Back to school: Sequoia district students start fall term on campus for the first time in 2 years

Some have nerves going into the school year, but many are excited to dump their computers for face time

By Angela Swartz

In the spring of 2020, Claudia Nolasco, then a sophomore at Woodside High School, prepared to spend two weeks at home amid the increasing spread of COVID-19. Little did she know it would be a whole 17 months later that she’d finally return to campus.

This week, Menlo-Atherton, Woodside and TIDE Academy students attended classes full time for the first time since the pandemic led to shutdowns in March 2020. While some students returned last spring to take classes on a hybrid basis, Nolasco, now a senior, had no choice but to continue to stay home; she, like many of her peers, had to care for her two elementary school aged brothers who hadn’t returned to classrooms yet.

“I was out of it and tired from staring at the screen all day,” Nolasco said of her experience with remote learning outside the school’s new gym on a sunny day on the Woodside school’s campus a day before classes began. Now, she’s excited to be back on campus. “I missed it so much, ... I missed the chickens (which reside in Woodside High’s garden).”

Woodside senior AJ Richer said their part-time return to campus last spring was “strange.” They said school was “really empty” and recalled one class in which they were the only student in the classroom while the teacher taught to others online as well (called “Zooming and rooming,” which Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services Crystal Leach said the district does not plan to continue with this school year).

Woodside’s new principal, Karen van Putten, said the district does not plan to continue with this school year). Superintendent of Administrative Services Crystal Leach said the district does not plan to continue with this school year).

Woodside High School Principal Karen van Putten looks over a student’s orientation materials before he leaves on Aug. 10.

Three wealthy water districts consume the lion’s share of local water

Bear Gulch District serving Atherton, Menlo Park, Woodside and Portola Valley is third-biggest user

By Sue Dremann

The biggest sip of the straw from the Bay Area’s water supply comes from people living in just three water districts: They consume nearly three to four times the amount of water as residents in 23 other municipalities and districts, according to data from the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, whose member agencies receive most of their potable water from the Hetch Hetchy system.

Residential use per capita is highest in the wealthiest communities while residents in the least financially advantaged communities consumed the least, according to the 2019-2020 annual survey, the latest to be published.

The differences are striking amid the growing drought, and there are currently no mandatory water restrictions to curtail use.

The biggest water users are in the Purissima Hills Water District, which serves two-thirds of Los Altos Hills and an unincorporated area to the south. Residents there used 248.9 gallons of water per capita per day in fiscal year 2019-2020, according to the water agency’s data.

Second in line are Hillsborough residents, who use 215.8 gallons per capita per day.

Residents of California Water Service’s Bear Gulch District, which serves Atherton, Woodside, Portola Valley and parts of Menlo Park, use 153.1 gallons per capita per day.

Per capita, residents in the 26 Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWS-CA) member agencies use 63.4 gallons on average per day. Fifteen communities use less than that amount, with East Palo Alto residents using the least, at 38.1 gallons per capita per day.

Frugality isn’t at the heart of reducing outdoor water use for the majority of residents in these communities, the report said. That’s the case in Hillsborough and Los Altos Hills, where there are primarily estate homes with most having a minimum lot size of a half-acre to 1 acre. Water demand for landscaping, pools and ponds is sizable. In its 2012 voluntary landscaping guidelines for Los Altos Hills, Purissima Hills Water District noted that landscaping accounted for 75% of water usage.

In Hillsborough, more than two-thirds of all is used for irrigation, pools and other outdoor purposes, according to the town’s website. Water conservation efforts have traditionally focused on indoor water use such as water-efficient toilets, showerheads and washing machines, the website stated.

However, “reducing outdoor water use represents the greatest opportunity for Hillsborough to conserve water. The town has
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How to go gas-free? Two new reports lay out paths to cut gas power from buildings

By Kate Bradshaw

As Menlo Park tries to reach its ambitious goal of converting buildings citywide to electric power, two new reports were released that take a deeper dive into exactly what it will take for the city to accomplish that.

As one of six goals targeted in this year’s Climate Action Plan, the city of Menlo Park set out to explore policy and program options to convert 95% of existing buildings citywide to all-electric power by 2030. Achieving the goal could reduce greenhouse gas emissions citywide by nearly 32,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, according to a draft report prepared by city staff and consultants from TRC, Inc., with support from Peninsula Clean Energy and consulting firm DNV.

The city’s Environmental Quality Commission met July 21 to review the draft report and provide input on the proposed routes to meet the city’s ambitious climate goal. The same week, Menlo Park, a local nonprofit working to make Menlo Park climate neutral by 2025, released a report called “Gassed Out,” which, among other findings, reports that there is no additional cost to convert gas to electric power in most existing homes when one considers current incentives for financing the appliances over time and combines them with solar power.

According to the report, most electrical appliances don’t cost more than gas ones, and for the exceptions, there are long-run savings and rebates that can help cover that difference. For instance, while heat pump electric water heaters can cost $1,000 to $2,000 more per household than gas ones, Peninsula Clean Energy offers a $2,500 rebate for electric water heaters, which fully covers the cost. In addition, electrical HVAC systems can save $3,000 compared to a traditional gas furnace and air conditioner, the report states.

The report lays out a path toward affordable and equitable electrification by partnering with Peninsula Clean Energy and investing $3 million a year in a program to help low-income households provide input on the proposed routes to meet the city’s ambitious climate goal.

As of 2020, the city has also enacted policies to require that new buildings be all-electric. The next step, according to the draft report, is to switch existing buildings within the city to electric power.

Since the city joined Peninsula Clean Energy in 2017, it has been able to procure cleaner-burning energy that emits less greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than PG&E.

As of 2019, the most current breakdown of energy use available, about 17% of the greenhouse gas emissions coming from buildings citywide came from electric energy uses, while 83% came from using natural gas, though the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions from both were down substantially from those reported in 2007 and 2008, the years with the highest reported emissions since the earliest available data in 2005, the report showed. Overall, in 2019, about 41% of greenhouse gas emissions came from the use of natural gas in buildings, 88% came from electricity in buildings and 48% came from transportation, while about 2% came from solid waste.

Consuming natural gas emits about 12 pounds of carbon or greenhouse emissions per therm, or per 100 cubic feet of natural gas, according to the draft report. Peninsula Clean Energy is in the process of transitioning the sources of its electricity to 100% renewable sources by 2025.

The analysis involved a comparison of gas-powered versus electric appliances used in homes and commercial buildings, such as water heaters and space heaters, as well as electric vehicles.

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**La Entrada Middle School construction**

The front of La Entrada Middle School in Menlo Park is getting a makeover this summer, according to the Las Lomitas Elementary School District website.

During construction, which kicked off in mid-June, the front office parking lot and office won’t be accessible. Construction should be done by the first day of school on Aug. 25, according to the district.

To speak with office staff, park at the district office and walk through the field to Room 76, district officials said. You can also get to Room 76 through the Monte Rosa back gate.

For more information, go to the district’s website, ilesd-ca.schoooloop.com.

**Squirrel knocks out power for nearly 650 Portola Valley households**

About 644 Portola Valley households were without power on Wednesday, Aug. 11, according to PG&E. The culprit? A squirrel.

Menlo Park police intervened in a mental health crisis Saturday evening in the 800 block of Santa Cruz Avenue, where a man was cutting himself with scissors while seated in the roadway.

Officers say the man, who was severely bleeding, voluntarily dropped the scissors after they used deescalation and negotiation techniques. Police officers administered life-preserving measures until fire district paramedics arrived.

The 32-year-old man was sent to the hospital for medical treatment and mental health services.

Anyone experiencing a mental health crisis is encouraged to text or call the National Crisis Hotline at 1 (800) 273-TALK (8255) or (650) 579-0350. Residents can also text BAY to 741741 to reach a crisis text line counselor 24/7.

