Eager for your child to be vaccinated?
Help is on the way ... despite some bumps in the road

A firsthand account of a mom’s vaccine trial experience with her toddler

By Angela Swartz

The researcher injected the tiniest needle I’ve ever seen into my precious toddler’s chunky thigh, saying “This is BNT162b2 3 micrograms or placebo in 0.2 mL.”

It all started during a Tuesday morning in June. Lying in bed, I scanned my email and found an exciting note: My 1-year-old son, Theo, had been randomly selected to take part in Pfizer’s landmark pediatric COVID-19 vaccine trial.

Just 13 months prior, I was in a bed at Stanford Hospital in labor with a face mask due to the pandemic. Now, across the street, my son received his first of two shots in the double-blinded study. He is one of 48 children under 2 who are taking part in the trial being conducted at Stanford University School of Medicine. He is part of a larger cohort of 130 children ranging in age from 6 months to 11 years taking part in Stanford’s study. Currently, only children 12 and up are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.

The study has enrolled a little over 4,600 participants, with 101 sites across four countries, said research nurse Jamie Saxena, one of the investigators in the Stanford pediatric study. Pfizer is adding 2,250 children ages 5 to 11 to the study soon, Saxena said. Parents must make a two-year commitment to the trial.

The kids are divided into three age groups: 5- to 11-year-olds; 2- to 5-year-olds; and those 6 months to 2 years old. Reporting from smaller sites means data on the efficacy of the mRNA vaccine on children can be turned over to the FDA for emergency approval faster, she said.

Phase 1 of the study, which began in mid-April at Stanford for the 6 months to 5 years old age group, tested the best vaccine dosage. Theo is in Phase 2/3, which started in mid-May, testing the vaccine’s efficacy.

There’s a 1 in 3 chance Theo got the placebo instead of the vaccine. The study is unblinded for participants six months after they receive their first shot. At that time, they are offered the vaccine if they didn’t receive it already. For us, that will be in January.

If the FDA gives the vaccine emergency approval for the age group sooner, it will be unblinded before that. Media outlets have reported the vaccine could get emergency use authorization for kids ages 5 to 11 as soon as October, after the submission of its trial data to the FDA.

“We are not certain when it will happen for the 6 months to 4-year-old kids,” Saxena said in an Aug. 16 email.

Getting shots into thighs

I’m not the only parent I know who is eager for children under age 12 to be vaccinated against COVID-19. With the delta variant surging, we’d like to protect our children.

Spots in the study at Stanford University School of Medicine were highly sought after. We applied in April. Over 3,000 families expressed interest in participating in the local study and about 200 were randomly selected, according to the Los Angeles Times.

“I was seven months pregnant when the pandemic took hold in the U.S. I remember checking out at a grocery store, before I stopped going to them entirely in March 2020, with a menagerie of cleaning supplies and being warned that if I was being paranoid about COVID, I would have a paranoid baby. (At the time, we didn’t know COVID is airborne and mostly doesn’t spread by touching items.)

“How will I protect him?” I cried to my mom on the phone one day, worried about the world I was bringing my tiny human into."

Stanford research nurse Jamie Saxena, one of the lead investigators for Stanford’s pediatric COVID-19 vaccine study for Pfizer, examines Almanac reporter Angela Swartz’s son before he receives his second dose in the trial on Aug. 5.

“The kids that are in the study are really making history.”

JAMIE SAXENA, STANFORD VACCINE STUDY’S LEAD INVESTIGATOR

Since the delta variant took hold in the U.S. in early July, a startling number of children across the country are being hospitalized for COVID-19, with an increase of 30% the week of Aug. 9, according to the CDC. Rates are lower in California, where vaccination rates are higher than the rest of the country, masks are required in classrooms and unvaccinated teachers are regularly tested, according to the Los Angeles Times.

“The risk from participating in the vaccine trial is much lower than that of being hospitalized with COVID-19,” Saxena told me. “Adults have been receiving this vaccine for a year and adolescents have been as well,” she said. “Through all of the previous people who have received the vaccine, it’s shown that it’s safe and it’s shown that it’s effective.”

Theo’s pediatrician, Dr. Jeffrey Tan, told me more parents are asking him about when the vaccine might be approved for their young children. Parents are also wondering what activities they can resume if they’re vaccinated but their children aren’t.

“It’s a tough question to answer,” he said. “The under 12 (kids) really are still at risk. In a crowded setting, a park or an airplane, there’s no way to tell them there’s no risk.”

He said he generally points parents to CDC guidelines. Not every parent is eager to have their children vaccinated against COVID. Tan said some parents are always a little more hesitant about vaccines in general.

“It’s understandable because it’s a new vaccine,” he said. “The CDC recommends it because the benefit of the vaccine outweighs...”
CALIFORNIA Gubernatorial Recall Election

September 14th

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Menlo Park City Council considers expanding bond funds for parks

Property owners would pay a median rate of $310 annually

By Kate Bradshaw

Property owners in Menlo Park could see their payments rise significantly starting in December 2022, if the Menlo Park City Council opts to move forward with plans to boost the bond measure funds it collects for improvements at city parks.

The council was tasked Aug. 17 with discussing whether to issue Measure T bonds only to cover the costs of certain improvements at the Menlo Park Community Center in Belle Haven, including a new pool, for $8.8 million (Facebook is paying for the rest), or to go for all of the money remaining from the 2001 bond measure, a total of $14.3 million.

In 2001, Menlo Park voters approved Measure T, a $38 million bond measure for park improvements. The first two series of the bonds raised $23.7 million. During a study session Aug. 17, the council favored moving forward with plans to collect the full remaining amount. A majority of council members favored putting the remainder, about $5.5 million, toward existing projects in the city’s plan for park improvements.

The matter is expected to be come back before the City Council in September for a formal vote.

Opting to generate all of the

See BONDS, page 14

‘Very scary, very frustrating’: Portola Valley homeowners face losing their insurance

By Angela Swartz

Tobias Freccia checked his mailbox three months ago and found a startling note: Nationwide would not renew his homeowners insurance for the coming year. He scrambled to find a new insurer. Freccia is not alone. He is on a growing list of Portola Valley residents who are seeing their homeowners insurance rates rise or are simply facing nonrenewal. Residents on PV Forum, the online forum for residents, are trading stories of losing their home insurance, which many attribute to the insurance companies’ concerns about wildfire risk to homes in wildland-urban interfaces like Portola Valley.

Town officials say they only have a spotty headcount on how many residents have lost their homeowners insurance. They’ve asked residents to contact the town if they do, said Town Manager Jeremy Dennis.

Insurance companies are becoming wary in the wake of a slew of wildfires in the West. The state’s drought isn’t helping concerns about fire risk. Six of California’s 10 largest wildfires since 1932 were in 2020, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Those six fires burned more than 3 million acres, damaged or destroyed over 7,000 structures and killed 22 people, according to Cal Fire.

The state has stepped in to protect residents’ home insurance policies. Nearly 2.4 million homeowners insurance policyholders in California now fall under a one-year moratorium against nonrenewal of residential property insurance coverage in the wake of 2020 wildfires. Although near to last year’s destructive CZU Lightning Complex fires, Portola Valley is excluded from the state’s moratorium.

A Westridge resident of nine years, Freccia was forced to enroll in the California FAIR Plan, paying $9,000 for fire insurance and $3,000 for homeowners insurance from Farmers (which would not insure him for fire insurance) annually. The plan was established for California homeowners unable to find insurance in the traditional marketplace, and the number of households buying coverage from the program increased by more than 50% between the start of 2019 and June 2020, to almost 200,000 households, according to a September 2020 New York Times article.

The only company that would include fire insurance in Freccia’s homeowners plan wanted to charge a staggering $34,000.

“It’s very scary, very frustrating,” he said. He lost his homeowners insurance two years ago after a home remodel as well.

“We do the best we can to mitigate any fire,” he said. “It’s very distressing considering the school’s roughly 860 students go back to campuses in March 2020 for distance learning amid pandemic lockdowns. Last October, the school reopened for in-person learning on a hybrid basis with just a fraction of the student body on campus.

“It’s a little overwhelming,” said seventh grader Zoe Deh, 12, on the first day of school. “It’s a lot more people than last year.” Class sizes were reduced to around 12 students last school year, with two groups rotating time in the classroom, meaning about a maximum of 180 students were on campus at any given time.

Zoe noted that she does feel safer on campus having been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Eighth grader Harper Franklin, 12, said the campus feels a little more crowded than last year. “Class sizes were reduced in March 2020 for distance learning amid pandemic lockdowns. Last October, the school reopened for in-person learning on a hybrid basis with just a fraction of the student body on campus.

