been thinned out or removed to keep fires from spreading into the tree canopy.

In San Mateo County, work will begin this summer in Hud- dart and Wunderlich county parks. By 2020, the fire district said, thin forest growth, vegetation, remove dead trees and take out small trees up to 8 inches in diameter. Crews will also clear tall, dense brush along the parks’ boundaries, fire roads and residential roads to maintain routes for evacuation, emergency response and firefighting.

The work is being done through a partnership of the San Mateo Resource Conservation District and San Mateo County Parks and funded by Cal Fire. As part of the California Climate Investment Program, according to a statement from the county parks department.

The program will treat 218 acres in Huddart and 184 acres in Wunderlich over the next three years. Both sites are located where forest land abuts residences, the so-called wildland-urban interface, the parks department and conservation district said in a joint statement.

“These projects are vital to protecting our local forests. The 2020 CZU fires showed us that fire knows no borders. Forest management at Wunderlich and Huddart county parks will improve the health of these forest ecosystems, enhance their resistance to catastrophic fire, and help our communities be safer," said Kellyx Nelson, executive director of the San Mateo Resource Conservation District, in the statement.

Improving forest health can also help store an estimated 13,500 metric tons of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, San Mateo County Parks noted.

‘The 2020 CZU fires showed us that fire knows no borders.’

KELLYX NELSON, SAN MATEO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has already been working on wildland fire safety, Leigh Ann Gessner, Midpen spokesperson, said in an email.

It has removed eucalyptus on a critical evacuation route along Page Mill Road in partnership with the city of Palo Alto and the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council. It also created a new, shaded fuel break in Coal Creek Preserve along 2.5 miles of existing roads and trails. Upcoming projects include a proposed ecological restoration project for wldland fire protection and fuels management at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve.

The district will hold a public presentation on the project at the April 28 board meeting, she said.

When fire weather strikes, the district will close some preserves and take other precautions to prevent fires being sparked, she said.

Staff members are also considering a new policy for closing pre- serves during periods of extreme- ly poor air quality when levels of smoke and other particulates are harmful, such as what the region experienced last summer during the CZU fire, but that plan isn’t finalized, she added.

Long term, Midpen’s newly developed Wildland Fire Resil- iency Program would expand its vegetation management to reduce wildland fire risk and increase fire suppression. The board will consider certifying the program’s Environmental Impact Report at a public meeting on May 12 at 5 p.m.

The plan "will enable Midpen to increase its fuel reduction work by over 600%. Additional funding will be critical with the cost of our increased work plan projected to be approximately $36 million over 10 years," Gessner said.

Funding from the state would also be welcome to jump-start a project goal of the multiple-agency Los Gatos Creek Watershed Collaborative, said Seth Shalet, executive director of the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, a member of the collaborative.

The collaborative is hoping for a forest health grant, one of Cali- fornia’s targeted initiatives. The project would treat more than 900 acres to reduce fire hazards as part of a multiple-year pro- gram, he said.

The FireSafe Council is also just starting to work through a back- log of vegetation management projects that were pushed back due to COVID-19 challenges. Shalet said. Planned projects for this year include work along critical escape routes, including along upper Highway 9 in Saratoga and in northern Santa Clara County along Highway 35 and the Alpine Road area. The work would start along the Skyline Ridge equestrian parking lot entrance and north along Highway 35 through Rusk- ian Ridge until the funds run out, he said.

The council mainly works on less complex projects that involve the public and public education, focusing on defensible space to address what he calls “home- ignition zones.” People can clean up their properties to keep them safer from fire should it break out.

Gessner agreed that public awareness is key to preventing wildfires.

"With the dry conditions this year, we all need to do our part and stay vigilant. According to Cal Fire, 95% of wildland fires in California are sparked by people,” she said.

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremaun at sdurema@meweekly.com.

April 23, 2021  AlmanacNews.com  The Almanac  29
Your COVID-19 vaccine questions — answered

We’ve compiled a list of who can currently get vaccinated in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, plus answers to common questions. Find the links to resources. Access the page at tinyurl.com/COVIDVaccinequestions. Have a question? Send it to editor@paweekly.com and we’ll do our best to answer it.

Real in Atherton on Friday, April 30, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Donors at the Atherton event will be offered a voucher for a free sandwich at any Bay Area Jersey Mike’s Subs location. Register at tinyurl.com/athertonblooddrive.

In Portola Valley, the Portola Valley Nature and Science Committee will host a six-part, monthly Zoom series on wildflowers. Longtime Portola Valley resident Dan Quinn will show pictures of flowers in bloom that month and provide information about each flower, such as its uses for food or medicinal purposes, unique characteristics and how they contribute to the ecosystem.

The presentation will start at 7:30 p.m. and will be followed by a Q&A period. The series continues on May 27, June 24, July 29 and Aug. 26. Join the April 26 event at wildflowertalkapril26. — Angela Swartz

Ann’s Coffee Shop launches GoFundMe

Ann’s Coffee Shop celebrated its last day of a 75-year run on April 19, as married-and-son owners Nicki Poulos and George Paplos recruited friends and family to keep their doors open long enough to say goodbye to the community.

“Poulos’ son and daughter, Poulas and Elaine Poulas, have created a GoFundMe campaign to help their mother pay off her mortgage and support her retirement. “This year, a combination of (COVID-19) and rent prices has put Ann’s, and Nicki herself, in a precarious position,” the campaign states. “The building sold prematurely before the lease’s expiration date, due to rent spikes, though Nicki had planned to run it for a few more years to pay off her mortgage.”