—Bay City News Service
The COVID-19 case rate for unvaccinated Santa Clara County residents is nearly four times higher than among those who have been vaccinated, according to a new public dashboard launched by the county’s Public Health Department on Aug. 4.

The new dashboard shows the seven-day rolling average of new daily COVID-19 cases among the overall population, among unvaccinated residents and among fully vaccinated residents. The case rates represent the number of cases on a given day per 100,000 county residents.

With the delta variant spreading in the Bay Area, health leaders in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties are highlighting the risks people take if they aren’t vaccinated. And those numbers don’t lie. The fully vaccinated have a case rate of 6.8 per 100,000 residents in Santa Clara County while the case rate soars among the unvaccinated to 25.3 per 100,000 residents, according to the data. Overall, the county average is 12.1, a far cry from the single-digit numbers from mid-June.

“The case rate per 100,000 residents for the unvaccinated has jumped from about 3 to more than 25 over the past month. The case rate among the vaccinated, while also increasing in recent weeks, is not experiencing as steep of a spike,” according to a Santa Clara County press release issued last week.

“The latest numbers reflect what public health officials have been echoing in recent weeks: the delta variant is fueling a surge in cases and the unvaccinated are at the highest risk of infections.”

San Mateo County health leaders have also focused on the rising rates. They have set a goal of getting 90% of county residents vaccinated against COVID-19 and to achieve at least an 80% vaccination rate for every community by the end of the year, including 13% who say they want to “wait and see,” 45% said it is “likely” they will get vaccinated before the end of the year.

Lourdes Santiago, a Stanford Healthcare nurse, prepares documents before administering the first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School in East Palo Alto on May 15.

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com.

COVID-19 infection rate is far greater among unvaccinated people, counties find

By Sue Dremann

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Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com.
Spate of ADA lawsuits hits hundreds of local businesses still reeling from the pandemic

By Kevin Forestieri

Things were looking pretty good last month for Tai Pan, a downtown Palo Alto restaurant known for its Cantonese dim sum. State officials lifted COVID-19 restrictions at the start of summer, and business was finally picking up again as friends — long parted — were reuniting over good food.

The positive outlook was shattered on July 21, however, when Tai Pan received a lawsuit stating that the restaurant was discriminatory. Its outdoor dining tables, set up for pandemic safety and the preferred option for customers, allegedly lacked enough space for wheelchair access under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Tony Han, who runs Tai Pan with his family, said he was shocked to learn that these ADA lawsuits are not only common, but that an extraordinary number of businesses have been hit with similar allegations in just the last two months. The Chinese restaurant Taste, just down the street, got hit with a lawsuit the next week, followed by Singaporean eatery Killiney Kopitiam just days later.

To Han, the stream of lawsuits has soured the feeling of recovering from the pandemic. “The last year was so difficult and probably the hardest year that everyone has ever worked in this industry,” Han said. “So everyone was on this high, and all of the sudden this thing happened.”

So far this year, more than 1,400 ADA lawsuits have been filed in Northern California’s district court, primarily targeting businesses located in the Bay Area. Of those lawsuits, 686 have been filed by the same plaintiff, Scott Johnson, a quadriplegic man who has sued close to 100 businesses in Palo Alto and Mountain View alone. The list and range of businesses targeted is broad, including national chains like Subway and Chili’s, along with small locally owned restaurants like Don Giovanni and Doppio Zero in downtown Mountain View.

Along with restaurants, smaller cafes like Alexander’s Patisserie and Maison Alyzée have been hit with lawsuits, and grocery stores, including the Nob Hill, have also been served. Johnson has sued auto repair shops, hair salons, liquor stores and even a welding shop, Praxair Welding Gas and Supply on Old Middlefield Way. A list of Midpeninsula businesses facing lawsuits can be found in the online version of this story at almanacnews.com.

In most cases, businesses facing ADA lawsuits are doomed to lose in court, and instead seek to correct the violation and pay a settlement that can be as high as $26,000. Despite the cost, many see it as a small price to pay compared to fighting a long, losing battle.

Han said he hasn’t decided how to respond to the lawsuit, but he said there’s a sense of injustice to the serial litigation. Business owners are angry, he said, because they go out of their way to accommodate people with wheelchairs and other access-related disabilities. Many, including Tai Pan, don’t remember someone with a wheelchair and a service dog attempting to eat at their restaurant during the months Johnson allegedly ran into these ADA-related roadblocks.

What restaurant employees at Tai Pan do remember, Han said, is a man coming by the restaurant and casing the outdoor tables with measuring tap right around the time Johnson allegedly visited the restaurant. He believes the lawsuit is simply a way to extract settlement money from businesses that can scarcely afford it right now.

“It is absolutely a shakedown, it’s extortion by all means.”

Sandy Liu, owner of Taste, said her restaurant experienced something similar. Nobody recalls a man in a wheelchair trying to eat at the restaurant, but they do remember someone carefully observing the outdoor patio from the sidewalk — something that apparently amounts to a “visit” under the lawsuit. She worries that the alleged ADA violation may have had something to do with the outdoor seating arrangement permitted by the city under COVID-19, and that the city may have some responsibility for the multiple lawsuits.

Liu, like Han, said she still doesn’t know exactly how to respond to the lawsuit, but she said businesses can’t afford to deal with legal fees and a high-cost settlement.

“We are facing so many challenges to survive since COVID,” she said. “Our restaurant business is dropping like crazy.”

Though Johnson is an attorney and listed as the plaintiff, the lawsuits are being spearheaded by a San Diego-based law firm called Potter Handy, LLP, which specializes in ADA litigation through an arm of the company called the Center for Disability Access. Dennis Price, an attorney with the center, said in an interview last month that all of the lawsuits are well-founded and based on factual violations, and that Johnson did in fact try to patronize these businesses and found they were noncompliant with the ADA.

Price said defense attorneys will sometimes whip their client into a frenzy about Johnson’s motives, but that these cases are a clear-cut effort to improve disability access and implement the 30-year-old federal law as it was intended. Serial litigation from private citizens, despite its bad rap, is the only way to push compliance on a large scale.

“Part of Mr. Johnson’s purpose is to vindicate the ADA the way Congress created it,” he said. “It relies on private enforcement, and that is what Mr. Johnson has done.”

In the vast majority of cases, Price said, there is an objection violation that’s pretty hard to contest. Grocery store aisles need enough clearance to travel through in a wheelchair, restaurant tables need to meet certain measurement requirements and parking spaces must meet rigid standards that go far beyond painting the pavement blue.

The pandemic has been particularly brutal for those with disabilities, Price said, and people with reduced lung capacity were essentially forced into house arrest. Johnson himself got COVID-19 and nearly died from it, he said, and adjustments made during the pandemic to accommodate outdoor activities and social distancing often created barriers for people with mobility-related issues.

“The world preserves an awful lot of things about people who are going to patronize businesses, and what’s important and what’s not,” Price said. “It’s easy to write these things off or call them a technical violation, but sometimes it’s the difference between going out and staying home.”

In a recent webinar hosted by the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce, real estate lawyer Ken Van Vleck said these lawsuits are not frivolous, and most of the infractions cited are in fact
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Coronavirus central: California first in nation to mandate vaccinations for health care workers

By Embarcadero Media staff

State requires vaccinations for health care workers

California on Aug. 5 issued the first order in the nation that requires COVID-19 vaccinations for health care workers, allowing only for religious or rare medical exemptions.

Employees of hospitals, nursing homes, doctors’ offices, clinics and other medical facilities have until Sept. 30 to get at least one dose of the vaccination, under the new order issued by Dr. Tomás Aragón, California’s public health official. In the meantime, they must either be vaccinated or undergo mandatory weekly testing, under the state’s previous order issued last month.