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CRIME BRIEF
Oncologist faces child porn charge
A Menlo Park physician has been charged with possession of child pornography, according to a federal complaint filed in U.S. district court in San Francisco.
Joseph Andrew Mollick, 58, is a hematologist-oncologist who is affiliated with multiple Bay Area hospitals. He faces the child pornography charge after an image he allegedly uploaded to Kik, a Canadian smartphone app, was flagged by the company. He allegedly uploaded the image onto the Kik smartphone messaging app on Aug. 30, 2019. Kik uses Microsoft’s PhotoDNA technology, which immediately scans uploaded images to flag suspected child pornography. The company’s law enforcement team alerted the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, which forwarded the materials to the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations Office.
An investigator obtained a federal search warrant on Aug. 13, 2020, after linking an IP address to Mollick. The investigation uncovered more than 2,000 images and videos of child pornography as more than 800 files of child erotica through Mollick’s Apple iCloud account, according to the federal complaint. The complaint was filed on July 13 and was unsealed by the court last week in the U.S. District Court of Northern California in San Francisco.
Mollick appeared in federal court Aug. 20 and was released on $50,000 bail. If he is convicted, he faces up to 20 years in prison and a $250,000 fine.
—Sue Dreimann

COMMUNITY BRIEFS
Free COVID-19 vaccine clinic Sunday
The town of Portola Valley will host a vaccine clinic at its Town Center at 765 Portola Road in the Community Hall courtyard (by the library) on Sunday, Aug. 29, from 1 to 4 p.m. Register or walk up to get your vaccine at myturn.ca.gov or call 833-422-4255. All people 12 and over are welcome, regardless of immigration status.

New kindergarten building opens at Sacred Heart
Construction of a new 4,000-square-foot kindergarten building was completed at Sacred Heart Schools in Atherton the week of Aug. 9, in time for the first day of school on Aug. 19, according to a press release.
XL Construction built the four-classroom facility, which has large windows and an exposed wood interior, in 11 weeks. The building has prefabricated wall and roof panels that are erected and installed at school sites.
“In line with the strategic growth of our campus, we were ready to expand our kindergarten space; we needed to both break ground and have construction complete during summer break,” said Richard Dohi, Sacred Heart’s director of schools, in a statement. “Another must was choosing a company that shared our commitment to sustainability.”
The building’s energy efficiency supports Sacred Heart’s sustainability philosophy, said Michael Dwyer, the school’s director of operations who oversaw the project, in a statement. “This building stands as a shining example of these values that we teach to our students,” he said.
Kindergartners previously shared a building with preschoolers.

Street resurfacing project in Portola Valley
Portola Valley will be doing street resurfacing on various roadways through Oct. 15.
The project will consist of asphalt repairs and applying surface seals to the road. The repairs will include grading worn areas, crack sealing, a surface seal treatment, and repainting traffic markings. Traffic will have limited access through those streets during the street resurfacing process. Traffic controls within the construction area will be in place.
A list of streets that will be resurfaced is posted on the town’s website, portolavalley.net.
—Angela Swartz

Peninsula Clean Energy expands EV rebate program
Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County’s official electricity provider, announced Aug. 10 it is expanding its used electric car rebate program to include electric vehicles used for personal use in the county. The program provides a $7,500 rebate for each used vehicle, whether the vehicle was originally sold new or was a car that was once an EV. The program will run through June 2024. To request delivery, or stop delivery, of the rebate, go to PeninsulaCleanEnergy.com/rebates or call 888-762-3030. For more information, visit PeninsulaCleanEnergy.com.
See COMMUNITY BRIEFS, page 10
Newsom recall basics: How to vote in the election

By CalMatters staff

CalMatters has compiled an FAQ on the California election on whether to recall Gov. Gavin Newsom. There’s some confusion and mixed messages on voting, so this can help sort things out.

When is the recall election? Sept. 14, though local election offices had to start sending out mail ballots by Aug. 16.

How do you vote? Every registered voter will get a ballot in the mail. You can track your ballot — when it is mailed, when it’s received once you vote and when it’s counted — by signing up at california.ballottrax.net/voter/.

There will also be in-person polling sites that open Sept. 4, plus drop-off boxes, with the exact number depending where you live. You can check voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/ for your registration status and can update your registration at registertovote.ca.gov/. The deadline to register is Aug. 30.

What will be on the ballot? Two parts. The first requires a yes or no answer. It asks: “Shall GAVIN NEWSOM be recalled (removed) from the office of Governor?”

A yes vote is against Newsom and is to kick him out of office. A no vote is for Newsom and to keep him as governor.

The second part allows you to pick one replacement candidate from a list. It says: “Candidates to succeed GAVIN NEWSOM as Governor if he is recalled.”

The list doesn’t include Newsom, so you can’t vote for him.

Who is running to replace Newsom? The final certified list of 46 includes Republican politicians, media celebrities, activists and Californians from all walks of life.

Can you write in a replacement candidate? Yes, and no. You can write in any name you want. But for your vote to count, it must be someone from the certified list. Write-in candidates have until Aug. 31 to file. Any write-in votes for Newsom also won’t be counted.

What happens after the election? If more than 50% of voters say no, Newsom continues as governor; his term ends on Jan. 2, 2023.

If more than 50% of voters say yes, Newsom will be removed from office. Then whoever has the most votes among the replacement candidates — no matter how few and even if they don’t win a majority — will become governor in late October for the rest of Newsom’s term.

Do you have to vote on both parts? No, you can vote on just one or the other and your vote still counts. For example, you can vote against removing Newsom on the first question, but also skip choosing a potential replacement (which is what Newsom and party leaders are telling Democrats to do).

But if I oppose recalling Newsom, can I still pick a replacement candidate? Yes, a vote on the second question won’t invalidate or affect your vote on the first.

Will there be any state measures on the ballot? No.

The Playbook, a newsletter about high school sports, launches on the Peninsula

Veteran sports journalists Rick Eymer and Glenn Reeves start twice-a-week email covering prep athletics

By Almanac staff

With the return this fall of full seasons of high school athletics, veteran sports journalists Rick Eymer and Glenn Reeves have launched Peninsula Preps Playbook, a twice-a-week digital newsletter that will cover prep sports in the region.

Every Monday and Thursday afternoon, they plan to deliver exclusive, in-depth information about the local high school sports scene, from Mountain View to Redwood City. The Playbook will include season and game previews that tell readers what to look for and what’s at stake; profiles of interesting coaches and athletes; postgame analysis; entertaining features; and articles on local sports trends.

Eymer has covered local prep, college and professional sports for more than 40 years, the past 21 with the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac’s sister publication. His connections with some league commissioners, athletic directors and coaches date back to his own high school days in San Mateo.

Eymer is joined by Assistant Sports Editor Glenn Reeves, another longtime journalist who has reported for decades for The Mercury News and other publications.

“We’re looking forward to bringing you inside the world that we live and breathe: from the excitement of prep competition to the drama off the field,” Eymer said. “There’s so much to talk about when it comes to high school athletics, and we want to give everyone a front-row seat.”

The Playbook is a free newsletter. To sign up, go to almanac-news.com/express/sports/.

State Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, speaks alongside local elected and school officials on a bus tour through Peninsula cities to urge voters to not recall Gov. Gavin Newsom, on Aug. 20.

Isn’t there an election for governor in 2022? Yes, voters will pick someone for a full four-year term in November 2022. Newsom is already running.

For more information, there is an FAQ from the secretary of state, and an official recall election calendar at sos.ca.gov/elections. For information on voting in San Mateo County, visit smcacre.org/elections.

This piece was first published by CalMatters, a nonpartisan, nonprofit journalism venture that works with media partners throughout the state, including The Almanac.

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In-person or virtual visits at Peninsula Pediatric Medical Group

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August 27, 2021 - AlmanacNews.com - The Almanac - 7
New social worker program to aid defendants and their attorneys

San Mateo County Private Defender Program helps address support needs of clients in addition to legal defense

By Sue Dremann

A first-ever social worker program in San Mateo County to help defendants and their attorneys navigate critically needed services kicked off on Aug. 16, the Private Defender Program’s Office said in a statement.

Harpreet Samra, a licensed clinical social worker who most recently worked for the Santa Clara County Public Defender’s Office, heads the program as supervising social worker.

Samra has eight years of experience as a social worker in public defender offices working with adults and juveniles.

She is expected to hire as many as 10 contracted social workers to assist defense attorneys as part of the defense team, Lisa Maguire, chief defender, said by phone last week.

“It’s a brand new position and we’re very excited about it,” she said.

Social workers can help defendants be evaluated and receive services for issues that may have contributed to their alleged crimes, including substance abuse, homelessness, joblessness and mental health.

Social workers have been working with criminal defense attorneys since the 1970s and are considered critical to a “holistic” defense model, Maguire said. Research literature has shown social workers have been beneficial to both clients and lawyers.