As of the morning of April 21, it had raised about $3,700 toward a $7,500 goal. People can view the campaign at is.gd/anns21.

— Kate Bradshaw

PETITION

continued from page 8

Nat Medina, manager of Firehouse Bistro, located at 2991 Woodside Road, said he is “on board with” a petition and signed it since more outdoor space would increase business. In August, the Woodside Town Council allowed the owners of Firehouse Bistro to create additional outdoor seating for diners by exploring a “soft closure,” using a chain to block vehicles, with the idea that the chain could easily be removed by fire or other emergency personnel needing access. Dining areas would still be protected by solid barriers, but arranged in a way that allows emergency vehicles to get through.

Karey Walker, a spokesperson for San Francisco-based RedCap, the owner and operator of The Village Bakery, said in an email that the restaurant supports the petition.

“As an added bonus, the effort will help improve the overcrowded parking situation,” she noted. “It was important to us that the plan did not impact the local horse trails, which are central to the community spirit of Woodside. And even more importantly, the improved parking will be privately funded by the Roberts family, and not cost residents any money.”

Measure J, approved by the voters in 1988, did two things. It prohibited development of commercial or office space on a then vacant, town-owned parcel near where Town Hall is now located. Second, it required residential zoning to be applied to neighboring counties.

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Interim Superintendent Crystal Leach said that the district is aiming to bring students back at 100% capacity in the fall. Of the 9,300 students in the district, those who opted to return to campuses are divided into four groups (A, B, C and D) adhering to the reopening plan. For example, groups A and B attend Mondays and Tuesdays, and groups C and D on Thursdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays, all students do lessons remotely.

Rick-Kennell also said that the school’s “traumatic” lockdown — after someone called in a threat to “shoot up” the school on students’ second day back on campus April 6 — left the school community “reeling” and “recovering.”

The incident also highlighted the disconnect between coronavirus protocols and lockdown, in which students and teachers have no choice but to be inside together with doors and windows closed, which limits the ventilation needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In one case, 18 students locked down in one portable, she said.

Edith Salvatore, Sequoia District Teachers Association president, said she inquired with the district about getting extra COVID-19 testing and when quarantines in groups would be lifted, as teachers and students were forced to shelter in place — up to three hours for some — in closed-up rooms. In some cases, students were brought in from the athletic fields and did not have masks.

“I think we have forgotten COVID is still out there, even though the cases are low,” she said. “We’ve got AP (Advanced Placement) testing, we have every athletic team going. I don’t know how we’re going to contact trace if we have a positive case. … I have no doubt we will be 100% in the fall if this trend continues, I just want to remind us all this is a reality. I knock on wood that we don’t have a positive case, but if we do, everyone’s going to get notified.”

Sequoia High School Principal Sean Priest shared the same sentiments as Rick-Kennell about the difficulties of reopening during the pandemic.

“Let’s start to really focus on the fall and get the work we’re way behind on really ramped up,” he said.

‘Divide’ between parents and teachers

Board members and principals expressed their concerns about the divide that seems to have formed between parents, teachers and administrators during the pandemic.

At one point during the meeting, one parent from the group Reopen SUHSD, a coalition of parents, students, teachers and community members that has advocated for in-person learning, said he didn’t feel as if students’ needs are being prioritized and that the teachers union’s role is not to advocate for students.

East Palo Alto Academy Principal Amika Guillaume said that parents have said some “offensive” things about teachers and that reopening is not a simple maneuver. At East Palo Alto Academy, 25% of the student body is back on campus, with many students not being able to return because they’re working to support their families or providing child care for family members. Only 77% are attending classes, she said, compared to the usual 94% to 96%, she noted.

“We are nothing without our teachers,” she said. “We’ll continue to have a divide if we don’t call people out for being offensive about what our teachers do, for truly not thinking of the complexity of what we’re trying to get done here.”

Newly elected trustee Shawnee Stevenson turned to long-time district employees Rick-Kennell and Bonnie Hansen, assistant superintendent of educational services, during the April 14 meeting for insights on the district’s inner workings and guidance on how to bridge the chasm. Rick-Kennell said that district officials have always been good about gathering stakeholder input, but that the pandemic has “thrown us all for a loop because it’s impacting everyone so deeply.”

“I disagree that the union is advocating only for their teachers; I don’t think teachers come in thinking their purpose is not to teach students,” Stevenson said. “There is a lot of mistrust between how we interact with each other. We’re so frustrated because we’re not accessing our executive function; we are under stress and don’t always get all the details. How do we get on the same page and say ‘We are here for the kids.’”

**April 19 expansion**

Effective Monday, April 19, about 500 students are allowed back on M-A’s campus per day, said Rick-Kennell in an email. M-A’s total enrollment this school year is 2,371 students.

The same day, Woodside High School planned to welcome 300 students for the Monday and Tuesday cohort and then another 300 students Thursday and Friday for the remainder of the year, said Principal Diane Burbank in an email. Overall, 33% of the school’s roughly 1,906 students have returned to campuses this spring (about 600 students), she said during the board meeting. The return was not equitable, with white students overrepresented by 23% and Hispanic students underrepresented by 12%. It did not “mirror the school-wide demographic.” The school sorted students so that even at 50% capacity, students have 6 feet distance between desks.