California also ordered visitors to hospitals, skilled nursing homes and facilities for the developmentally disabled to be fully vaccinated or show a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours. The order applies only to indoor visits and went into effect on Wednesday, Aug. 11.

The new requirement for medical workers tightens Gov. Gavin Newsom’s move last month to require health care workers and state employees to be vaccinated or submit to weekly testing.

State health officials were not immediately available to explain why the requirements for health care workers won’t go into effect until the end of September.

The orders come as Californians — along with the rest of the nation — grapples with a surge of cases propelled by the highly contagious delta variant of the coronavirus, which represented about 86% of cases as of July 21, according to the California Department of Public Health.

“As we continue to see an increase in cases and hospitalizations due to the delta variant of COVID-19, it’s important that we protect the vulnerable patients in these settings,” Aragón said in a press release Aug. 5. “Today’s action will also ensure that health care workers themselves are protected. Vaccines are how we end this pandemic.”

The exemption for medical and religious reasons could prove to be problematic. California eliminated similar exemptions for childhood vaccines because of overuse by many parents.

More than 9,500 new COVID-19 cases were reported Aug. 5, a sharp increase from mid-June when the state’s economy largely reopened and just over 1,000 daily cases were reported.

State health officials said recent COVID-19 outbreaks in health care facilities often are traced to unvaccinated employees — even though health care workers were first in line to get the COVID-19 vaccines when they first became available in December.

A number of health workers, including certified nursing assistants, have been surprisingly reluctant to get vaccinated. It’s difficult to know how many of California’s hundreds of thousands of health care workers remain partially or completely unvaccinated, but federal data analyzed by CalMatters provides a clue: About 23% of nearly 500,000 hospital workers in more than 350 California hospitals had not received a single dose of vaccine as of July 23.

As a result, Kaiser Permanente and other large health care systems have announced their own vaccine mandates for workers. Carmela Coyle, president and CEO of the California Hospital Association, an industry group, called the state order “an important step in a long battle we face.”

With slightly more than half of California’s eligible population fully vaccinated, nearly all new COVID-19 cases and deaths are occurring in unvaccinated people, state public health officials say, and hospitalizations have risen at an alarming rate.

More than 5,500 Californians are currently hospitalized for COVID-19, with about one-fifth of them needing intensive care.

Comprehensive COVID-19 coverage


CalMatters and Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

Feldman’s Books celebrates reopening Saturday on Curtis Street

By Kate Bradshaw

Feldman’s Books, Menlo Park’s 25-year-old and last remaining used bookstore, has relocated from one of the city’s oldest buildings on El Camino Real to 1075 Curtis St. The move to a more central downtown location has owner Jack Feldman and apprentice Aidan Stone discussing new ways to engage the community that the shop hasn’t been able to offer before, from hosting live music and poetry readings, to offering tutoring, children’s storytime sessions and debates. “It’s a bit of an upgrade,” said Feldman in an interview.

The new location, Feldman said, at 1170 El Camino Real, will be demolished as part of plans approved by developers Prince Street Partners to build a nine-unit residential building at 1162 to 1170 El Camino Real, which includes three below-market-rate units.

The developer team helped to facilitate the three-year lease, according to Stone.

Through the new development’s approval process, many Feldman’s fans expressed vocal opposition to the demolition of the old building that housed the bookshop. However, there are no hard feelings with the developers now, Stone said.

“They’ve done well by us and it’s all good.”

The new store, Stone said, feels like “Feldman’s greatest hits.” They’re still in the process of setting up the new location, but he described plans to bring in a piano and set up an indoor fountain to offer visitors a peaceful ambiance.

The new location will open noon to 5 p.m. each day with the exception of Sundays, when the shop will open at 10 a.m. in order to draw visitors from the Menlo Park farmers market in the adjoining parking lot each week.

Meanwhile, the old bookstore is being used to set up an indie film that Stone is leading called “You’ll Lose a Good Thing.” He’s assembled a team of young adults and filmmakers to work on the project, which still has about 10 more days of filming to complete before they aim to edit and submit it to the Sundance Film Festival.

Lead actor Tai Takahashi said in an interview that filming the movie at Feldman’s Books has been special because it’s a way to “cement the cultural significance of this building.”

The structure is 116 years old and one of the city’s oldest standing buildings. However, despite its age, the building was found not to meet the standards for historic preservation, according to a peer review of a historical resources evaluation for the property. This was because Menlo Park does not have its own registry of historic resources and because the building did not meet the criteria for state or federal historical preservation.

As the remainder of the books are either culled or moved from the old site to the new location, Feldman said, “There’s still a long way to go. I’m very, very happy with the space,” he said. “It’s really shaping up nicely.”

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

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Local officials: State increases in child care funding are ‘truly historic’

By Angela Swartz

R ecently passed legislation will bring more funds to San Mateo County early childhood learning programs, though child care facilities are not yet sure how the funds will be distributed.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 131 into law in July, which increases rates, provides rate parity for all child care initiatives, and sets the stage for broad rate reform. It ensures 200,000 more child care slots over the next five years and provides $250 million to retrofit, upgrade or expand child care facilities.

Newsom also signed SB 130 on July 9, which makes transitional kindergarten free for all 4-year-olds in California.

“In my district, these moves would increase rates by a project- ed 30% — a strong step toward the professional wage rate care providers deserve,” said state Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, in a statement. Becker called the increased funding “truly historic.”

“It’s easy to get lost in the terminol- ogy of rate reform or child care slots, but at the end of the minology of rate reform or child-care initiatives, the improvements are clear,” he added.

“Sen. Becker’s efforts to improve the education of young children and the lives of their families is truly remarkable,” she said.

She said she’s most hopeful that the funding increases will allow All Five to serve more children and families who are in urgent need of infant, toddler, and preschool education and care. The bill unquestionably will positively impact its early childhood educa- tion model, she said.

The state’s 2021 budget also allocated $1 million to the coun- ty’s The Big Lift early learning initiative, a San Mateo County initiative that has served 10,000 children since 2012 and is dedi- cated to improving literacy among county children. Accord- ing to the county, the funds will go toward a five-week summer learning program with full-day STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathemat- ics) and literacy enrichment for 1,200 low-income kindergarten through third grade students.

The funds will also support the implementation of a literacy pro- gram for the 2021-22 school year for 720 low-income preschool students.

Dayna Chung, co-founder and executive director of the Com- munity Equity Collaborative (CEC), a Menlo Park-based non- profit that was formed in 2017 to help solve educational inequities, said that it seems as if legislators have succeeded in pushing for sizable investments in early care and education.

“CEC, we have been say- ing for over a year that there is no recovery without child care; this deep, meaningful need for funding is a very good start to provid- ing short-term relief coupled with foundations for systemic change, including rate increases and expanded access,” she said.

“In order for every child to have access to high-quality care and education and every educator to have a liveable wage — the investments like the one legislators agreed to (recently) must become the norm. At CEC, we are eager to see how local, state and federal resources can be used to sup- port workforce development initiatives that are essential to addressing educator shortages and low wages. Child care is infrastructure.”

“Supportive proposals in Wash- ington, D.C., for free community college and efforts here in San Mateo County to launch appren- ticeships along with other career pathways are promising,” she said.

“Supporting early educators to equip- ping early educators to pro- gram for the 2021-22 school year. In the current climate, child care is not a luxury, it’s an emergency.”

By Angela Swartz

building a wall of safety around our kids.”

Prior to Wednesday’s mandate, districts across the state had formed a patchwork of various vaccination rules for school employees. San Jose Uni- fied, San Francisco Unified, San Diego Unified and others were already requiring teach- ers to either be vaccinated or undergo regular testing.

Other districts throughout California were requiring neither.

Both the University of Califor- nia and California State Univer- sity systems have issued vaccine mandates for students. The UC will also require faculty to be vaccinated.