A report by the Brennan Center for Justice found that adding social support for defendants can reduce recidivism and costs, she said. It can also improve community safety when defendants find effective interventions such as mental health services, substance abuse counseling or job training.

The chances that people will reintegrate into their communities and not commit repeat offenses also increase, Maguire said, which in turn saves costs on law enforcement, courts, prosecutors, defenders and corrections.

Social workers in the state of Kentucky’s program saved the state $3.25 in criminal justice costs for every $1 in social worker salaries, she said.

“Anecdotally, 30% to 40% of clients have mental health needs. It’s significant,” Maguire said. “Year after year, we are seeing an increase in clients who have mental health and substance abuse issues. We want to help our clients get the treatment they need. I think this is a great step for the private defender (program) and the benefits will be apparent in a short period of time.”

Understanding clients’ needs can enhance and guide their defense attorney’s approach. Attorneys had been asking social and mental health professionals for assistance with their cases, but a number of professionals were saying they didn’t want to be involved and didn’t want to become expert witnesses, she said.

Hiring dedicated staff to work with the defenders’ office would eliminate that problem.

“A lot of people don’t like talking to lawyers. It makes them uncomfortable,” Maguire said.

Attorneys are not trained to assess the psychological and social needs of their clients.

A social worker can navigate those sensitive subjects, suggest treatment plans and assist with things like housing and Social Security, she said.

Having a dedicated team of social workers would have a large impact toward starting to make such programs the norm.

Maguire said the private defender program, which provides legal representation to defendants who cannot afford to hire an attorney, has occasionally used social workers to assist with complex cases in the past.

Other Bay Area defender programs already have social workers on staff, including Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco and Marin counties, she said.

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

Coronavirus central: FDA gives full approval of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine

State mandates proof of vaccination or negative COVID test for large indoor events

By Embarcadero Media staff

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID vaccine gets full FDA approval

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued its full approval Monday of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, marking the first approval of a COVID vaccine outside of its emergency use authorization.

An FDA advisory panel issued the approval for people ages 16 and up based on clinical trial and follow-up data on the vaccine’s effectiveness from roughly 20,000 vaccine and 20,000 placebo recipients ages 16 and older.

The FDA also analyzed safety data from roughly 22,000 people who received the vaccine and 22,000 people who received a placebo. The trial data found that the vaccine was 91% effective at preventing COVID-19 death, according to the FDA.

Acting FDA Commissioner Dr. Janet Woodcock called the approval a “milestone” in the ongoing pandemic.

“While this and other vaccines have met the FDA's rigorous, scientific standards for emergency use authorization, as the first FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine, the public can be very confident that this vaccine meets the high standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality the FDA requires of an approved product,” she said in a statement.

A Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will now be marketed as Comirnaty, according to the FDA, and will continue to be available to people ages 12 to 15 under the FDA’s emergency use authorization.

The FDA is expected to issue a subsequent approval for the vaccine developed by Moderna in the coming weeks, while Johnson & Johnson is expected to apply soon for approval of the one-dose vaccine developed by its pharmaceutical subsidiary Janssen.

In California, state officials celebrated the Pfizer vaccine’s approval and urged people to get vaccinated if they have yet to do so to drastically reduce the likelihood of developing serious illness or dying from COVID-19.

“We know the vaccines work. We know vaccines are safe. We know they save lives,” California State mandates proof of vaccination or negative COVID test for large indoor events

See CORONAVIRUS, page 10
By Sara Hayden

Buck’s of Woodside is an institution that typically serves up pancakes to families, tech titans and other celebrities alike, but a month ago there was another offer on the table: One could bid on a non-fungible token that would give its owner exclusive access to a digital version of the restaurant.

The auction for Buck’s NFT closed Thursday, Aug. 19. The NFT went to the one and only bidder, “TeamWarren,” for 105 WETH, a token that represents the Ether cryptocurrency. Even with just a single bid, the United States dollar value for the digital recreation of the local restaurant is nothing to sneeze at.

“It was such a high-water mark no other bids came in,” says Jamis MacNiven, the local restaurateur who hatched the idea for the project and brought it to life with about 16 co-creators. “We only had one bid, but it was $340,000. So it was OK.”

OK, indeed. The NFT’s new owner is identified as “TeamWarren” on the OpenSea auction platform, and as a friend by MacNiven. MacNiven said the friend initially placed the bid to “set the tone.” When asked how much MacNiven wanted, he recalls, “I said 200 grand would be good,” and he settled on accepting the bid via cryptocurrency.

It wasn’t a sure bet, however. Shortly after TeamWarren placed the bid for 105 WETH, the value dived, dragging down the USD value to about $146,000. “I thought, ‘Well, whatever, fine,’” MacNiven said. But by the time the auction closed, the value had climbed about 70% above MacNiven’s initial hope.

TeamWarren now has access to a digital experience that makes it possible to virtually tour the restaurant, and take a look at dozens of eclectic items and stories that MacNiven has curated and collected over the years. Buck’s is an institution for Silicon Valley companies, so there’s a model of the Apple 1 computer on view. It’s also a bit of a personal museum, with an artifact that was once owned by Jack London and later acquired by MacNiven’s grandfather, as well as a family photo featuring one of the MacNiven sons gliding through the air, “paralooning” with a parachute powered by helium-filled weather balloons.

As the new owner, it’s at TeamWarren’s discretion as to whether to make the digital Buck’s experience open to the public or not. “He could turn it off or leave it on. He’s choosing to leave it on,” MacNiven said. Soon, it’ll be viewable at the restaurant’s website, buckswoodside.com.

“We got our pancake, and you get to eat it too,” MacNiven said. Check out the digital Buck’s of Woodside experience via Matterport at tinyurl.com/NFT-bucks.

Liquor company CEO agrees to plead guilty in college admissions case

By Sue Dremann

A Hillsborough parent and the CEO of a California liquor distribution company has agreed to plead guilty to a conspiracy charge for fraudulently securing her son’s admission to the University of Southern California.

Marci Palatella, 66, CEO of International Beverage in Burlingame and co-owner of Kentucky-based Preservation Distillery with her husband, former San Francisco 49ers linebacker Lou Palatella, plans to plead guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit honest services mail fraud, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Massachusetts announced Tuesday. No date has been set for her sentencing hearing.

Palatella arranged with college placement test consultant William “Rick” Singer and others to pay $500,000 to get her son admitted to USC as a football recruit. He was not actually...
Housing bill that allows cities to increase density clears state Assembly

Assembly member Marc Berman among the 44 legislators who supported Senate Bill 10

By Gennady Sheyner

A contentious bill that allows cities to enact zoning changes to enable construction of 10-unit housing developments in transit-rich and urban-infill areas cleared a critical hurdle Monday afternoon, when the state Assembly voted to approve it.

With a 44-12 vote, the Assembly gave a significant boost to Senate Bill 10, which was authored by state Sen. Scott Wiener, D-San Francisco, and which had already cleared the state Senate. The Aug. 23 vote allows for a final “concurrence” vote by the Senate before the legislation heads to the governor.

The bill needed 41 votes to get through the Assembly, Assembly member Marc Berman, D-Menlo Park, was among the 44 legislators who voted in favor of the bill.

Along with SB 9, which would allow subdivisions in single-family zones, SB 10 has generated heated debate over the course of the legislative season. Housing advocates have characterized it as a critical step toward combating “exclusionary zoning” and making it easier for cities to build much needed housing. Assembly member David Chiu, D-San Francisco, who introduced the bill on the Assembly floor, noted that the legislation allows cities to simply ignore it.

“The city that chooses to implement SB 10, this bill will provide that city with an inexpensive and effective tool to rezone parcels of up to 10 units,” Chiu said. “If they choose not to implement SB 10, nothing will change.”

Opponents of the bill, including citizen groups such as United Neighbors and Livable Communities, have criticized it as a major legislative overreach, particularly as it allows city councils to overrule zoning restrictions that had been enacted through citizen initiatives. Numerous cities, including Palo Alto, have taken a position against the bill.

Palo Alto’s letter of opposition argued that the provision of the bill that allows governments to overrule citizen initiatives is one that “no Legislative branch of government should have, and which we — a City Council, and therefore such a branch — do not want.”

“Such legislation echoes more of Russia than of California,” the letter read.

While the majority of the 12 Assembly members who voted against the bill — Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Richard Bloom, Tasha Boerner Horva, Jim Frazier, Al Muratsuchi, Patrick O’Donnell, Adrin Nazarian, Cottie Petrie-Norris, Rudy Salas, and Mark Stone — are Democrats (Republicans Kelly Sayeto and Randy Voepel joined them in opposition).

In a statement immediately after the Assembly vote, Wiener called the bill “a step in the right direction.”

“This voluntary tool will help local governments throughout California fundamentally reshape their zoning in infill and urban areas, in the face of the housing crisis we face. Today is a step in the right direction, and we must continue to build on this victory to end California’s housing crisis,” Wiener said.