“The break and lunches will be where students need to be reminded about distancing — and to pick up the free morning snack and lunches in the Multi Use Room (MUR),” she said. Watch the full April 14 meeting at tinyurl.com/seqapr14.

**Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.**

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**Marjorie Hausmann**

Marjorie Sutherland Hausmann died peacefully on April 8, 2021 surrounded by her family. Marge was born on July 20, 1929 in Portland, OR to William and Helen Sutherland. She and her 2 siblings spent most of their childhood in Portland. She graduated from Grant High School and Oregon State University where she was a Home Economics major. At OSU, she was proud to be a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and the Mortar Board Honor Society which provided her with life-long friendships. After graduation, she moved to San Francisco where she worked for Shell Oil Company and where she met her husband, Robert (Bob) Hausmann. They were married in Palo Alto in 1953 and moved to Los Altos to start their family. In 1962 they moved to Portola Valley where they raised their 4 children. In 2005, after selling the family home, she moved to the Vi at Palo Alto.

Marge was known to all for her generous and positive spirit, always putting others first and her warm welcoming smile. She was a devoted and loving mom. Whether coaching a sports team, teaching cooking in 4H, helping in the classroom or driving on countless field trips, she was always involved. She was also a wonderful Nani to her 3 grandchildren, whom she adored. She was their #1 fan and could always be found at their school and sporting events cheering them on. Family was everything to her and she would gather family and friends for any occasion. She was an excellent baker and her snickerdoodle cookies were an all-time favorite at any gathering!

Marge had numerous interests and was always willing to try something new. She was active in bowling, golf and tennis leagues as well as her hiking groups. The “walkie talkies” could often be seen hiking the many trails of Portola Valley. She loved to travel and saw much of the world, primarily with her children and her sister. She enjoyed the opera and symphony and attended many performances. She was an avid volunteer and was involved with Allied Arts Auxiliary, Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital, Filoli Historical Society, the San Francisco Art Institute and Lively Arts at Stanford. She enjoyed gardening- especially tending to her beautiful roses. In her later years, she read constantly and played bridge almost daily. An avid sports fan, she was particularly drawn to the Giants and the Warriors. She loved being a “gamer babe” and at the age of 87 attended the Spring Training in Scottsdale, AZ crossing that off her bucket list!

More than anything, she loved her family very much. There was never a day they didn’t know that. She is survived by her four children, Robert Hausmann, Sue (Mike) Davison, Mary (Rob) Levander and Karen (David) Hausmann as well as her 3 grandchildren Kristen, Melissa and Matthew Davison.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Bob, her sister Helen Jean Sutherland, and brother William Alan Sutherland.


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**Stephen T. Dickman**

July 23, 1945 – April 7, 2021

Steve Dickman of Woodside passed away on Wednesday, April 7th after a long illness. Steve was born July 23, 1945 in Santa Barbara, California. He graduated from UCSB before attending Long Beach State University to earn his Master’s Degree in Physics. While there, he co-published an article in the Journal of Chemical Physics which caught the eye of Nobel Prize recipient Linus Pauling.

Steve’s career began at Univac in Southern California. He moved to the bay area in 1979 to join Dalmo Victor, which eventually became Northrop Grummon, where he worked until retirement.

A devoted and beloved family man, “Hoppa” enjoyed spending time with his granddaughters and attending every volleyball and basketball game. Famous for his giant campfires, Steve loved camping, golf, classic movies, taco night, lunch at the beach, and his 1958 Corvette. He and his wife visited all 50 states and 49 states.

Steve is survived by his wife of 54 years, son Jacen, daughter Christienne and her husband Graham, daughter Karlee, granddaughters Benjamin and Makea, step-grandsons Ethan and Sebastian, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services were held at the Woodside Village Chapel and Courtyard on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers please consider donating to the Diabetes Research Institute.

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**PAID OBITUARY**
Jeremiah Earley was MacLeod’s favorite target, catching a touchdown pass. Juan Pulpin connected on all seven of his PATs.

Eric Stuart caused the fumble that resulted in Osorio’s touchdown, and Jalen Moss returned a 67-yard kick to set up another score.

The Bears completed their third consecutive undefeated league season, last losing a PAC contest in November of 2020.

—Rick Eymer

Football: Sacred Heart takes charge of Valpo Bowl in second half

Menlo School made a game of it in the first half before heavily favored Sacred Heart Prep established order in the second half. That pulled away for a 28-7 victory Saturday in the 18th edition of the Valparaiso Saturday.

Menlo (4-1) struck first on a 10-yard run after play. On third and 17, Sergio Beltran connect with Chris D’Alencion on a 16-yard completion. D’Alencion lateraled to Carter Jung, who streaked down the left sideline to complete a 61-yard scoring play with 3:29 left in the first quarter.

Menlo’s defense did a good job of stymying the SHP offense for much of the first half. But the Gators put together a 75-yard drive late in the second quarter that culminated with a 37-yard touchdown pass from Teddy Purcell to Zach Freire to make it 7-7 at halftime.

The second half was a different story.

“It was really just the attitude,” SHP coach Mark Grieb said. “We started slow. Menlo had a great game plan against us. Attacking them and finding a running game the whole complexion of the game.”