Newson said his office will monitor the efficacy of the requirement issued Wednesday and will consider the possibility of stricter vaccination man- date for teachers without the option of routine testing.

“We’ll consider all options in the future,” he said. “There’s nothing static about this virus.”

“California Teachers Associa- tion President E. Toby Boyd strongly endorsed the new mandate.

“Today’s announcement is an appropriate next step to ensure the safety of our school communities and to protect our youngest learners under 12 who are not yet vaccine eligible from this highly contagious Delta variant,” he wrote in a statement.

San Mateo County Superintendant Nancy Magee said Wednesday that county schools are already implementing or have plans to implement most or all of the requirements in the governor’s order.

“We have been diligent and proactive in order to ensure that in-person instruction for all students and staff is con- ducted with the highest levels of health and safety precautions in place. We are not only willing to do what it takes to get students back on campus, but are commit- ted to keeping students in school as well.”

Megan Bacigalupi, the execu- tive director of Open Schools California, said this require- ment should have come sooner. Her children’s district, Oakland Unified, started its school year on Monday.

“I wish this vaccine require- ment would have happened earlier in the summer and when it could’ve had a bigger impact,” she said. “I’m certainly happy to see him do it, but I don’t know why it took this long.”

Before the forthcoming man- date, California teacher vaccine and testing vaccine requirements were negotiated between teach- ers unions and local school districts. One legal expert told CalMatters that because the vaccines were not yet fully approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, a unilat- eral mandate from either the state or local districts could be vulnerable to legal challenges.

At Sacramento City Unified, district administrators and the teachers union met on Tuesday afternoon to discuss a vaccine or testing requirement for teach- ers. According to David Fisher, president of the Sacramento City Teachers Association, the agreement was reached, but he said the union and the district appeared to be on the same page.

Fisher said that with the delta variant, vaccinations alone aren’t enough. He said SCTA is calling for weekly testing for even vaccinated teachers who could pass the more contagious delta variant to unvaccinated students or staff.

“I think there should be an increased emphasis on testing,” he said. “While the science becomes more clear, we think universal testing should be a goal.”

Julie Walker, president of the local teachers union at Sweetwater Union High School District in San Diego County, says some of her members will be upset about Wednesday’s announcement.

“Testing is going to be readily available and convenient for teachers, but they’ll still complain,” she said. “It’s not a real pleasant experience, but hopefully it will encourage some of those members to critically think about being vaccinated.”

In the past two weeks, the state also issued vaccination and regular testing mandates for state employees and health care workers. On Sunday, Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teach- ers, the country’s second-largest teachers union, added to this moment by calling for vac- cine requirements for educators.

“I’m going to upset some people on this, but I think we should require teacher vaccinations,” Dr. Anthony Fauci, the country’s leading expert on contagious diseases, said Tuesday morn- ing in an interview on MSNBC.

“We’ve had 615,000-plus deaths, and we are in a major surge now as we’re going into the fall, into the school season. This is very serious business.”

Bacigalupi said she’s hoping Newsom will issue a stronger vaccination mandate once the vaccines are officially approved by the FDA.

“I’m assuming that districts and the governor are potentially waiting for the vaccine to be fully authorized,” she said. “Once it’s fully authorized, I don’t understand why it wouldn’t be fully mandated.”

Republican challengers of Newsom in California’s upcom- ing recall election responded to Newsom’s mandate with sharp criticism.

“Gavin Newsom is a power hungry politician who wants to control every aspect of people’s lives,” said John Cox said in a statement. “Now he is effectively threatening people’s employ- ment if they don’t do what he tells them to. Ninety percent of teachers are already vaccinated. This is just further government intrusion into people’s personal lives. We must draw the line and protect people’s freedoms.”

Candidate and former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer also disagreed with the mandate.

“I disagree with this requirement,” he said. “I want to hear from my fellow Californians to join me in getting vaccinated, but mandates are not the solution,” he said. “Sacramento politicians should not be pushing uniform mandates that try to control every school district across the state. Those decisions are best made at the local level in consultation with parents.”

Editor Andrea Gemmet and Palo Alto Weekly Digital Editor Jamey Padovino contributed to this story.

By Angela Swartz

BUILDING A WALL OF SAFETY AROUND OUR KIDS
On a spacious lot of over one-quarter acre rests this stately home that exemplifies the grace, elegance, and prestige of its sought-after neighborhood, Old Palo Alto. Over 5,500 square feet of light-filled living space presents a stylish ambiance from the moment you step inside, with high-end appointments that include beautiful hardwood floors, crown molding, and finishes of granite and marble. Arranged over three levels, the expansive 6-bedroom floorplan promotes entertaining on a grand scale while also accommodating comfortable everyday living. Highlights of the home include the living room with a centerpiece fireplace, the formal dining room that adjoins the kitchen filled with high-end appliances, and the family room with its own fireplace as well as outdoor access. On the lower level, flexible-use space provides room for a game center, office, or fitness/yoga studio, and also offers a convenient kitchenette, and plenty of storage space. Outside, the peaceful backyard offers ample patio space and colorful plantings, and the 2-car garage includes multiple EV chargers for eco-friendly vehicles. Just moments to vibrant Rinconada Park and Gamble Garden, this home is also a short drive to University Avenue and Stanford University, with top-ranked schools Walter Hays Elementary, Greene Middle, and Palo Alto High all within approximately 1 mile or less.

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MAGNIFICENT ATHERTON ESTATE ON NEARLY 1 ACRE

This stunning Palladian masterpiece exemplifies the elegance and grandeur of its Atherton location while nestled on exquisite grounds of nearly an acre. A spiral staircase connects all three levels, with over 11,000 square feet of living space extravagantly appointed with fine hardwood and marble finishes. The open floor plan offers grand-scale formal rooms ideal for entertaining, as well as a gourmet kitchen brimming with top-of-the-line appliances, a recreation room with a full bar, marble bathrooms with heated floors, a theater, spa, fitness room, and so much more. With an impressive 7 bedrooms and 11 bathrooms, including the spectacular primary suite with a fireplace and spa-like bath, this estate is well-suited to provide luxurious accommodations for friends and family alike. Outside, vast terraces, drought-friendly synthetic lawn, and a sparkling pool and spa provide excellent space for indoor/outdoor living, nestled in the almost-complete privacy provided by the gated grounds. This expansive corner lot offers both a pedestrian and driveway entrance, while a motor court and 4-car garage with EV chargers ensure plenty of parking is always available. Convenient to Stanford University, venture capital centers along Sand Hill Road, and downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, this residence is also near many of the area’s most sought-after private schools.

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Rosemary Young was born in Klamath Falls, Oregon, the youngest child of Percy and Marcella Murray's three children. She grew up on the same street and attended the same elementary and high schools as her future husband, John Young. Rosemary attended Pomona College, studying early childhood development, and was graduated from Oregon State College in 1954. Rosemary and John were married that year and spent the next two years at Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, New Mexico, where John was a lieutenant in the R & D Command.

They moved to Palo Alto in 1956 when John was studying at the Graduate School of Business at Stanford. They later moved to Portola Valley and enjoyed living there for over forty years. Rosemary was a natural philanthropic entrepreneur and enjoyed being active in the community. The Peninsula Community Foundation was a small organization with a part-time executive when she joined the board. She became chair in 1971, hired a full-time director, and then helped to build a robust organization to raise awareness and funds that were matched with community nonprofits that needed support. The Peninsula Community Foundation merged with a similar community foundation in 2006 to form the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, now one of the largest in the country.

Rosemary was an early and enthusiastic supporter of women's causes. She volunteered to help start the Center for Research on Women as an independent institute at Stanford in 1974. Using her network and fundraising skills, the institute was launched, and its innovative approach was quickly successful and became fully endowed. Rosemary always had a special interest in open spaces and the outdoors. She had a special interest in open spaces and the outdoors. She had a special interest in open spaces and the outdoors. She had a special interest in open spaces and the outdoors.