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner gsheyner@paweekly.com.

Department of Public Health Director and state Public Health Officer Dr. Tomas Aragon said in a statement, “If you are not vaccinated, let this be the milestone that you pass.”

The FDA issued its original emergency use authorization for the Pfizer vaccine on Dec. 11, 2020, for people ages 16 and up. In May, it expanded that authorization to children ages 12 to 15.

While some 362 million vaccine doses have been administered in the U.S. and more than 200 million Americans have gotten at least one vaccine dose, state and local officials expressed optimism that the FDA’s full approval will spur more people to get vaccinated in the coming weeks.

In California, just over 46 million vaccine doses have been administered to roughly 25 million residents. Earlier this month, FDA advisers and state officials also issued their respective approvals of booster vaccine doses for immunocompromised people who received the two-dose Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

“I encourage all Californians to trust the science and protect themselves and their community by getting vaccinated,” Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a statement. “With more than 80% of Californians 18 and up having received at least one dose, our continued close the gap in our most impacted communities and bring an end to this pandemic.”

COVID-19 vaccine information can be found at myturn.ca.gov and vaccinatell58.com.

State tightens vaccine proof requirement for large events

State public health officials tightened vaccine verification requirements Aug. 18 for large indoor events, requiring proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test for events with more than 1,000 people.

Starting Sept. 20, the California Department of Public Health will require indoor venues to confirm the vaccination status of attendees or that they’ve tested negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours of an event.

Venues will also no longer be able to allow event attendees and spectators to self-attest their vaccination status and are encouraged to utilize the state’s digital vaccine record system. According to CA.gov, the system will be required for large events with 5,000 or more people through at least Dec. 31, 2021.

The state had previously required vaccine or negative test verification for events of 5,000 or more people through at least Oct. 1. Until Sept. 20, those rules will remain in effect.

State public health officials touted support for the new vaccine verification requirements from entertainment industry giants like Live Nation Entertainment and AEG, as well as Californians for the Arts.

“Vaccination and health check requirements ensure everyone can continue enjoying live music while also encouraging even more people to go get vaccinated, which is why Live Nation has made this the standard at our venues and festivals across the country,” Live Nation President and CEO Michael Rapino said in a statement. “We fully support California’s efforts and will stay in lockstep to keep bringing live music back to the Golden State.”

The guidelines issued last week will keep the verification system in place through at least Nov. 1, according to the CDPH.

Employment

STANFORD R&D
PLEASE JOIN STANFORD R&D FOR OPEN INTERVIEWS. Open Interviews on Friday, August 27, 2021 from 11am – 3pm and Saturday, August 28, 2021 from 11am – 2pm. Location: 693 Pampas Lane, Stanford, CA 94305.

To learn more about the positions available or to speak with a recruiter, email rehrecreuiting@stanford.edu or call 650-724-5716.

To place an ad or get a quote, contact Kevin Legarda at 650.223.6597 or email digitalads@paweekly.com.

Employment

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Commuter Briefs continued from page 6

Community Briefs continued from page 6

Vehicle rebate program.

Eligible county residents could receive up to $4,000 in rebates to purchase a used electric vehicle.

The amount of the rebate depends on a resident’s income level and whether the vehicle is a hybrid or fully electric.

Income-qualified residents, such as those participating in CalFresh, Clipper START or other assistance programs, can receive rebates of up to $3,700 for plug-in hybrids or $4,000 for fully electric vehicles.

The rebate only applies to used electric vehicles which must be 8 years old or newer and which cost no more than $25,000 before the rebates.

Income-qualified residents in San Mateo County can combine Peninsula Clean Energy rebates with other regional and state programs.

The used electric vehicle rebate program is a partnership with GRID Alternatives Bay Area, a nonprofit that provides clean energy programs.

To be eligible for a rebate, residents must preapply online before purchasing a used electric vehicle. The preapplication is available at peninsulacleanenergy.formstack.com/forms/usedevinterest.

Once the application is approved, qualifying residents can purchase vehicles at a participating local car dealership. A list of participating dealerships is available online.

More information on the program is available at peninsulacleanenergy.usedeal.com.
MAGNIFICENT LINDENWOOD ESTATE ON NEARLY AN ACRE

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.

www.96HeatherDR.com
Offered at $13,488,000

Listed by the DeLeon Team • 2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer’s Agent • Waived if DeLeon Buyer’s Agent

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中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
STYLISH INTERIORS AND A GREAT BACKYARD

Stylish living awaits in this bright, modern home offering 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and over 2,100 square feet of living space, including a detached guest house. A paver pathway leads to the front door, and inside, refinished hardwood floors extend throughout the traditional floorplan. A fireplace centers the living room, the dining room is illuminated by a candle chandelier, and the chef's kitchen includes stainless-steel appliances from Bosch and Viking. The inviting primary suite encompasses the entire upper level and features a spa-like bathroom with a soaking tub and step-in shower, while the guest home includes a kitchenette, full bathroom, and bedroom with a convenient murphy bed. And in the backyard, an entertainer’s dream awaits with a trellis-covered patio and built-in barbecue, a covered deck with heaters, and a lush lawn. Convenient to downtown Menlo Park, downtown Palo Alto, Caltrain, and US 101, this home is also served by top-ranked schools including Laurel Elementary, Hillview Middle, and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

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Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
MODERN DESIGN MINUTES TO DOWNTOWN

Clean, modern lines and a floorplan perfectly suited for a contemporary lifestyle highlight this stylish 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom home in the sought-after Allied Arts neighborhood. Completed in 2013, and boasting outstanding build quality throughout, this home enjoys a bright, airy ambiance thanks to high ceilings and tremendous natural light, with beautiful wide-plank hardwood floors extending throughout most of the nearly 1,800 square feet of living space. The open-concept main floor begins in the living room with an automatic fireplace, and continues with the dining room with outdoor access for al fresco dinner parties, and the kitchen with appliances from Thermador and Sub-Zero. Three bedrooms comprise the upper level, including the luxurious primary suite, while the home's 4th bedroom enjoys a private location on the main floor making it ideal for guests. Plus, this home also enjoys radiant heated floors on the main level, a Nest thermostat, central vacuum, and a Sonos sound system with built-in speakers. Just moments from downtown Menlo Park, this home is also convenient to downtown Palo Alto and Stanford University, with access to top-ranked schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

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remaining bond funds in one round instead of two is expected to save the city between $200,000 and $300,000, as it costs about that much per bond issue, according to Assistant City Manager Nick Pegueros. Council members were divided in their Aug. 17 discussion over how to spend the remaining $5.5 million. Mayor Drew Combs and Councilman Ray Mueller said that the previous Measure T funds hadn’t been split equally among the city’s five districts, and their districts in particular had been left behind.

Combs said that Willow Oaks Park is only one park in District 2, and parts of it, particularly the park’s walking path and basketball court, have worn down in comparison to other city parks. “If all the money went to other parts of the city and Willow Oaks looked great, I would have no complaints,” he said. “(But) you do see the lack of funding.” Improvements to Willow Oaks are already in the works, and Combs said he favored drawing on bond funds for the project along with the city’s general fund money.

“I’m supportive of going for the full amount we can draw down — and essentially sticking with the projects that have been essentially funded and identified,” he said. Mueller said that District 5, which has Sharon Park, Sharon Hills Park and Stanford Hills Park, hadn’t received a fair investment of the Measure T funds so far.

“I am very concerned the council won’t even consider allocation some portion of the remaining Measure T bonds to Sharon Park improvements at the same time the chair of the Housing Commission is advocating eliminating a portion of the park,” he said in a statement.

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Constance Euler Spencer
May 12, 1939 – August 11, 2021

Constance “Connie” Euler Spencer, of Carmel, CA passed away peacefully on August 11, 2021, after 82 years of living by her personal mantra, “Don’t Postpone Joy.”

The daughter of Elva and Herbert Euler, and the sister of Susan Smith (Baxter), Connie was born on May 12, 1939, in York, PA and was a member of the first graduating class of York Country Day School. She spent her summers on the shore in Cape May, NJ, a long-standing family tradition. After attending Wheaton College in Norton, MA and earning a degree in English (class of 1963), she worked in the buyer training program at Lord & Taylor before becoming a teacher at The Town School in New York City. It was during this time that she met Bob Spencer on a blind date; the two married on September 14, 1963, and settled in Menlo Park, CA where Connie embraced her new life on the West Coast.

In addition to being a loving wife and devoted mother of three children -- Sarah, Annie Cleveland, Bob (Amy) -- Connie poured her heart and soul into a life-long and lifelong passion for helping others and improving the community. She spent her free time volunteering at the Menlo Child Development Center and the park itself, all of which is located in District 3, represented by Councilwoman Jen Wolosin.