SHP (5-1) took the second-half kickoff and went 67 yards in six plays to take the lead on a 3-yard run by Andrew Latu. Purcell hit Will Mackie for 21 yards and Beck Anderson for 33 yards on the drive.

Then SHP attempted a onside kick, recovered it, and went 49 yards in seven plays — all on the ground. Latu’s 4-yard run made it a two-touchdown lead.

“They did a couple things we weren’t expecting in the first half,” Purcell said. “We changed up our attack with some double moves and a lot of running up the middle in the second half.”

An interception by Ryan Wong gave the ball back to the Gators, and they scored their third touchdown in three first-half possessions when Paul Barton raced 29 yards on a reverse on the first play of the fourth quarter. Jonathan Martine’s PAT made the score 28-7, which held up.

Beltran completed 17 of 28 passes for 236 yards. But the Menlo ground game was balanced, with head coach Todd Smith soundly considered to his team’s chances of pulling off an upset, was held to a net 12 yards.

“[They’re] a good football team,” Smith said. “We did a really good job on defense in the first half.”

Smith said. “(Purcell) was very uncomfortable in the pocket. They found a chink in our armor and scored late. They were the better football team in the second half.”

After a 3-7 season in 2019, Menlo won all four games it played against Peninsula Athletic League Ocean Division competition this season before losing to SHP of the PAL Bay. “Gratification doesn’t come from going 4-1,” Smith said. “Gratification comes from what the kids had to go through, the obstacles they overcame with COVID and six sophomores playing.”

The Gators rushed for 153 yards. Alec Tonas led the way with 56 yards on 12 carries.

“[We] came up huge,” Grieb said. “We had an emotional victory last week (a 29-26 win over Half Moon Bay decided in the final seconds) and it was hard to get fired up, even for this being the Valpo game. But our team rose to the challenge. I like our team. You all have a year. I’m real proud.”

—Glenn Reeves

Will there be CCS playoffs?

Central Coast Section playoffs, once thought to be an extremely unlikely possibility, are now expected to take place for most Season Two Sports.

This change came about as the result of a California Department of Public Health directive issued earlier this month that allowed high school sports teams to play teams from anywhere in the state, rather than only within their own or adjacent counties. Now, second quarter playoffs can theoretically take place at a central location.

“I think team sports will all be open,” CCS commissioner Dave Grafe said during a phone interview this week.

Grissm made a presentation to the CCS board of managers last week and will need to do so again at an executive committee meeting April 26. He doesn’t expect opposition.

“I think everyone feels, if we can pull this off let’s do it,” Grissom said.

Individual sports face bigger obstacles than team sports. Wrestling and badminton are unlikely to happen at all.

“The guidance prevents playing multiple opponents on the same day, which is what happens with wrestling and badminton,” Grissom said. “If you win one match you go on and face someone from another school in the next round. That being said I could make the case that two wrestling on a mat might not pose as much of a risk as 11-on-11 football.”

Section championships for other individual sports, such as track and swimming, have the chance to take place, but face complicating factors.

“We would blanket the premises in swimming with 100 schools if given approval,” Grissom said. “There will be no playoffs for Season One sports — football, girls volleyball, water polo, field hockey, cross country and combat sports.

Not all schools are expected to take part. Even with a qualifying team or individual, a school might decide enough is enough and not to take part in playoffs, which are scheduled after the school year concludes.

This is a particular issue in the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League, which departed from the section’s two-season model to create its own three-season schedule. The league set up that three-sport structure in the effort to be fair to all sports and to give all athletes an equal amount of time to compete.

The decision was made when all of the Bay Area was deep in the COVID pandemic and all had lost seasons to the coronavirus. The league can now face bigger, more complex obstacles than team sports.

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Congratulations on managing what is a permanent crisis and know that there are more of us than you think who support independent journalism and local journalism.

- Jill M.

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The Energy Innovation Act will cut pollution and put money in our pockets

By Paula Danz and Mark Reynolds

A few months into the new administration, the federal government is set to roar into action on climate change. President Biden signed executive orders related to climate change in his early days in office, and the White House just introduced a proposal that elevates climate solutions alongside infrastructure and job goals. In addition, President Biden is planning to announce his upcoming climate plan at his climate summit with world leaders on Earth Day. The latest exciting development in climate policy is the introduction of legislation called the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR 2307). The bill hit the House of Representatives on April 1, led by Florida Democrat Rep. Ted Deutch and 28 original co-sponsors, including local Congresswoman Anna Eshoo. Many thanks to Rep. Eshoo for her many years of tireless work on climate and environmental issues and for her co-sponsorship of this important legislation.

This policy will quickly slash our climate-changing emissions and save Americans lives by reducing pollution — and that’s not all. It will also spur business innovation and lead to affordable clean energy, and it will do all of this while putting money in people’s pockets. Let’s explore how.

First, the policy puts a steadily rising price on carbon pollution. This price signal will steer our economy away from fossil fuels, leading to a 30% reduction in carbon emissions in just five years. With this policy in place, America will be on the path to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 — a critical target, according to the scientific community. That deadline comes from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change’s game-changing 2018 report, where the authors also specified that carbon pricing, such as the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, is “a necessary condition of ambitious public policies.”

