

The Almanac

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JUNE 19, 2020 | VOL. 55 NO. 31



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Widespread protests shift to target local demands

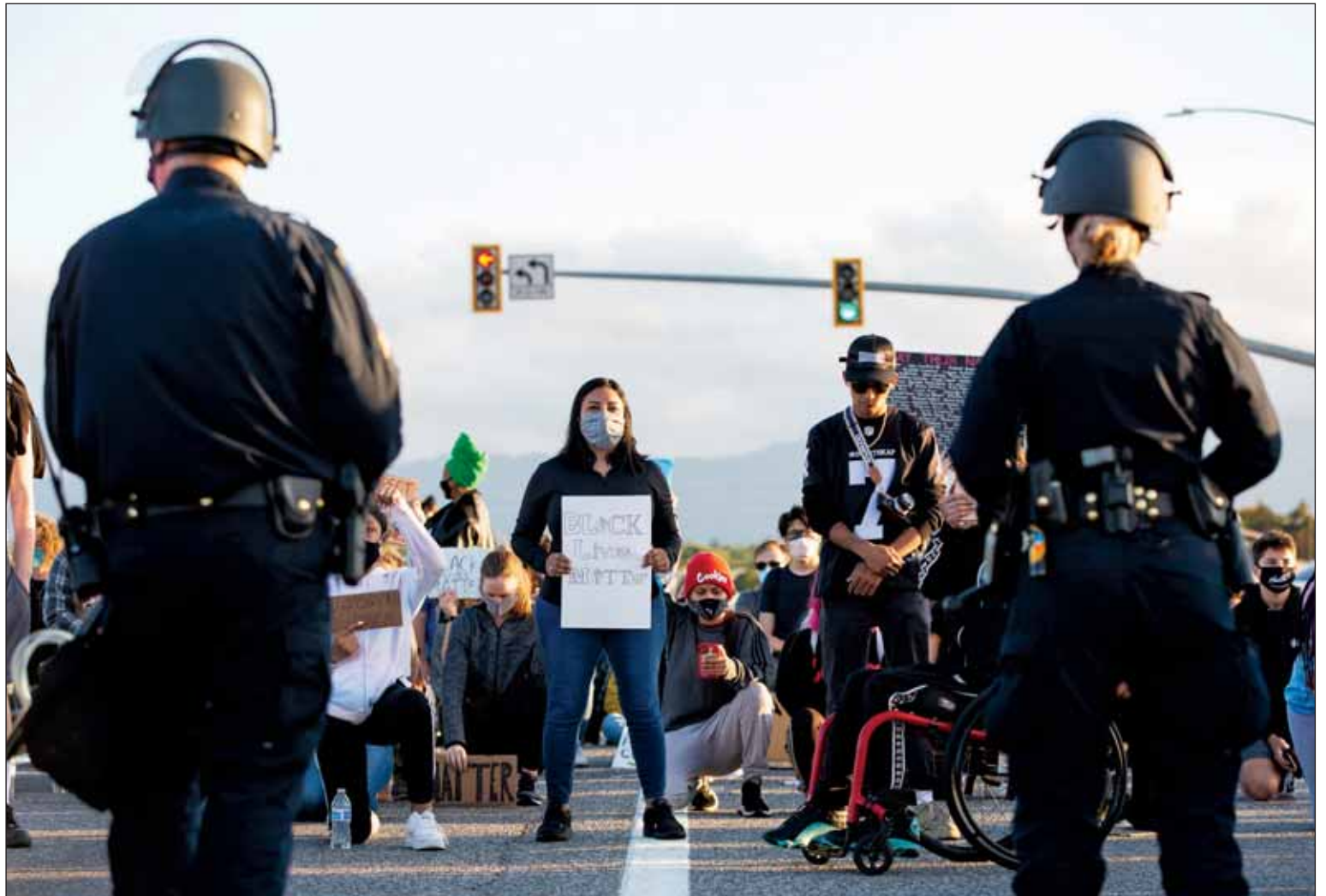
By Kate Bradshaw and Jamey Padojino

Protests throughout the Peninsula have proliferated this month. Starting with a protest against police violence and in support of the Black Lives Matter movement on June 1, they've continued, with hundreds rallying to call for police reform.

The most recent protests have surfaced local demands, with a June 12 protest calling on Facebook to stop funding the Menlo Park Police Department and Amazon to halt contracts with police departments, prisons, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the American military. A June 16 protest called on the city of Menlo Park to continue to fund services in its Belle Haven neighborhood at the Onetta Harris Community Center and the Menlo Park Senior Center.