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Virginia Doris Luna
July 17, 1913 – August 8, 2021

Virginia D. Luna died at the age of 108 at her home of the last 60 years in Atherton. She was the widow of the late Henry P. Luna, retired Captain, American Airlines, and Colonel, US Air Force Reserve, who died in 1988, and mother of Jane Luna Euler, who died in 2019, and Douglas P. Luna, who survives.

She was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1913 to Frank H. Dichter and Eva Hill Dichter and moved with the family to Pasadena, California, in 1923. In 1931 she went to New York, where she met her future husband taking lessons in riding he taught while completing studies at NYU’s Guggenheim School of Aeronautics. They married in 1936 following his flight training and commissioning in the Army Air Corps and release from active duty and employment with American. Their son came in 1939 and daughter in 1941. The family bought their first home in the Long Island, New York town of Port Washington, in 1941 and remained there during Mr. Luna’s service with the Army Air Corps in the Pacific and until 1949, when he transferred to American’s base in San Francisco. The family first located in Los Altos; a year later moved to Menlo Park; and finally Atherton in 1961.

Mrs. Luna was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and San Mateo County Republican Women, and former member of Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club, of which her late husband was president in 1968. Internment will be at Arlington National Cemetery with Col. Luna.

A memorial service will be held graveside at Arlington on a date yet to be scheduled.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made in Mrs. Luna’s behalf to the Scleroderma Foundation or the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation in memory of her daughter, Jane.
any risk that has been detected so far. Kids get sick from COVID-19; they do get hospitalized. ... We’re not out of the woods yet.”

A hiccup in the trial
June 25 was marked on my calendar for Theo’s first shot. I got an early morning phone call that day saying his appointment was canceled. The concern? Hundreds of reports of heart inflammation in young adults. Pfizer put the study on hold while clinics rewrote the consent form with a warning that myocarditis, inflammation of the heart muscle, and pericarditis, inflammation of the lining outside the heart, have occurred with some younger people who’ve received shots.

In both cases, the body’s immune system is causing inflammation in response to an infection or some other trigger. Symptoms can include chest pain, shortness of breath or palpitations, according to the CDC. The severity of cases of myocarditis and pericarditis can vary. For the cases reported after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination, most who sought medical care responded well to medications and rest. There also tends to be a spike in illnesses that cause these same inflammatory responses in the summer, so researchers are unclear if the vaccine is truly the cause, clinicians told me.

The symptoms of both also tend to resolve on their own without medical intervention.

The delay was disappointing, but I was glad they were being thorough. I talked to Theo’s pediatrician and the researchers. Because Theo is very healthy, my husband and I felt comfortable continuing in the study. To my mind, helping bring the protection of a vaccine against COVID-19 to children outweighed the risk of a rare complication.

And it’s not just about protecting the estimated 48 million Americans under age 12, but everyone else who is at risk because of the growing number of breakthrough infections from the highly contagious delta variant.

Saran Wrap and tiny needles
I pushed Theo in his stroller into the vaccine clinic on Welch Road for his first shot in the trial on a Tuesday morning in July, juggling all the things that accompany toddlers — snacks, toys and milk. The initial visit was set to last between two and three hours but ended up taking about three and half hours.

I reviewed the consent forms with a researcher, then they measured Theo’s height, weight and blood pressure. They loaded $100 on a debit card as compensation for taking part in the study and said they’d add $5 for each electronic diary entry on his symptoms we completed. They also swabbed his nose to take a COVID test. Lots of kicking and trying to grab the swab ensued.

It was difficult for me to watch the blood draw to check for COVID antibodies. He wore numbing Emla cream covered with Saran Wrap — so he couldn’t rub it off — for about 30 minutes beforehand. His tiny arm was bruised for about a week after, but it didn’t look awful.

The hardest part of the appointment was waiting for the shot to arrive. Theo grew bored and wanted to wander the halls, but the vaccine was delayed from the pharmacy and hadn’t arrived. The public was available to allow for participation.

They also swabbed his nose to take a COVID test. Lots of kicking and trying to grab the swab ensued.

It was difficult for me to watch the blood draw to check for COVID antibodies. He wore numbing Emla cream covered with Saran Wrap — so he couldn’t rub it off — for about 30 minutes beforehand. His tiny arm was bruised for about a week after, but it didn’t look awful.

The hardest part of the appointment was waiting for the shot to arrive. Theo grew bored and wanted to wander the halls, but the vaccine was delayed from the pharmacy and it has to thaw once it arrives. The needle was so small! Children under 2 in the trial receive 3 micrograms of the vaccine, while 5- to 12-year-olds receive 10 micrograms. The adult dose is 30 micrograms.

After the shot we went out to the playground while we waited 30 minutes to see if he had any adverse reactions. He didn’t have any then, or for the following week, which lines up with what clinicians are seeing in other children under 2 in the study: a little extra tiredness and irritability, but no fevers, Saxena said.

For the next week, every evening we logged his temperature, indicated if he had any injection site redness, rash, tenderness, fatigue and other symptoms in the “TrialMax” app. Every week, we update whether he’s shown any symptoms of COVID-19.

They also sent us home with an at-home COVID test that I can use if he has any virus symptoms.

The second visit
The next visit in early August was thankfully much shorter. Theo was back at Bol Park in Palo Alto on Aug. 24.
RESOLUTION NO. 2250 (2021)

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 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.

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.

Exhibit A

Exhibit B

ADMISSIONS SCAM

continued from page 9

being considered and would not play for the university’s football team, according to court charging documents.

Palatella allegedly wired $75,000 to The Key Worldwide Foundation, an organization Singer created to launder the bribes, for a Florida resident Mark Riddell to proctor her son’s SAT exam and to correct his answers in 2017. She ultimately paid $500,000 to have her son represented as a purported football recruit to USC. She allegedly paid $100,000 to Donna Heinel, USC’s senior associate athletic director at the time, who allegedly presented the boy’s application to the university’s athletic admissions subcommittee and obtained approval to admit him as a recruit, according to court documents.

Prosecutors contend Palatella also agreed during a 2018 phone call with Singer to mislead the IRS if anyone inquired about her payments to the foundation, according to the indictment. She faced charges of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and honest services mail and wire fraud; conspiracy to commit federal programs bribery; and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Her trial was scheduled to begin on Sept. 13.

Palatella has agreed to a six-week prison sentence, a $250,000 fine and two years of supervised release, with a condition of home confinement for the first six months of her supervised release, and 500 hours of community service.

She will be the 33rd parent to plead guilty in a case that involved 57 people, including athletics coaches, admissions test monitors and others who sought end runs around the college acceptance process for their children. Wealthy parents paid Singer and his cohorts large sums of money to fix college admissions exams, such as the SAT and ACT, by having designated proctors who monitor the tests, correct their child’s answers or take the tests on their child’s behalf in order to boost their scores. A second part of the scam involved bribing athletics coaches and recruiters at prestigious colleges and universities in exchange for recruiting their child for sports teams so they could gain admission to the college or university.

Palatella was one of three Bay Area residents with Midpeninsula ties implicated in the scheme who had not taken plea deals. Palo Alto resident Amy and Gregory Colburn are scheduled for a jury trial on Jan. 13.
2009, residents complained that the label could negatively impact their insurance rates. The cancellations are not entirely new: A look back at Town Council meeting minutes shows residents have complained about the topic for years.

Anne Ashmead, who has lived near Woodside Priory School since 1996, was overjoyed when Nationwide sent her a letter in May stating that it would not renew her homeowners insurance because the company was not willing to cover properties worth more than $1.5 million.

“I was just like, ‘What? Why?’” Her insurance agent told her many insurance companies are declining to insure homeowners in the area. She’s now looking at paying about 30% more for insurance.

Jack Troedson, who’s lived in the Alpine Hills neighborhood for 32 years, also learned Nationwide would not renew his homeowners insurance when it expired in mid-August. There was no explanation in the letter, but his insurance broker said it was because of the wildfires in California.

“All of us, seeing the fires over the last several years, were wondering ‘What’s this going to mean for fire insurance?’”

May Portola Valley Mayor Maryann Derwin, who lives in the Westridge neighborhood, lost her homeowners insurance twice in the last year. In March 2020 she received a letter from Safeco Insurance saying that her policy would not be renewed, leaving her three months to find a new carrier.

“I spoke with a community member who received the same letter a month earlier and was appealing the decision to no avail,” she said in an email. “My broker worked to find a new insurer, but the pickings were slim: I could choose between a surplus line’s insurer such as Scottsdale or Lloyd’s of London, or the California FAIR Plan known as insurance of the last resort, offering basic fire insurance for those who have (been) rejected by traditional insurance companies.”

At that time, the maximum coverage through the FAIR Plan was $1.5 million, but has since been increased.