Rosemary was a forty year member of the Current Events Club starting in 1973 and always looked forward to its meetings. The club was established by Stanford faculty wives and a few others shortly after the founding of the University. It provided a forum in which to socialize and report on events and topics of interest, while enjoying tea and refreshments.

Rosemary was known for her baking skills and delicious tea sandwiches, which all looked forward to sampling. Rosemary frequently hosted the October meeting and would bring her famous tea sandwiches, which all looked forward to sampling.

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energy on campus is positive. “People are hungry for connections,” she said.

Jill Oline said she’s “cautiously optimistic” about sending her daughter, a freshman, and son, a senior, back to Woodside’s campus since the rise in cases linked to more contagious delta variant. She said her son spent most of his time socializing on the messaging app Discord and through gaming; she’s feeling lucky he probably won’t graduate while in lockdown. She does feel sad half of his time in high school was spent taking courses remotely. Both of her teenagers are vaccinated against COVID-19, but she knows one adult and one child who have contracted breakthrough cases of the virus, which are infections that occur in some vaccinated people.

Advanced Placement Biology teacher Joe Ezrati, who has taught at Woodside for 16 years, said in many ways last school year was akin to his first year of teaching: he spent ample time revamping his curriculum for virtual learning.

“I missed the best part of teaching, which is working with kids,” he said.

Edith Salvatore, president of the Sequoia District Teachers Association, said there’s definitely a mix of emotions among teachers — excitement to get back to face-to-face teaching (albeit with masks) and being able to see students mixed with apprehension about the “unknown.”

“Those with younger children at home (those under 12 who can’t be vaccinated) yet are especially anxious, I think ... I’m among them ... wanting to be extra sure we follow all the protocols and don’t accidentally bring something home to the kids,” she said in an email on the first day of school Wednesday. “I’ve already heard from a few members whose kids have either been exposed as ‘close contacts’ or who were sent home with possible symptoms — luckily none have tested positive yet, but it’s bound to be happening more and more and exacerbates folks’ concerns about needing to continue to be careful whether or not they will have substitutes to make sure the students can continue to push forward.”

Not all students have returned to campus, however. New legislation requires the district to offer an independent study option to students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction for the 2021-22 school year. Although the district doesn’t have a final tally yet, it should have a better idea of how many students decided to stay home this school year soon, said Michelle Hansen, assistant superintendent of educational services, in an Aug. 6 email.

**Concern over district vaccination rates**

During an Aug. 5 Parent Community Night for the fall opening, some parents said they were concerned that they don’t know the district’s student COVID-19 vaccination rate.

Superintendent Darnise Williams, who became head of the district with the start of the school year, is working to survey students on their vaccination status, but it’s voluntary for students to share if they’ve been inoculated. She noted that the district hopes to collect those numbers by September.

“I lost six first family members during COVID,” she told parents. “I share their sentiments of concern and caution.”

District Health and Wellness Coordinator Javier Gutierrez said the district will ask staff members about their vaccination status and have that data in the coming weeks. On Wednesday, Aug. 11, Gov. Gavin Newsom mandated that all school staff and school employees be vaccinated for COVID-19 or be tested weekly.

Salvatore said the district sent out a document on Tuesday, Aug. 10, asking employees to attest to their vaccination status, but no proof was required; the district said it could ask for it in the future.

Ernest Lo, who is in his 22nd year teaching biology at Woodside High, said he is concerned about the spread of the variant.

“I hope we are encouraging more vaccinations for all students,” he said.

**COVID-19 protocols**

The district shared its reopening plan on its website, which includes information on ventilation and COVID-19 safety measures.

While we are not out of the pandemic, we have made progress,” Williams said during the Aug. 5 meeting. “So we have taken action so we make sure your children are safe and that staff members are safe ... I come from the standpoint of excitement of course, but also caution about our students.” She also noted that as scientists learn more about the virus variants, such as the delta variant, the district will adjust its protocols accordingly.

The district will keep extra masks at school sites for those who lose theirs or forget to bring a mask, said Gutierrez.

If a students keeps choosing to not wear a mask, the district will provide an “educational opportunity.” The district will reinforce the requirement to wear a mask indoors and find out if there are other reasons the student is not wearing a mask.

If a student who is not vaccinated for COVID-19 would be for the student to enroll in an independent study program, he said.

When possible, students and staff are encouraged to remain at least 6 feet apart. However, indoor distancing may be less than 3 feet, if necessary, to accommodate students’ in-person learning, according to the district reopening plan.

The district defines a “close contact” to a positive case as being “within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes.” In general, quarantine is required for 24 hours.

All students, staff, and visitors are required to screen themselves for COVID-19 symptoms and/or potential exposure daily before entering any school campus or facility. The questionnaire asks about symptoms and possible exposure to the virus.

Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 must report their positive case to school administration and isolate at home for at least 10 days since the date their symptoms began or the date they tested if asymptomatic. Those with positive test results should also contact their health care provider.

Staff and students with COVID-19 symptoms should not attend in-person instruction until they have a negative COVID-19 test and symptoms are gone for 24 hours without medication, or until they isolate at home for at least 10 days since their symptoms began.

Students and staff who come in contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 do not need to quarantine if they are vaccinated and not showing symptoms. If they are unvaccinated, they must follow the district’s protocols and not accidentally contract COVID-19. In addition, people who contract COVID-19 or are vaccinated and not showing symptoms, they will quarantine for 10 to 14 days or continue attending school if they are not showing symptoms, get tested twice a week over a 10-day period and won’t participate in any extra-curricular activities, including sports or clubs.

Of the 12 $25 gift cards that were entered to win one of 12 $25 gift cards, 10 were won by teachers — excitement to get the Sequoia District Teachers Association’s COVID-19 vaccination rate.

**Feedback gathered for SRI redevelopment**

A proposal in the works to develop the research and development campus at SRI International is closer to being submitted.

“I share your concern,” said Mr. Gutierrez.

The developers hosted three open house sessions in the community to collect input on the proposal.

According to Mark Murray of the developer Lane Partners, the plan is to submit the plans and have a study session on the proposed development by the end of the year.

The site is “ripe for being reenvisioned” after few changes over the past 70 years, he said.

Its location offers great potential for improving bike connectivity in the area, he said. The SRI International campus, owned by SRL, is bordered by Ravenwood Avenue, Middelford Road and Laurel Street, and is across the street from Menlo-Atherton High School and the City Hall repair station. Other potential priorities include safer school access via improved bike and pedestrian access and sustainable office space plans.

— Kate Bradshaw

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

Lands of Oak Hills Ranch LLC

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District’s “Zone Master Annexation Resolution” (“ZOMAR”), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.

B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the “Parcel”) to the District’s On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the “Zone”). The Parcel is described in Exhibit “A” attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit “B” attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.

C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes “real property” for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:

[X] All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or

Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit “B” and are incorporated by reference.

D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.

2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: September 22, 2021
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices
500 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025
& via Zoom

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i).

4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.

5. The District Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.
Drought (continued from page 1)

implemented several new programs to promote outdoor water conservation,” the town website stated.

Concerning its potential water savings, the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan for California Water Service’s Bear Gulch District found that limiting landscape irrigation to one to three days per week, prohibiting irrigation on ornamental turf on public street medians with potable water and banning filling ornamental lakes and ponds among other restrictions could reduce a projected water-shortage gap by 26%.

Closer to home, three Peninsula cities also rank in the upper echelons of water use, according to BAWSCA: Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Mountain View. Below are snapshots of their water usage.

Palo Alto

Most Palo Altans might not have the large lots of Hillsborough and Los Altos Hills, but the city’s residents rank as the fourth thirstiest in the BAWSCA system, at 90 gallons per capita per day.