As fossil fuel use drops and emissions decline with this policy, public health will also benefit. We could save 4.5 million Americans lives over the next 50 years by replacing pollution with clean air. That’s why the Lancet Commission endorses carbon pricing, calling it “the single most powerful strategic instrument to inoculate human health against the risks of climate change.” The Energy Innovation Act has been endorsed by 214 California health care professionals, including 70 from the San Francisco Bay Area.

While driving these massive benefits, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act will also provide economic benefits to Americans. Each month, people will receive a carbon dividend or “carbon cash back” payment. In other words, the carbon fee revenue will go into people’s pockets to spend with no restrictions. This policy in place, 85% of Americans come out ahead or essentially break even. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is a longtime supporter of this approach. She affirmed in her January confirmation process that she is “fully supportive of effective carbon pricing,” adding, “I know that the president is as well.”

In District 18, the Energy Innovation Act has the endorsement of Stanford professor and former United States Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, among many others. This policy is better for business as well. With this bill, the government simply sets a predictable direction for businesses to take to their customers. It’s up to businesses how to move in that direction. Economists expect a policy like the Energy Innovation Act will drive technological innovation, and businesses will provide affordable, and reliable clean energy in response.

Businesses seem to recognize the value of this approach. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce recently announced its support of a “market-based approach to accelerate emissions reductions,” and the Business Roundtable has explicitly endorsed a carbon price. In District 18, the Energy Reality Project (Menlo Park), Peninsula Democratic Coalition (Los Altos), Silver Mountain Vineyards (Los Gatos), and Tiemann Investment Advisors (Menlo Park) have endorsed the policy.

It’s not every day that Congress considers a policy that will reduce emissions, save lives, benefit business, and put money in people’s pockets. Every member of California’s congressional delegation who has not yet co-sponsored HR 2307 should take a serious look at this bill.

Here in California, we are ready to see results. Public polling shows 70% of people in our congressional district (CA 18) and 64% of Californians overall want Congress to do more to address global warming. That desire defies partisanship, with majority support for climate action from Republican and Democratic voters across the country. The Energy Innovation Act is a good step forward to put America on the fast track to a healthy, prosperous future.

Paula Danz is a volunteer with the Silicon Valley North chapter of Citizens’ Climate Lobby and a Los Altos resident. Mark Reynolds is the executive director of Citizens’ Climate Lobby.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Ann’s Coffee Shop

I was saddened to learn that Ann’s Coffee Shop would close in downtown Menlo Park (“The end of an era: Ann’s Coffee Shop to close,” April 9). For decades, it was a valued nighttime gathering place for local retirees as well as a friendly breakfast and lunch spot for parents and kids. Menlo Park is losing many of its longtime small businesses: The Guild Theatre, Village Stationers, The Pet Place, Ann’s Coffee Shop, and possibly Feldman’s Books. (Editor’s note: The Guild Theatre is under renovation to become a music and events venue.) Whether due to the COVID-19 pandemic or downtown redevelopment or the simple inevitability of change, they will be missed. These were not just businesses; they were serving their neighbors and touchstones for the community. The midnight showing of “Rocky Horror.” Personally designed wedding invitations. A place to bring your new pup for “meet and greet.” The out-of-print book. That perfect piece of rhubarb pie.

I was saddened to learn that Ann’s Coffee Shop, which I consider a Menlo Park institution, would be closing. The coffee was always good, and the service was always friendly. I hope that there are other places to fill the gap, but it’s hard to imagine that there will be a Menlo Park without it.

Maureen Sanders
Skylane Boulevard, Woodside

Yes on S

As Woodside and Portola Valley residents in the Portola Valley School District receive their ballots to vote on Measure S, we have a rare opportunity to cast a “yes” vote that will benefit our schools and preserve our quality of education in Woodside.

PVSD has a long history of being a leader in education. In 2019, we were awarded a prestigious National Blue Ribbon School Award, which is the highest form of recognition given to public schools in the United States. This award is given to schools that demonstrate high academic achievement and provide opportunity for all students.

Our school district has made significant progress in recent years. We have increased our student enrollment, improved our facilities, and implemented new programs that promote student success. We have also worked hard to ensure that our schools are safe and secure environments for our students.

With Measure S, we can continue this momentum and build on our successes. This measure will provide much-needed funding for our schools, allowing us to improve our facilities, hire additional staff, and enhance our curriculum.

We urge all Woodside residents to vote “yes” on Measure S. By doing so, we can ensure that our schools remain a beacon of excellence and provide the best possible education for our children.

Karyn Rechel
Skywood Way, Woodside

All-electric buildings

Electrifying office and industrial buildings will increase blackouts in California because wind and solar electricity are unreliable (“Guest opinion: Electrifying office and industrial buildings can’t work without a carbon price,” April 9). Without a reliable source of energy, these buildings will often be forced to rely on diesel generators, which can lead to power outages and increased emissions.

Wind and solar electricity are most reliable during peak demand hours, which occurs in the morning and afternoon. As a result, the energy used to power these buildings is often not available when it is needed most.

The solution to this problem is simple: we need a more reliable source of energy. One option is to invest in energy storage technologies such as batteries, which can help to store excess energy and ensure a steady supply of power. Another option is to invest in more diverse energy sources, such as natural gas or nuclear power, which can provide a stable supply of energy.

We must act now to ensure that our buildings are resilient in the face of increasing energy demand. By investing in energy storage and diversifying our energy sources, we can help to ensure a reliable and sustainable energy future.