Safeco was sympathetic but said there are limits as to what he can do to help since he cannot mandate a moratorium on renewals of homeowners insurance policies; only the state Legislature can do that, and those in the know say it is not going to happen, according to Derwin.

Derwin encourages community members to reach out to her office to discuss the loss of their homeowners policies.

“I am concerned that there will come a time when fire insurance will be a supplemental policy just like earthquake insurance — costly and minimal in coverage — causing property owners to essentially self-insure,” she said. “That along with sky high home prices, will destine Portola Valley to become an even more exclusive enclave for the rich and to me, that is heartbreaking. This is not who we are, or perhaps more accurately stated, this is not who we used to be.”

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

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VACCINE TRIAL
continued from page 15

The Almanac OPEN HOMES

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THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES

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LOS ALTO

2350 Via Maderos
Saratoga 1:30-4:30
Compass
$3,980,000
4BD/2.5BA
650-317-6437

21 Willow Road
Saratoga 1:30-4:30
Compass
$2,995,000
3BD/2BA
650-899-9163

1238 Hoover Street
Saratoga 1:30-4:30
DeLoen Realty
$2,488,000
4BD/3BA
650-785-5822

208 Durham Street
Saratoga 1:30-4:30
DeLoen Realty
$3,490,000
5BD/4.5BA
650-785-5822

MENLO PARK

1046 Eastwood Drive
Saratoga 1:30-4:30
DeLoen Realty
$2,550,000
3BD/2.5BA
650-740-7954

ALPINE HILLS

1249 Almk Street (T)
Saratoga 1:30-4:30
Compass
$1,475,000
1BD/2.5BA
650-796-2523

1181 Lincoln Avenue
Saratoga 1:30-4:00
3BD/1BA
650-899-9163

1056 Lowell Avenue
Saratoga 1:30-4:30
DeLoen Realty
$2,550,000
3BD/2.5BA
650-740-7954

2121 Victoria
Saratoga 1:30-4:00
Compass
$2,488,000
4BD/3BA
650-996-0123

759 Glenbrook Drive
Saratoga 1:30-4:30
DeLoen Realty
$2,488,000
4BD/3.5BA
650-785-5822

PALO ALTO

4121 Orchard Court
Saratoga 1:30-4:00
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty
$5,686,250
3BD/2.5BA
650-485-3476

4135 Orchard Court
Saratoga 1:30-4:00
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby’s International Realty
$4,934,650
3BD/2.5BA
650-485-3476

1585 Edgewood Drive
Saratoga 1:30-4:30
Compass
$5,250,000
3BD/3BA
650-740-8424

1249 Almk Street (T)
Saratoga 1:30-4:30
Compass
$1,475,000
2BD/2.5BA
650-796-2523

1181 Lincoln Avenue
Saratoga 2:00-4:00
3BD/2BA
650-208-2287

156 Lowell Avenue
Saratoga 2:00-4:00
Compass
$5,995,000
3BD/3BA
650-208-2287

4121 Orchard Court
Saratoga 2:00-4:00
3BD/2BA
650-208-2287

4135 Orchard Court
Saratoga 2:00-4:00
3BD/2BA
650-208-2287

1585 Edgewood Drive
Saratoga 2:00-4:00
Compass
$8,250,000
3BD/3BA
650-740-8424

Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T).
Agents: submit open homes at AlmanacNews.com/real_estate
school year, but his vaccination makes him feel a bit safer. (The California Department of Public Health no longer recommends physical distancing in schools, so students no longer need to be spaced apart in classrooms or outside on playgrounds.)

“I’m slightly worried,” he said of catching COVID-19. He’s also acclimating to being around larger groups of people.

Some students opted to continue in the district’s Virtual Academy for the 2021-22 school year.

Assistant Vice Principal Danielle O’Brien said students are “willing to do anything it takes” to be able to remain on campus, so administrators haven’t had to give students too many reminders to keep their masks on. They relish the sense of normalcy that comes from returning to school.

Principal Willy Haug said students are “so excited” to see one another, recalling hearing one student tell another: “I haven’t seen you since fifth grade!”

Superintendent Erik Burmeister echoed the enthusiasm on the first day of school.

“We are thrilled to be open today for full-time, in-person school for everyone,” he said in an email. “It’s been two years since we had a ‘normal’ first day, and the excitement is palpable. This is a remarkable community that can do really hard things together, like being the first to open last year and staying safe all year. We look forward to another year of engagement and learning together."

Also on Aug. 19 in Atherton, Gail Mohr walked her 5-year-old daughter Lila to her first day of kindergarten at Laurel School’s Lower Campus. It was a milestone for Mohr, as Lila is the youngest of her three children and last to start school.

“It was exciting, she was really ready and excited to go,” Mohr said last week. “It felt good to be back and for her to be starting kindergarten with the school opened. There’s relief that she will have a normal experience of being back in the classroom.”

Last school year, kindergartners were on campus, but on a part-time basis, with half the students attending in the morning and half in the afternoon.

Mohr said she plans to have her children tested for COVID-19 regularly, about every other week, to make sure her family isn’t bringing the virus to campus. She pays extra attention to any sniffles these days, she said.

Teresa Brewer’s son Hayden attended the district’s Early Learning Center preschool virtually last year because they live

**REOPENING**

cont’d from page 5

with her 86-year-old mother and were extra cautious before they were vaccinated. He started kindergarten at Laurel in person last week and was curious and excited about his first day of in-person learning.

“I was really overwhelmed with how everyone at Laurel went out of their way to make a day that was really not normal feel as normal as possible for all of the children,” Brewer said. “Everyone has trepidation. ... It’s an unprecedented, unimaginable challenge of trying to make an education system work in a pandemic. The staff all just exude this confidence and positivity; it helps to feed the kids. They’re in a good place where they can learn.”

County quarantining procedures, changes from last school year

Last school year, district students who tested positive for COVID-19 would need to quarantine at home for two weeks, as would their classmates. This year’s County Office of Education guidelines upend that with a less restrictive policy.

If a student tests positive for the virus, the Menlo Park City School District (MPCSD) nurse will work with the student’s family to identify close contacts — interactions within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes with someone who is positive for COVID-19. The isolation period for a positive case is 10 days from symptom onset or test date, if asymptomatic, according to the district’s 2021 safety plan.

No cases of the virus were reported to the district last week, according to the district’s COVID data dashboard. One has been reported this week.

Teachers must maintain “desk maps” and students are expected to sit in the same seat each day, according to the district plan. This will help when the district does contact tracing following a positive case. Parents will be notified via letter if their child may have been in close contact with someone who tests positive, or if there is a positive case at their child’s school.

Close contacts of positive cases are allowed to continue attending school as long as both parties were masked, but they are expected to stay away from extracurricular activities, such as sports.

“It is crucial that MPCSD maintains its indoor masking policy in order to follow these new quarantine guidelines, and that families follow the recommendations to quarantine from extracurricular activities,” the plan states. “We want your children to be able to attend school in person as much as possible, and consistent mask wearing both indoors and outdoors will make that possible.”

For now, MPCSD does not require students or staff to don masks outdoors, but highly encourages it. The school board was scheduled to consider a resolution to require masking for students and staff outdoors when within 6 feet of others at its Aug. 26 meeting.

Woodside Elementary

Students in the TK-8 Woodside Elementary School District were among the few who returned to campus full time during the 2020-21 school year. Only 15 students completed last school year remotely, according to Superintendent Steve Frank, and no students have chosen to enroll in independent study this school year.

“While we have accomplished much in the face of this pandemic, we also know that we are not fully back to normal,” he noted in the district’s return to school plan. “Risk is a part of our lives in ways we never anticipated, but now cannot avoid. Approaching that risk with caution and a learner’s mindset sets Woodside School up to design a new reality that includes keeping children in school. Please don’t underestimate the impacts of COVID. When you follow the health and safety protocols, you are not just keeping yourself or your family safe, you are keeping everyone safe.”

The district hasn’t reported any cases, but noted that there were two positive cases among students or staff members before the first day of school.

He told parents in an Aug. 13 email that this school year will be challenging, and while masks are still required, “many other restrictions will cease.”

There are no more cohorts, students can play together at recess and lunch, and the school bell schedules returned to pre-pandemic conditions, he said. “With the exception of masking and potential contact tracing, the school year should feel close to normal.”

The district will offer weekly pooled COVID-19 testing to 10% of its students using Concentric in Menlo Park.

When a classroom “pool” tests positive, everyone in it will immediately be given an antigen test to single out the positive cases.

The district has a designated isolation room on campus for students and staff who exhibit virus-related symptoms, or who have tested positive for COVID-19.

**Students at Hillview Middle School** chat with friends during recess on the first day of the new school year in Menlo Park on Aug. 19.