The city’s 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan found that 63% of water was for residential use. Most of that went to landscaping, said Catherine Elvert, City of Palo Alto Utilities communications manager.

“Landscaping in residential areas for homes constitutes 50% or more of a home’s total water use. The approximate 50% of water use per household is an average estimate of water use for a single-family home. This of course will vary based on landscape area and plant type,” Elvert said.

Business and industry used 18% of water; irrigation customers used 12%; and public and city facilities consumed 7%, according to the water management plan.

The city uses some recycled water from its Regional Water Quality Control Plant, including 36 acre feet that went to parks in fiscal year 2020; 316 acre feet used at the municipal golf course; and 25 acre feet for the duck pond. Fountains at Lytton Plaza and California Avenue also use recirculating water, said city spokesperson Jeanne Billeci.

At the beginning of the current drought, the city began to reduce potable water use in grass areas that were not playing fields, but it has kept watering areas with trees, Billeci said. The city converted some turf areas into native plant landscapes and uses recycled water from the Regional Water Quality Control Plant at Greer Park, she added.

Menlo Park

Menlo Park Municipal Water residential customers used 67.2 gallons of water per capita per day in fiscal year 2019-2020, according to BAWSCA, ranking it the seventh largest water user among member agencies. Menlo Park Utilities Department didn’t have specifics regarding how its water is used by residents, as they normally have just one meter measuring water for both indoor and outdoor use, the department stated in an email. The same goes for smaller non-residential customers. Larger non-residential customers normally have separate meters for indoor and outdoor use.

According to the city’s 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, 41% of water use was residential from 2016-2020. Commercial and institutional and institutional use, large sectors in the city, used 44% during the same time period. Irrigation represented 12% of total water demand.

Overall, water users, both residential and commercial, use about 1.26 million gallons per day. The number pertains to water use within the district’s boundaries only, however, and doesn’t include uses by customers in the California Water Service area, which also serves some Menlo Park customers.

In 2020, the city used approximately 70,500 million gallons per day for its parks and landscaping, which excluded any use of water in the California Water Service areas.

The city’s parks maintenance team has been conserving water by using mulch, setting mower blades to three inches to encourage deep roots, using drought-tolerant and resistant plants and trees, repairing irrigation leaks as soon as they are discovered and adjusting sprinkler heads to prevent runoff, adding drip systems and smart irrigation controllers, according to the utilities department.

East Palo Alto

The evolving city of East Palo Alto tops BAWSCA’s list of the water conservers at 38.1 gallons per capita per day in fiscal year 2019-2020. Water use has gone down overall since 2010, even as its population and commercial development have grown, from a high of 88 gallons per capita per day in 2010 when the service population for the city-owned utility was 22,916 to 60 gallons per capita per day in 2020 with a service population of 25,955, according to the city’s 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan, which was published in June. Some East Palo Alto residents are also served by a water cooperative and a mutual water company, which are not figured into this data.

Although the city doesn’t break out its residential use by indoor and outdoor uses, it estimated residential water use as higher than BAWSCA’s 2019-2020 measurement. In 2020, residents used 38 gallons per capita per day for indoor use and four gallons per capita per day outdoors.

The city estimates 71% of its water use is used in residences. Commercial users consume 18%, while institutional and government uses 1% and industrial uses 1%; 8% of its water is lost through leaks and for unknown reasons.

Patrick Heisinger, assistant city manager, said that in part the city’s low water use is due to half of its residences being multifamily units.

“There’s not big open space watering and you don’t see a lot of big gardens; there’s not big, endless landscapes like in Hillsborough,” he said.

Although the city is planning multiple large-scale commercial projects, those buildings would have all-new infrastructure that would save “a ton” of water, he said. The city is also looking at other ways to chip away at water use in its five parks and at school district playing fields. The city is in discussions with the Ravenswood City School District to potentially resurface its playing fields with synthetic turf, he said.

Ways to conserve water

While none of the cities has implemented mandatory restrictions on water usage, they do offer multiple incentives and rebates.

Mountain View offers free water-wise surveys, free trees to help cool the community and rebates for landscaping and other water-conserving methods: mountainview.gov/depts/pw/services/conserve/resources.asp

Menlo Park offers free rain barrels, landscaping rebates, smart sprinkler-control rebates, free fixtures and, for commercial and multifamily residential consumers, a free landscape analysis program: menlopark.org/358/Conservation-rebates-and-incentives

Palo Alto offers rain barrel, cistern and pervious-pavement rebates as well as rebates for water-wise landscaping. The city is considering instituting an online water-monitoring program to help residents view and regulate their water use: cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Utilities/Residential/Save-Energy-Water.

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweekly.com.

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you save water? Share your tips by commenting on this article online at AlmanacNews.com/square.
Sports roundup

Softball

A grueling five-month, 66-game summer softball season ended in a joyous celebration recently for the West Bay Warriors 16U team based in San Mateo and featuring Gunn senior Kylie Liu, St. Francis junior Hannah Cushing, Woodside senior Madi Truesdale and Sequoia senior Talia Tokheim.

Tokheim’s two-run homer sparked a 3-1 victory over the Corona Angels Slye in the championship game of the national Alliance Fastpitch Championship Series 16U Tier 1 at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City.

The Warriors had to navigate 13 games in seven days before raising the championship trophy.

Mirroring the College World Series, teams were assigned to one of 16 double-elimination pools, with the eventual winner advancing to an Elite Eight and then to a three-game championship series.

The Warriors (40-26 overall) won 10 of 13 games in Oklahoma. The season started with 345 16U softball teams in the Alliance across the country, 109 of them in the Pacific Coast Fastpitch League. The championship series was a 57-team tournament.

The Warriors, who hit .343 with 11 home runs in Oklahoma, draw a majority of its players from high schools in San Mateo County (Hillsdale’s Alex Bunton had three hits in the championship game.) Several others attended schools in the greater Bay Area.

Winning pitcher Rose Malen plays for Marin Catholic. Emma Eichten, who singled ahead of Tokheim’s homer, plays at Monte Vista in Danville.

The pitching staff also includes players from San Ramon Valley, Mitty and Westmont. Liu, a third baseman for Gunn, was at first base in the title game and recorded a single. Cushing, who went 4-for-10 over the final three games, played right field.

Tokheim worked the count full and fouled off three pitches before delivering the deciding blast. Bunton drove in a run in the second inning.

Malen allowed a run on eight hits in seven innings. She struck out four and did not walk a batter. The Warriors listed 29 players on their 16U roster, though some of them also appear on their 18U or 14U rosters.

The roster includes Malaina Alifano, Ellie Alvarez, Keira Brady, Alex Bunton, Alexa Couto, Hannah Cushing, Olivia DiNardo, Zafirah Doss, Emma Eichten, Mackenzie Fobes, Clarissa Gamez, Megan Grant, Lauryn Horita, Isadora Montiel, Avery Motroni, Rian Pichard, Elise Roy, Claire Sarrail, Caitlin Sredanovich, Talia Tokheim and Madison Truesdale.

—Rick Eymer

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GAS-FREE

continued from page 5

well as stoves and clothes dryers. According to the report, heat pump water heaters cost an estimated $2,600 more over 30 years than gas water heaters, but are considered cost-effective when using what’s called “time dependent valuation,” which incorporates the societal and environmental impacts into the cost of energy.

A new report by consultants working for the city found that several of the measures could be cost-effective for households — if one looks at overall savings over a 15- to 30-year lifespan of certain appliances, and assumes people take advantage of certain incentives to encourage electric appliance adoption.

One lingering concern in the report is how to make the electrification process more affordable to lower-income households, and to prevent landlords from enacting “renovictions” — or renovations followed by evictions as a way of getting higher-paying tenants.

Consultants estimated that there about 1,500 housing units in Menlo Park whose residents earn less than 30% of the area median income. These households are mostly renters who spend 7% to 11% of their incomes on rent, and are considered “burdened” by their energy costs, according to the report.