Ed Kahl
Woodside Road, Woodside

Congress must pass action against climate change

It seems like we are having another year of drought in the Bay Area. And all of us living on the Peninsula remember the lightning fires and orange skies of last year. As we ease out of the COVID-19 pandemic, we still need to be concerned once again about breathing unhealthy air later in the year.

In the short term, we hope that PG&E and government resources are clearing brush and taking other measures to limit wildfires as much as possible. But for the long term we must face up to the effects of climate change in our beautiful area of California.

Recently, with Rep. Anna Eshoo’s full endorsement, the new Congress introduced HR 2307, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. This bill puts a price on carbon that increases over time. The bill is written to be bipartisan and use market forces to encourage the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Frankly, it’s long overdue.

I encourage Almanac readers...
to register their support for this bill. You can write or phone Anna to help give her the backing of her constituents as she works to implement a policy that more urgently addresses climate change. You can read more about the benefits of carbon pricing online at citizensclimatelobby.org.

Rob Hogue Siskiyou Drive, Menlo Park

What will we say?

What will we tell kids about climate change?

I have been thinking about how our young people will judge us when they look back on how we responded to climate change. Will they ask if we knew in our hearts that using fossil fuels for energy would kill the planet, but we needed to wait and see the data to prove it? Will we tell them it was so hard that we couldn’t figure out how to safely transition to emissions-free energy despite knowing about a carbon fee and dividend approach?

Will they ask why we could tax cigarettes and alcohol to reduce harmful consumption but not carbon emissions?

Will we say that the oil industry was so powerful that we couldn’t get any climate legislation passed?

Will they ask if we knew that many underprivileged communities, which already had so many hardships, were suffering the worst?

Will we say that it seemed OK because big oil companies and wealthy investors were driving the economy and profiting at the expense of our health and the health of our planet?

Or can we take action today that will change their questions — so they instead ask how we created a clean and healthy future?

Will we proudly tell them that we advocated and supported a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend that transformed our energy economy while creating jobs and protecting the vulnerable and the environment?

Carlos Rodriguez Santiago Citizens’ Climate Lobby volunteer Mountain View

Time to end the Senate filibuster

The filibuster is hot news these days. There is a lot of interest in abolishing it. Originally, it was put in place to prevent civil rights legislation from becoming law. A determined minority in the Senate can gridlock the federal government by using the filibuster and not even allow debate on a bill. Any senator can signal an objection, and suddenly the Senate has to clear a 60-vote threshold. It makes the Senate a place where little happens and bills die. Every issue you care about will likely be held hostage by this relic of the past. Please contact your senators and ask them to end the filibuster so they can do the job we sent them to Washington to do.

Barbara Kyser Los Altos

In support of Measure S

I have lived in Portola Valley for 31 years, and Portola Valley schools hold a special place in my heart. One of my children (now a thriving adult) was a special needs student while he was enrolled in the Portola Valley School District. Then, like now, our district offered incredible services that made all the difference for my son. I will always be grateful and amazed at the lengths our district went to in order to best educate him.

Our schools make our community. After my husband passed unexpectedly, I started working in the district as an aide. I got to see firsthand the incredible work that happens in the classrooms. When kids graduate from our schools, they are well-prepared for high school, particularly in math and science. With my granddaughter now growing up in Portola Valley, I can’t wait to volunteer in the schools again!

Our schools give us so much, and right now, they need our vote. Measure S is necessary. It will keep great teachers, maintain small class sizes, and fund critical math, science, and technology programs that prepare students to succeed in high school, college, and careers. Measure S is a reasonable ask of our community. It does not increase tax rates. Measure S simply extends and reduces our existing parcel tax for eight years.

Measure S allows senior citizens 65 and over to support our schools and vote yes on this measure without impacting their budgets, especially those living on fixed incomes. An optional Measure S exemption is available for these particular property owners.

Our PV schools are critical to the families of the town, and Measure S is critical to our maintaining outstanding schools.

I’m not easily convinced, but Measure S is needed. I hope you will join me and encourage everyone you know to vote yes on S.

Bill Leckowby Golden Oak Drive, Portola Valley

I’ve done my homework, and I’m voting yes on S. Here are my top reasons:

■ Measure S is necessary: The school district is only asking for what it truly needs to keep great teachers, maintain small class sizes, and fund critical math, science, and technology programs that prepare Portola Valley students to succeed in high school, college, and careers.

■ Measure S will protect the value of local homes. Good schools maintain property values and keep our community a desirable place to live.

■ Measure S does not increase tax rates. Measure S simply extends and reduces our existing parcel tax for eight years.

■ Measure S allows senior citizens 65 and over to support our schools and vote yes on this measure without impacting their budgets, especially those living on fixed incomes. An optional Measure S exemption is available for these particular property owners.

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A new start for art at Stanford
Cantor Arts Center and the Anderson Collection reopen

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

A fter more than a year of closure, Stanford University’s major art museums — Cantor Arts Center and the Anderson Collection at Stanford — are open again. A visit to campus reveals that, while some things have remained the same (the venerable Rodin sculpture collection, for example), there have been some significant changes at both museums since they last welcomed in-person visitors.

In addition to current health policies such as mask mandates, timed tickets and social distancing rules, perhaps the most notable difference can be found at the Cantor, which is now being led by two interim directors, Elizabeth Mitchell and Maude Brezinski.