**Seventh graders Zoe Deb (left) and Sonia Higgins chat with a friend during recess on the first day back of the new school year at Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park on Aug. 19.**

**Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.**
To restore California’s ecosystems, we must adopt smarter permitting

By Letitia Grenier and Jeffrey Mount/CalMatters

California’s ecosystems underpin the state’s economy: They nurture and protect the state’s water supply, shorelines, agriculture, fisheries and wildlife. But many of these ecosystems are in dire health, and climate change is now accelerating the loss of biodiversity already underway. Ecosystem degradation is having ripple effects across the state. Severe problems with water supply, dwindling populations of native wildlife, and the critical need to better manage and store carbon require urgent and large-scale action.

There is a solution: The state enjoys a vibrant, growing restoration movement that has seen some tremendous successes. For instance, when a coalition of state, federal and private agencies acquired more than 15,000 acres of commercial salt ponds in the southern end of San Francisco Bay in 2003, the land was largely barren. Some 18 years later, the salt marshes of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project are home to a community of wildlife, including at least two endangered species — the salt marsh harvest mouse and Ridgway’s Rail. These iconic creatures, found only in San Francisco Bay, returned to the marshes quickly after restoration, and the restored areas are now sequestering carbon, protecting the shoreline and providing access to nature and recreation in the heart of the Bay Area.

Other actions are showing promise, too. Gov. Gavin Newsom’s “30 by 30” executive order aims to conserve 30% of California’s land and waters by 2030, and the measure enjoys broad bipartisan support. Simi- larly, the Cutting the Green Tape initiative aims to improve coordination and partnerships to facilitate ecological restoration. However, too many restoration efforts still face costly, arduous permitting processes that delay projects — or scuttle them altogether. They’re subject to, ironically, the very forces of scientific knowledge, that delay projects — or scuttle restoration efforts still face costly, time-consuming permitting process and embrace smarter permitting for restoration.

What is smarter permitting?

In our new report, we researched restoration case studies and innovative permitting approaches across California. We found that successful smarter permitting efforts typically achieve better outcomes in a few key ways: by shortening the timelines, lowering costs, increasing the extent of restoration and promoting better ecological outcomes.

We also observed some important patterns. Successful programs used at least one, and sometimes all, of the following approaches. First, they coordinated across similar projects with programmatic permitting. Second, they coordinated within and among regulatory agencies to promote a culture of teamwork and improve the working relationships with permittees. Third, they advanced permitting to restore key ecosystem functions — which meant planning over a larger geographic area than most individual restoration projects.

Who can enact smarter permitting?

Smarter permitting does demand a major culture change at many agencies. It will take strong leadership to build a culture of trust that allows agency staff to take chances and try new things. But our study shows that a few changes can yield major benefits. This includes unblocking challenging permitting processes by coordinating restoration at an ecosystem scale, so that objectives can be traded off in different locations. And bringing all parties together earlier in the process, with a common focus of scientific knowledge, helps foster collaborative problem-solving and builds trust from the start. Restoration proponents have a huge role to play: Nearly every successful smarter permitting innovation we studied started out as a grassroots endeavor. Nonprofit organizations, government agencies and water users all wield more power than they know.

It truly is a time to get all hands on deck. The sooner these permitting changes are enacted, the sooner we can help California’s struggling ecosystems — and the people and wildlife they support — grapple with a climate that’s changing faster than we’d like. Letitia Grenier, program director at the San Francisco Estuary Institute, was the 2020 PPIC CalTrout Ecosystem Fellow with the Public Policy Institute of California, letitia@fsiei.org. Jeffrey Mount is a senior fellow at PPIC’s Water Policy Center, mount@ppic.org. This piece was first published by CalMatters, a nonprofit journalistic venture that works with media partners throughout the state, including The Almanac.

Viewpoint
IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

Guest Opinion

Now hindering work to expand restoration.

Obtaining permits for a restoration project typically involves many agencies — local, regional, state and federal — each with their own language, requirements, timeline and procedures.

So how can we ramp up eco-

system restoration to stop and even reverse the loss of crucial ecosystem functions? The state must first address the costly, time-consuming permitting process and embrace smarter permitting for restoration.

Going gas-free

The city of Menlo Park wants to eliminate gas appliances, which we agree is a good idea for our climate (“How to go gas-free? Two new reports lay out paths to cut gas power from buildings,” Aug. 13). However, we suffered 33 hours of no electricity over three days in a 10-day period of planned outages by PG&E! If we did not have a gas stove, we would not have had any hot food for those three days.

We would go along with the elimination of gas appliances if we could rely on PG&E to guarantee not to turn off our power or have reliable power all the time!

Barbara Zunis
Trinity Drive, Menlo Park

Public Notices
The Almanac offers advertising for Home Services, Business Services and Employment.

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email digitalads@paweekly.com.

985 Fictitious Name Statement

COLLEGE DECRIPTED

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

College Decrypted, located at 17 Parker Ave., Atherton, CA 94027, San Mateo County

Registered owner(s):

METSIS BIODUCATING 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 January 1, 2021.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 26, 2021.

(ALM Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2021)

GARAGE DOOR REPAIR PROS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 288634

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Garage Door Repair Pros, located at 906 Tinsley St., East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County

Registered owner(s):

DUCK CLEANING, LLC

906 Tinsley St.

East Palo Alto, CA 94303

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 19, 2021.

(ALM Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2021)

DISCOVER AL FRESCO

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 288385

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Discover Al Fresco, located at 176 Tallow Drive, Daly City, CA 94014, San Mateo County

Registered owner(s):

SEAN JOSEPH MANGUBAT REYES

176 Tallow Drive

Daly City, CA 94014

Francesca Reyes

176 Tallow Drive

Daly City, CA 94014

This business is conducted by: Married Couple

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 May 4, 2021.

(ALM Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2021)

AA PAINTING

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 284443

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

AA Painting, located at 1327 Henderson Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County

Registered owner(s):

ALEJANDRO ARQUELO

1327 Henderson Ave.

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 9, 2021.

(ALM Aug. 13, 20, 27, Sep. 3, 2021)

NARINDR EPA ADVOCATES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 288492

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

Narinder EPA Advocates, located at 1364 Senior Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County

Registered owner(s):

JUANITA LOUISE CROFT

1364 Senior Avenue

Menlo Park, CA 94025

VULNDEELE I. WROBOG

2776 Hunter Street

East Palo Alto, CA 94303

This business is conducted by: An Unincorporated Association Other than a Partnership

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, Sep. 3, 2021)

PELLARM ENTERPRISES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 288512

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

Pellarm Enterprises, located at 1520 Main Street, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County

Registered owner(s):

ARRON PELLARM

1520 Main Street

Redwood City, CA 94063

CLEO PELLARM

1520 Main Street

Redwood City, CA 94063

ALICE PELLARM

1520 Main Street

Redwood City, CA 94063

This business is conducted by: A General Partnership

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/25/1985.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 9, 2021.

(ALM Aug. 20, 27, Sep. 3, 2021)
**A VIRTUAL RETURN**

In person or online — why not both? Arts groups offer full schedules and multiple viewing options this fall.

By Karla Kane and Heather Zimmerman

Fall 2021 may not be unfolding as we all expected just a few heady months ago, but local arts groups have ensured that the return of music, theater and art to our lives has not been delayed, even if a full reopening has.

Building on the experience of nearly 18 months of shifting restrictions, many groups are navigating a still-changing landscape by adapting how they reach audiences, both where we have been for a year and a half — online — and welcoming us back to their spaces, in person, with some precautions in place.

Below are some highlights of the coming season. Check the website and call before you go: Some venues now require proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test for in-person attendance, and due to changing public health restrictions, events may be canceled or delayed with short notice.

For continuing coverage, check AlmanacNews.com/art, subscribe to our Week-end Express email (sign up at AlmanacNews.com/express) and browse event listings (or submit your own) at AlmanacNews.com/calendar.

### Performing Arts Organizations

**In the spotlight:** After multiple postponements, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley plans to make its long-awaited return to live, in-person performances with the indie-rock musical “Lizard Boy,” by Justin Huertas (who’s also in the cast, along with Kirsten “Kiki” deLohr Helland and William A. Williams), running Oct. 6-31 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. “The fast-moving plot recounts the mysterious event that changed Trevor’s life forever, launching him into a life-long search for identity and acceptance,” according to TheatreWorks’ website. Selections from the comic-book influenced show were first performed for local audiences at TheatreWorks’ New Works Festival Online in the spring. More information, including on health and safety plans, is available at theatreworks.org.

**Club Fox at the Fox Theatre:** Zeppelin Live (Aug. 28); The Cheeseballs (Sept. 4); The Sun Kings - A Beatles Tribute (Sept. 10); Mustache Harbor (Sept. 11); Kulawi — Native Lands (Sept. 17); Back to Roxann (Sept. 18); Neon Velvet (Sept. 25). clubfoxrwc.com.