To start, the report’s authors recommend partnering with community-based organizations to develop decarbonization policies or consider energy performance standards for rental properties.

The report also proposes a number of policy ideas the city could take, but notes that even if it adopts all of the ideas listed, it will only achieve half of the needed greenhouse gas reductions by 2030. Regional, state and federal government-level action is also needed, they note.

Some of those ideas are:

■ Offer a concierge-type service to help residents and businesses with specific problems and accessing rebates and financing support, as well as community education forums.

■ Generate funds through a utility users’ tax or some type of fee to disincentivize buildings from generating greenhouse gases.

■ Set a deadline for the policy to take effect and establish regular check-ins. For instance, the city of Chicago has since 2013 required those overseeing multifamily and commercial buildings 50,000 square feet or larger to report the annual energy use rating of the whole building and post it in a prominent location.

■ Mandate electrification of certain appliances whenever permits are given for minor home alterations or additions. For instance, the city could mandate that an owner install a reverse cycle air conditioning condensing or heat pump unit instead of a traditional air conditioning system, or that whenever an owner seeks to install solar panels, he or she would have to leave space to accommodate a breaker to handle the building’s entire electrical load, and add wiring in the water heater location to allow a heat pump water heater. The city could also focus simply on encouraging single and multifamily homeowners to voluntarily replace gas-fired water heating or space heating equipment before the equipment stops working.

■ Require electric heat pump systems to heat water in all new pools.

■ Mandate buildings be ready for electrification upgrades whenever they are sold.

Commissioner Byann Price said that, when considering costs, it’s also important for people to reflect on the growing climate change “fees” that the community is already paying, in the form of costs like higher flood insurance premiums and state tax dollars diverted to stave off wildfires, and noted that those costs are likely to rise in the future.

Commissioner Tom Kabat spoke of the urgency to take action sooner rather than later to enact policies that combat climate change.

“‘There is a set of dominoes, and we have to push the first domino and the others will line up and make their moves. But if we all stand around, the dominoes stand and the climate falls,’” he said.

The City Council is expected to review the topic at the end of August. Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.
A world burning up and underwater must finally act on climate change

By Paula Danz and Mark Reynolds

T he shocking extreme weather of late, from record-shattering heat waves in the West to flood-inducing rainfall in the East and Europe, comes as no surprise to scientists who warned for decades that climate change is heading toward climate catastrophe.

“The extremes are something we knew were coming,” climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe recently told the Washington Post. “The suffering that is here now is because we have not heeded the warnings sufficiently.”

The summer of 2021 is providing an unwelcome glimpse of the hellish future that awaits if the world fails to take decisive action to drastically reduce the greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change.

In the Pacific Northwest, the village of Lytton in British Columbia hit 121 degrees Fahrenheit. Portland, Oregon, reached 115 degrees. Such heat can be deadly, especially in places where a majority of homes lack air conditioning. On June 28, the temperature soared to 108 degrees in Seattle, a city where only 44% of households are air-conditioned. Nearly 200 deaths in Oregon and Washington state have been attributed to the heat wave.

Extreme heat has also contributed to the increased number and severity of wildfires in the Western United States. Here on the Peninsula, we have been fortunate so far this year that little smoke from the multitude of heat-induced California and Pacific Northwest wildfires has reached our area. But that could change at any time, resulting in a repeat of the toxic air quality and smoke-related health problems that we experienced in recent years. The West Coast’s extremely dry conditions from the current drought, coupled with wildfires and water shortages throughout the region, are a wake-up call to all of us. While the West has roared, in the Eastern U.S. and Western Europe, torrential rainfall has unleashed deadly and destructive floods.

In New York City, subway lines were washed through waist-deep water when rain from Tropical Storm Elsa inundated train stations and highways. After 7 inches of rain fell in and around Detroit in late June, highways flooded, stranding hundreds of vehicles. In Germany and Belgium, more than 100 people have died in freakish flooding that pushed rivers beyond their banks and through the streets of towns.

The unprecedented rainfall causing these floods is partially attributable to warmer air that holds and eventually discharges more water. Scientists are also looking at changes in the jet stream, caused by global warming, that are making weather patterns linger longer, increasing the damage.

“The cumulative effect of these weather-related disasters sends a clear message: Time is up to address climate change.”

Sighing that we are slowly recognizing the need to act as the budget reconciliation process kicked off in Congress. The budget blueprint contains measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with the aim of cutting those emissions in half within 10 years. To reach that target, the budget reconciliation bill should include the essential tool most effective in reducing carbon pollution: a carbon price.

Several bills have been introduced to set a strong price on carbon, and the policy idea has bipartisan appeal. These bills would protect American businesses with a carbon border adjustment mechanism on imports from nations that do not have an equivalent price on carbon. The budget reconciliation proposal includes such a carbon border tax. However, in order to comply with World Trade Organization rules, the U.S. would likely need a domestic carbon price to impose a levy at the border.

To ensure that the indispensable tool of carbon pricing is included in upcoming legislation, we ask that Sen. Diane Feinstein and Sen. Alex Padilla actively support a price on carbon. We are encouraged that Sens. Feinstein and Padilla already understand the challenge at hand. Sen. Feinstein has stated, “It’s clear the best way to limit emissions is by enacting a carbon tax.” And Sen. Padilla has said, “The best way to ensure a full and rapid transition to a clean energy future is to put a cost on carbon.”

Recent extreme weather disasters underscore that we are running out of time to address climate change. Congress needs to go big on solutions, or we will all suffer the future consequences. Paula Danz lives in Los Altos and is a volunteer with the Silicon Valley North chapter of Citizens’ Climate Lobby. Mark Reynolds is the executive director of Citizens’ Climate Lobby.

Public Notices

995 Fictional Name Statement

MANUEL’S PAINTING AND REGLAZING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 288312
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Manuel’s Painting and Reglazing, located at 2246 Manaflo Ave., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s): MANUEL GARCIA and REGLAZING INC.
2246 Manaflo Ave.
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 26, 2021. (ALM Aug. 6, 13, 20, 2021)

COLLEGE DECRYPTED
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 288402
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: College Decrypted, located at 17 Parker Ave., Atherton, CA 94027, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s): METIS BIOCONSULTING LLC
17 Parker Ave.
Atherton, CA 94027
CA
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 16, 2021. (ALM Aug. 30, 7, 14, 21, 2021)

AA PAINTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 288492
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Nabori EPA Advocates, located at 1764 Sequoia Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s): JUANITA LOUISE CROFT
1764 Sequoia Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/02/2021. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 30, 2021. (ALM Aug. 13, 20, 27, Sept. 3, 2021)

DISCOVER AL FRESCO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 288385
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Discover Al Fresco, located at 176 Tallwood Drive, Daly City, CA 94014, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s): Jackie Leonard-Dimmick
176 Tallwood Drive
Daly City, CA 94014
California
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 6, 2021. (ALM Aug. 13, 20, 27, Sept. 3, 2021)

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By Sheryl Nonnenberg

As a child growing up in an isolated, mountainous area of China, Dacia Xu would gather with friends to knit and crochet.

“My earliest memories include images of my mother weaving,” she said in an interview. “The sound of the loom in the house made me feel safe and warm.”

After opening Qualia Gallery in Palo Alto in January of this year, she promised herself she would feature a textile exhibition as soon as possible. She has fulfilled that intention with “Interlaced,” a group exhibition that the artists adhere to one of the contemporary processes. All of the artists have created in traditional and more contemporary processes. All of the artists adhere to one of the medium’s most basic objectives: to tell a story.

Tapestries can be traced as far back as the ancient Egyptians and Incas, who buried their dead in woven clothing. During the medieval period, tapestries were used by the church to impart stories from the Bible, and to insulate castles and provide privacy. A prized commodity, tapestry-making made a major advancement with the invention of the Jacquard mechanical loom in the early 1800s. This allowed them to become more affordable and accessible to a wider demographic.