Mitchell, who is the curator of prints, drawings and photographs, has worked at the museum since 2010. Brezinski is the executive director of development for the arts and has led capital campaigns and annual giving programs at the university for more than 20 years. She played a key role in fundraising efforts for the university’s arts district, which encompasses the two museums, the Bing Concert Hall and the McMurtry Building for Art and Art History.

They were appointed last fall after the departure of former director Susan Dackerman. A lengthy investigation, begun after an exposé in the Stanford Daily, revealed a toxic work culture at the museum and ended with Dackerman’s resignation in late November. The university has been circumspect about personnel matters, but did issue a press release at the time indicating that a transition team “will work closely with stakeholders from across the campus and community to situate the museum for ongoing success.” Mitchell and Brezinski discussed their new roles and goals in recent email interviews with this news organization.

When asked if the Cantor is emulating the administration model of numerous large museums, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, in having two directors — one with management background and one with curatorial expertise — Brezinski responded, “Cantor is using a similar model with the exception that we both closely align with one another in our areas of expertise. The advantage for this current arrangement is that both of us have a long tenure at Stanford/Cantor and understand its history.” Mitchell noted, “It has been very useful for us each to tap into our different spheres of experience to connect with staff and work toward institutional goals.”

Both indicated that, in addition to their respective skills and experience, just having an extensive history at Stanford has been a major advantage.

“My Stanford colleagues have helped weigh in on a variety of issues from legal documents to instituting timed ticketing for the first time,” Brezinski said. “Also, knowing our donors and volunteers has been very rewarding, as they have been incredibly supportive and encouraging.” Mitchell, who served on staff-led committees that addressed the work culture at the museum, noted, “These experiences have helped me thoroughly understand the challenges faced by the museum team in their daily work, and areas in which staff want the museum to grow and flourish.

And how do they plan to address the issues raised last summer?

“We are working closely with the staff with goals of transparency, empowerment and open communications,” according to Brezinski. For Mitchell, that means talking regularly with staff “to understand what tools and information they need to be successful in their work, and we use that feedback to strengthen communication and collaboration across the museum.”

Neither would comment on the status of the search for a permanent new museum director but Matthew Tiews, interim senior associate vice president for the arts, said the university “will launch a search for the next director of the Cantor Arts Center in the next few months.”

During the closure, the museums made considerable efforts to remain relevant via virtual offerings, including online exhibitions, tours and lectures. Jason Linetzky, director of the Anderson Collection, said, “The closure provided opportunities for the museums to develop digital content and tours and present virtual programs with contemporary artists, museum docents and Stanford Student Guides.” At the Cantor, according to Brezinski, the closure also allowed the staff to spend time planning for the future.

“Exhibition scheduling has also been robust and we will publicize future exhibitions soon. Our membership has been affected, but in comparison to our peers, we have maintained a very good base. Aside from the resignations that occurred last fall/early winter, the staff has remained very stable,” she said.

There have also been changes in the past few years for the Anderson Collection, mainly the deaths of founders Harry “Hunk” and Mary Margaret “Moo” Anderson. According to Linetzky, their passing has only strengthened the museum’s commitment to sharing the collection and expanding educational opportunities. Only the first floor of the Anderson is currently open, including the installation “Hostile Terrain 94” and “Formed and Fired: Contemporary American Ceramics,” while the permanent collection upstairs is packed for temporary storage. The entire museum will be closed again starting May 3 so that gallery ceilings can be resurfaced, the galleries repainted and the permanent collection reinstalled for an autumn reopening. The temporary gallery on the lower level will then feature the acrylic and resin sculptures of Sam Richardson, who was a highly respected minimalist sculptor and professor of art at San Jose State University.

At the Cantor, among its selection of ongoing and temporary exhibitions, the special exhibition “When Home Won’t Let You Stay: Migration through Contemporary Art” is on view through May 31. Richard Serra’s sculpture Sequence and the Rodin Sculpture Garden are still available to those who prefer an outdoor encounter with art. Outdoor dining at Cool Cafe has not yet returned but, according to the museum’s website, will soon be announced.

All three museum directors are happy to be engaging with the public and encouraging in-person experiences with their collections again. When asked what she wants the community to know about visiting the museum, now and in the future, Brezinski replied, “We want them to feel that it is their second home — that they are welcomed, that they will see beautiful art and learn from our curators, program staff, faculty, docents and volunteers.”

The museums are currently open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 25% capacity. Free, timed tickets are required. For more information about updated visitor guidelines and policies, go to the museum’s websites: museum.stanford.edu and anderson.stanford.edu.

Email Contributing Writer Sheryl Nonnenberg at nonnenberg@aol.com.

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

A visitor in the exhibition “Formed and Fired: Contemporary American Ceramics” at the Anderson Collection at Stanford University.
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New Peninsula Restaurant Week launches May 14

That restaurants have been hit particularly hard by pandemic-prompted economic fallout is no longer exactly breaking news. Nearly 1 in 6 restaurants nationwide — about 100,000 restaurants — have closed either permanently or long term since March 2020, according to the National Restaurant Association. The Peninsula itself has had to say goodbye to some greats, including Mayfield Bakery & Cafe, Ann’s Coffee Shop and Dan Gordon’s.