**Community School of Music and Arts:** Peter & Will Anderson — Charlie Parker Celebration (Aug. 28); A Salsa-cional Saturday with El Grupo Sinigual (Sept. 25). Both shows presented via livestream and in person; arts4all.org/events.

**Dragon Productions Theater Company:** “Thee Anna” (September); dragonproductions.net.

**Los Altos Stage Company:** “Tiny Beautiful Things” (Sept. 9-Oct. 3); losaltostage.org.

**Palo Alto Philharmonic:** Baroque Concert (Sept. 11); “Epic Renewals” (Oct. 23); Fall Chamber Concert (Nov. 6); paphil.org.

**Palo Alto Players:** “Aren’t You...?” (through Sept. 5) offered online and in person, “Working” (Sept. 17-Oct. 3), “The Revolutionaries” (Nov. 5-21); pplayers.org.

**The Pear Theatre:** “Mothers of the Bride” (through Sept. 12) offered online and in person, “Eight Nights” and “The Thanksgiving Play” (in repertory, Nov. 19-Dec. 12); thepear.org.

**Peninsula Symphony:** Beethoven & Rhapsody in Blue with Jon Kimura Parker (Oct. 29-30); All-Brahms program with Stanford Symphonic Chorus (Nov. 19-20); peninsulasymphony.org.


**Stanford Live:** iskwē (Sept. 29-30), “A Thousand Thoughts” (Oct. 6), Dropkick Murphys and Rancid (Oct. 7). Derek Gripper and Yacouba Sissoko (Oct. 8), Anjuna Family Reunion Tour (Oct. 8-9), Christian Scott aTunde Adjah (Oct. 9), The St. Lawrence String Quartet (Oct. 10), “Fandango at the Wall” (Oct. 13), Joe Russo’s Almost Dead (Oct. 23), Mac DeMarco (Oct. 24), “The War of the Worlds” (Oct. 28-29), Quinteto Astor Piazzolla (Nov. 4), “Queer Horror Gravest Hits” (Nov. 5), “Carla Rossi Does Drag” (Nov. 6), National Geographic Live (Nov. 10), William Prince (Nov. 11), Jaz Sawyer (Nov. 12-13) and Vienna Boys Choir (Nov. 29); live.stanford.edu.

**Redwood Symphony:** “Undistant” (Sept. 25); “Rendering Glass” (Nov. 20); redwoodsymphony.org.


**United Nations Association Film Festival:** (Oct. 21-31); unaff.org.

**Museums and Galleries**

In the spotlight: The Palo Alto Art Center’s fall show, “The Art of Disability Culture: Artists with disabilities dispelling myths, dissolving barriers and disrupting prejudice,” opening Sept. 11, is a celebration of disability experience — personal and “infinitely varied,” as the show’s description...
Smuin Contemporary Ballet company artists dance in “Stabat Mater,” a performance in commemoration of the 20-year anniversary of 9/11. “Stabat Mater” will stream online Sept. 9-13 as part of the “Limelight Michael Smuin: A Virtual Series” presented online this fall by the company.

Note: The Anderson’s building is closed until Sept. 23 for the installation of new exhibitions, but outdoor installations on the grounds are open.

The “Marmor Collection: Frank Stella and Claes Oldenburg” (through Nov. 28) “Paper Chase: Ten Years of Collecting Prints, Drawings, and Photographs at the Cantor” (Sept. 29-Jan. 30); “Art/Object: Contemporary Works Between Mediums” (Oct. 18-31) in person at Stanford University’s Cantor Arts Center. museum.stanford.edu.

“Exploring Beauty: Watercolour Diaries from the Wild” (ongoing); “Sacred Places: Watercolour Diaries from the American Southwest” (ongoing); “Retrospective Exhibition: The Art of Tony Foster” (ongoing) at The Foster. Virtual tours available on The Foster’s YouTube channel. thefoster.org.

Paintings and drawings by Joseph Fuchs (through Aug. 29); new works and acrylics by Jan Meyer (September 2021); alcohol ink and watercolor by Maria Pazos (October 2021); oil paintings by Gene Zukowsky (November 2021); works by Ayelet Gal-on (December 2021) at Gallery 9. gallery9alostudios.com.

“Some Like It Hot” group show (through Aug. 29); monthly group shows by members at Gallery House. Also viewable online. galleryhouseart.com.


Kings Mountain Art Fair (Sept. 4-6) held online for 2021. kingsmountainartfair.org.

“The Photography of J. Gilbert Smith” (through Sept. 19); “Gold Fever!” (through Aug. 29); “Annie Knappy Fitz Paints” (Sept. 9-6 Feb. 13) at the Los Altos History Museum. losaltoshistory.org.

100th Anniversary Exhibition (Nov. 5-3 Jan. 20) online and in person at Pacific Art League. pacificartleague.org.

Palo Alto Clay & Glass Festival (Sept. 11-12) at the Palo Alto Art Center. acga.net.

“Recent Acquisitions” (through Aug. 29); Don Scott MacDonald (September 2021); Fernando Reyes (October 2021); Danielle Eubank (November 2021) in-person exhibitions at Pamela Walsh Gallery. pemalwalshallgallery.com.

“Interfaced” textile works by Josh Faught, Terri Friedman, Robert Kushner, Hung Liu, Kiki Smith, William Wiley, Xiaoxe Xie (through Oct. 1) at Qualia Contemporary Art. also viewable online. Qualiacontemporaryart.com.

Silicon Valley Sculpture 2021 Sculpture festival (Sept. 23-26) at Menlo College. siliconvalleysculpture.com.

“Summer Days” group show (through Aug. 29); Veronica Gross (September 2021); Maura Carta (October 2021); Patricia Accorinti & Vered Binyamin (November 2021); Julia Seelos (December 2021) in-person exhibits at Viewpoints Gallery. viewpointsgallery.com.
Be it sweet, savory, spicy or sour (or a combination of the above), Cibele’s Ice Cream caters to just about any little craving you might have. The team brings flavors from their Mexican hometowns to Menlo Park — “with a little bit of twist.”

“We had our traditional corn made with mayo, cheese and chile, but recently the kids have been adding Hot Cheetos on top,” said Selene Garcia. “We've tried to keep the tradition, but we want to hear what our customers would like to try.”

It was a slow start at first, Garcia said. “It was a bit crazy, the pandemic was still going. We were like, ‘Is this going to work?’”

But with Garcia taking on social media and the lure of delicious treats fit for summer, customers began to find their way to them. “During the hot months, it’s been a strong time for us.”

It's the first foray into the restaurant business for both Garcia and Peòa. Peòa previously worked at a grocery store and is now responsible for Cibele's financials. Garcia recently graduated from school and worked as a nurse assistant. Now she focuses on Cibele’s presentation, decoration, contracts, permitting and distributor relationships.

Ice creams have been especially popular during the warm summer months, Garcia said, but fresas con crema (strawberries with cream) is another specialty. There are also beautiful botanas with a mix of fresh cut fruit in a pineapple or watermelon, served with tangy chamoy sauce, crisp bites of jicama and a dash of spice. Hot crepes, fresh fruit juice and creamy banana splits are also available.

The Menlo Park shop offers a taste of what’s to come. Garcia said they hope to open other locations on the Peninsula. “We're just starting, so everything is very small, but we have a very big image in mind,” Garcia said. “Literally, from scratch paper, it came to something real — an actual place.”

Cibele’s Ice Cream, 1199 Willow Road, Menlo Park; (650) 561-3225, Instagram: @cibelesicecream

By Sara Hayden

Snack on antojitos: Elote con queso, fresas con crema and more

By Sara Hayden

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.
Grab a front row seat to local high school sports

**PENINSULA PREPS PLAYBOOK**

We’re launching a new newsletter, the Playbook, that will give you an in-depth look at what’s going on in prep sports.

Every Monday and Thursday veteran sports writers Rick Eymer and Glenn Reeves email you exclusive insights into:

- Season and game previews that tell you what to look for and what’s at stake
- Profiles of interesting coaches and athletes
- Post-game analysis
- Entertaining features
- Local sports trends

Sign up now at almanacnews.com/express/sports/
5 ACRES JUST 1 MILE FROM WOODSIDE TOWN CENTER
$27,000,000

Main home built with hand crafted features from Austrian artisans
4 bed, 3.5 bath, office, gym, media room | Pool with waterfall | Zoned for 10 horses
Two barns, one with a caretaker's cottage | Year round arena | Extensive organic orchard & gardens | Solar-powered energy with backup generator | Woodside school (K-8)

Additional images and property information available at 3500Woodside.com

RANKED #1 COMPASS SMALL TEAM IN CALIFORNIA and #5 SMALL TEAM IN THE NATION, PER The Real Trends Report, JUNE 2021.