Tapestry art is represented in “Interlaced” by the work of Xie, Smith, Liu, Kushner and Wiley. All of these artists created the original designs, which were then sent to weaving ateliers, often in Belgium. There, computers that store design and produce forms of art that are working in more traditional, hands-on weaving processes but with decidedly contemporary, even edgy, results.

“I am particularly fascinated by artists who combine tapestry or weaving with other artistic forms. Some have transformed drawing or painting into tapestry, while others have combined weaving, knitting or crochet with printmaking, photography, found objects and materials,” she said.

Friedman, also on the faculty at CCA, finds ways to incorporate objects and text into her handwoven, hanging pieces that reflect her background as a painter. In an email interview, she wrote, “My work is completely driven by color. My practice has always been about trying to explore painting with new methods and materials.”

“WHY” is a crazy-quilt of color and pattern, mainly in hues of pink and purple, with the word “why” prominently woven into the body of the piece. “Green Placebo,” a work of brightly contrasting hues of green and red, also has the title woven into the tapestry. “Green Placebo is inspired by my interest in neuroscience and the whole notion of brain plasticity/neuroplasticity. My work is about rewriting the brain and the loom as a metaphor for wiring (the warp/weft threads), Friedman said.

Although there is a sharp contrast between the tightly woven, mechanically produced tapesries and the more free-form, handwork pieces in the show, Xu believes that the entire cycle of history surrounding this ancient medium has revolved back to where it started.

“The newer approaches of handweaving, knitting and crocheting could be the more ancient approaches,” she said. “I hope the exhibition can provide a glimpse into the change and development of fiber art over time.”

Qualia Gallery is located at 328 University Ave., Palo Alto. More information is available at qualiacontemporaryart.com.

Email Contributing Writer
Sheryl Nonnenberg

“Off-nite” is a cheerful rendering of an arched window revealing a view of the blue night sky and a large crescent moon. On the right side, however, colorful socks are hung from rainbow-hued pockets. A can of paint, with a bright red spillover, sits on the floor and completes the piece. The artist explained, “Exposed objects often exist as speedy or urgent antidotes to the otherwise glacial part of my production. As the spaces in which I site my work evolve, expand and diversify, my source materials expand with it.”

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Email Contributing Writer
Sheryl Nonnenberg

“September” by Hung Liu is on display at Qualia Gallery in Palo Alto through Oct. 1.
Justin Rodriguez and Jarad Gallagher were on the hunt. They’d embarked on a road trip, driving hundreds of miles through Spain and Portugal tasting dishes throughout the region. When it came to finding the specific dish they were searching for, the two just weren’t having any luck.

“We were driving down this road, looking for this whole roasted suckling pig, but hadn’t found it in the way we’d hoped,” Rodriguez said.

Finally, there it was in Albufeira — in “a little restaurant with a sign of a suckling pig on it.”

“It was probably the best food we had,” Rodriguez said. That’s high praise, coming from Rodriguez and Gallagher, who both come from Michelin-starred restaurants, including Mountain View’s Chez TJ.

Now Rodriguez and Gallagher are bringing flavors from those experiences to the Peninsula at the Shashi Hotel in Mountain View’s Chez TJ.

The Emerald Hour is open now, with three other food establishments to follow.

The Emerald Hour

The Emerald Hour is both a drinking and dining destination. There are tapas-style dishes like marcona almonds with Périgord truffles, sea salt, lemon zest, and gildas with manzanilla olives, boquerones and guindilla peppers. There are also charcuterie boards with cured meats and Spanish cheeses, as well as sandwichwiches featuring fresh and local ingredients like the Mt. Tam & Fig Melt, and A5 Miyazaki wagyu with lettuce cups and Vietnamese-inspired núc chấm. Much of the menu is based on seafood. “That’s what I like to eat, that’s what I like to cook,” Gallagher said.

The Emerald Hour offers such dishes as black cod with truffle, grains and squash blossom and oysters with green apple mignonette.

Cocktails feature recipes developed by Rodriguez, with a focus on clear spirits like tequila and white rum. A base spirit lays the foundation for each cocktail. Then, for anything else that’s added, they use cooking and kitchen techniques for house-made syrups, tinctures and bitters.

Rodriguez said, “We’re basically the director of food and beverages.”

The Emerald Hour is an expression that means to “banter back and forth,” said Gallagher. “It’s kind of like giving someone a gong to make everyone laugh. We like the idea of a group of people sitting around a table ... bantering back and forth about sports or whatever it is,” Gallagher said.

He wants a meal with more of that, and less screen time and Googling. “I like the idea of a group of people sitting around a table and a person telling a story about their life,” Gallagher said. “Now, conversations are a little more pointed and direct, because everyone has the answer to everything.”

Gallagher isn’t afraid to shake up the dining room vibe as needed. “One night, it was getting a little stuffy in that area. I went out there and rang a big gong to make everyone laugh. I need it to be fun,” Gallagher said. “It’s supposed to have fun, positive energy.”

Belle Terre

Belle Terre will offer a different atmosphere — the fine dining restaurant was “designed like a gold meteor slammed into the earth and petrified into it.” A dining room looks toward a doorless kitchen with a smoker and hearth. There’s a parlor with crystal details in the back for people seeking privacy, and a wall-to-ceiling wine cellar that runs the length of the restaurant.

The aim is to be exclusive, Gallagher said, and there’s a price tag to match: items will start at $85 on a prix fixe, a la carte menu that features French, Italian and German cuisine with Californian influence. He emphasizes that it’s “all really exclusive food” — they’ll eventually grow some of their own produce, aiming for fruits and vegetables that can’t be found elsewhere.

Something else that can be hard to find? “We’re trying to give a three Michelin-starred dining experience in 1 1/2 to two hours,” Gallagher said.

The “Everything’s Peachy” cocktail is made of white rum infused with Snowbridge peach, a brown butter-pecan orgeat, lemon juice, lime juice, Peychaud’s bitters and Amaro Nonino, as well as cardamom seed and grains of paradise.

Dig into food news. Follow the Peninsula Foodist on Instagram @peninsulafoodist and subscribe to the newsletter at almanacnews.com/express/foodist to get insights on the latest openings and closings, learn what the Foodist is excited about eating, read exclusive interviews and keep up on the trends affecting local restaurants.

Chef Jarad Gallagher delicately slices thin pieces of jamon iberico while making a charcuterie board in the Emerald Hour’s kitchen in the Shashi Hotel in Mountain View on Aug. 4.
Private, gated grounds of nearly an acre envelop this majestic Lindenwood estate overflowing with impeccable details and opulent comforts. Evoking the feel of a five-star Tuscan resort, this grandiose residence enjoys several high-end appointments that wrap you in luxury from the moment you step inside, with elegant, grand-scale spaces offering ideal venues for either entertaining or extraordinary everyday living. Nearly 14,700 square feet of space includes a gourmet kitchen, a theater with 8 luxury recliner seats, and a fitness center with an adjacent recovery room featuring a sunken spa and sauna, plus a 2,000+ bottle wine cellar, pool house, and an oversized 6-car garage perfect for auto enthusiasts. Sanctuary awaits in the 8 extravagant bedrooms highlighted by the primary suite with a custom-built, Roman-style tub/shower as well as two massive walk-in closets. Plus, nearly all of the bedrooms offer a full en suite bathroom, and one bedroom easily converts into stylish office space. Incredible grounds offer seemingly endless options for outdoor enjoyment with a vast lawn, a saltwater pool with separate spa, a vineyard terrace, and an outdoor kitchen. And this incredible location is just moments to downtown Menlo Park, downtown Palo Alto, Stanford University, and top private institutions including Sacred Heart and Menlo School.

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