In an effort to provide diners more opportunities to support local restaurants as the Peninsula slowly reopens, Embarcadero Media’s Peninsula Foodist is teaming up with Facebook to launch Peninsula Restaurant Week. From May 14-22, restaurants of all stripes along the Peninsula will offer prix fixe deals and other menu specials available for dine-in, delivery or curbside pickup as part of the new dining event.

For more information about Peninsula Restaurant Week, go to peninsularestaurantweek.com.

Restaurant Week interviews:

8 QUESTIONS FOR BUSHIDO’S STEVEN YEN

Longtime restaurant owner on the food industry, his new chef, and the light at the end of the (pandemic) tunnel

By Sarah Klearman

A part of Peninsula Restaurant Week, Embarcadero Media’s Peninsula Foodist has asked participating chefs and restaurant owners to share their stories about what the past year has been like for them and where they see the industry headed. This week’s Q&A features Steven Yen, owner of Bushido Izakaya Restaurant at 156 Castro St., Mountain View. This story has been edited for length and clarity.

Tell me a little bit about your restaurant. I understand you’ve been in business more than 10 years now.

It’s been a little over 11 years. I try not to count this past year as a year, just with everything that’s gone on. Last year was just survival.

We’re a Japanese izakaya-style restaurant. Izakaya is like tapas. In Japan, izakayas are essentially Japanese drinking houses, so a lot of people — many of whom live in small apartments in Japan — will go to izakayas after work and drink over long periods of time, like, three or four hours, and they just drink and eat tapas, small plates, and share. So that’s the general idea of an izakaya.

In America, it’s a little different — we’re more of just a dinner restaurant, but that’s where the basis of the idea came from. I want to say we closed three separate times. The first time was when the pandemic started — that time we closed for almost three months. That was a bit of a crazy time, obviously. They first said it was supposed to be two weeks, right? So we were expecting to reopen, but the pandemic kept getting worse. Obviously — at the end of the day, the health and safety of our community always comes first, as does the health and safety of my family. We closed again this winter, too. It’s honestly hard for me to recollect exactly, but we just followed the rules. If they said serve to-go only, then we did to-go food only. We did close during the holidays — we did a 10-day closure. We were allowed to stay open for to-go orders only, but cases were surging, so we just closed.

And does this latest reopening feel like it’ll be permanent?

I sure hope so. We’re going full speed ahead with hiring and everything as if we are going to continue to be open.

Tell me about the biggest challenges you’d say you’ve faced as a restaurant owner during lockdowns.

Obviously making rent and paying the bills is the hardest thing when there’s no income, right? But it was one of those things where it was always about weighing the health and safety of your family versus paying the bills. And it sucked that it had to be that choice. That was the toughest part.

Are there moments or experiences this year you’ve drawn upon to keep you going?

Oh, 100%. I’ve had regular customers who have come to Bushido ever since we opened. The only thing I would ever ask the regulars to do is just order takeout from us once in a while. That’s all I was really expecting, best-case scenario, but a lot of them were absolutely amazing. Some of them gave us a decent amount of money and said, ‘Give this to your employees, take care of them.’ I was absolutely floored. Times like these can sometimes bring out the worst in people, but oftentimes it brings out the best in them, too.

Has the pandemic forced any kind of innovation or revelation in the restaurant space you’re excited about?

My restaurant is on Castro Street, and they actually closed the street to through traffic. So essentially we’re all able to put tables on the street. It’s actually really cool. It turns Castro into a walking street. And obviously additional seating is great, but it’s just a great environment. Hopefully, once the pandemic starts winding down, it’ll be even more of a (pedestrian) destination.

What should diners expect from Bushido during Peninsula Restaurant Week?

I have a new chef, so I’m leaving it up to him to create the menu. He’s actually worked at a lot of Michelin-star restaurants; he’s worked at restaurants that are both Japanese and Korean. Normally for these things you do some new dishes and some familiar. Because I have a new chef, though, I might just do all new dishes and get customer feedback.

Anything else customers should know about supporting local restaurants during Restaurant Week?

I think (supporting local restaurants) is the most important thing. Of course, we want everybody to do it safely, but I think we’re starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Email Writer Sarah Klearman at peninsulafoodist@embarcaderopublishing.com.
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This spectacular example of California Craftsman architecture presents an incredible level of detail along with outstanding build quality. Encircled by towering trees, this home on almost .80 acres takes many cues from the natural beauty of its surroundings. A paver driveway that leads to a backyard path introduces the property, and inside, this home welcomes you with soaring ceilings, tremendous natural light, and exquisite Craftsman details at every turn. Brazilian cherry wood floors extend throughout almost 5,000 square feet of living space scaled for entertaining, highlighted by the grand living room, the gourmet kitchen with high-end appliances from Viking and Sub-Zero, and the family room featuring a magnificent fireplace with a floor-to-ceiling stone surround and African mahogany mantelpiece. Movie lovers are sure to be drawn to the media room furnished with 5 theater-quality leather recliners, while the nearby game room offers endless fun with a custom Olhausen billiards table. Work from home in style in the handsomely appointed office, then select your favorite vintage at the end of the day from the temperature-controlled wine cellar. Four bedrooms include the palatial master suite with a remodeled, spa-like bathroom, as well as convenient guest suite. And the extraordinary backyard offers an outdoor oasis, with a solar-heated waterfall pool, built-in grill, and supreme privacy. Just moments to downtown Los Altos, beautiful parks, and top Silicon Valley tech companies, this home is also served by the acclaimed Cupertino Union school district.

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