Another Black Lives Matter protest was held on June 11, where about 250 demonstrators first gathered in downtown Palo Alto and marched to Menlo Park to oppose police violence, including the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

At the June 12 protest,



Magali Gauthier

Protesters share a moment of silence across from California Highway Patrol officers while blocking traffic at the intersection of Bayfront Expressway and University Avenue during a June 12 protest.

See **PROTEST**, page 16

Menlo Park council OKs partial Santa Cruz Avenue closure so restaurants, shops can spread out

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

As soon as next week, three blocks of Menlo Park's primary downtown thoroughfare, Santa Cruz Avenue, will be closed to allow restaurants and shops to spill onto the street.

The Menlo Park City Council signaled wide support Tuesday

night, June 16, for a plan vetted by the city's Chamber of Commerce to close down several blocks of Santa Cruz Avenue — a cluster where a majority of the street's restaurants are located — to allow downtown restaurants greater opportunities to offer outdoor dining and shops the ability to showcase their wares outdoors to enable more social distancing among customers.

The council also voted to streamline the process for other restaurants across the city to offer dining in outdoor areas usually used for parking. Typically, it takes 90 days for businesses to receive an outdoor dining permit, according to the city's management analyst, John Passmann.

The three blocks of Santa Cruz Avenue set for closure, in the

area between University Drive to El Camino Real, are from Evelyn Street to southbound Crane Street, from northbound Crane Street to southbound Chestnut Street and from Curtis Street to Doyle Street.

The Chamber of Commerce developed the plan to allow for good vehicle, bike and pedestrian circulation, said Fran Dehn, the chamber president and CEO

in an email to the city. Restaurants that already have outdoor dining space will be allowed to expand into adjoining spaces, and those without it can have the new opportunity to offer outdoor dining, she said.

"It is so important we send this lifeline to our businesses," she added.

See **SANTA CRUZ AVE**, page 19

INSIDE

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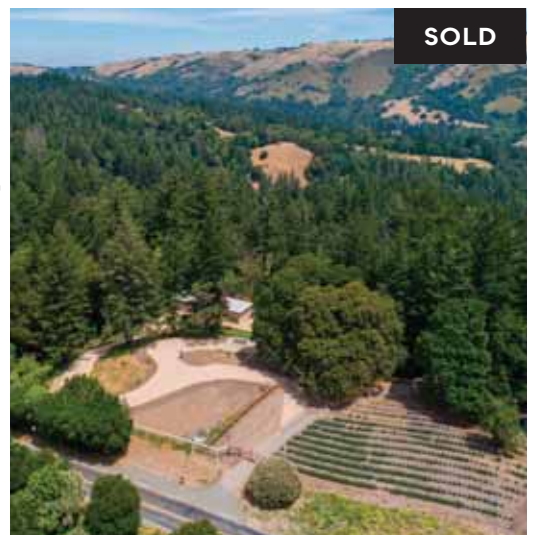
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to the Top Real Estate Agents & Teams

in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties 2019

Ranking	Agent/Team Name	Brokerage	Organized as Agent or Team	Key Team Members	Total Sales*	Listing Sales	Buyer Sales
1	DeLeon Team	DeLeon Realty, Inc.	Team	Ken DeLeon Michael Repka	\$811,146,401	\$434,887,401	\$376,259,000
2	Stanley Lo	Green Banker Realty	Agent	Stanley Lo	\$313,987,178	\$213,720,178	\$100,267,000
3	David Troyer	Intero Real Estate Services	Agent	David Troyer	\$208,460,828	\$193,079,380	\$15,381,448
4	Judy Citron	Compass	Agent	Judy Citron	\$203,714,900	\$111,222,200	\$92,492,700
5	Mary & Brent Gullixson	Compass	Team	Mary Gullixson Brent Gullixson	\$192,910,000	\$137,010,000	\$55,900,000
6	Andy Tse	Intero Real Estate Services	Agent	Andy Tse	\$184,183,716	\$133,268,216	\$50,915,500
7	David Lillo	DPL Real Estate	Agent	David Lillo	\$158,687,788	\$136,596,288	\$22,091,500
8	Billy McNair	Compass	Agent	Billy McNair	\$156,072,000	\$90,242,000	\$65,830,000
9	The Patty Dwyer Group	Compass	Team	Patty Dwyer	\$133,016,500	\$79,211,500	\$53,805,000
10	Keri Nicholas	Parc Agency Corporation	Agent	Keri Nicholas	\$120,052,700	\$81,107,700	\$38,945,000
11	The Hanna Group	Real Estate 38	Team	Zaid Hanna	\$117,255,116	\$45,843,116	\$71,412,000
12	Boyenga Team	Compass	Team	Eric Boyenga Janelle Boyenga	\$114,778,950	\$66,266,450	\$48,512,500
13	Kathy Bridgman	Compass	Agent	Kathy Bridgman	\$113,376,555	\$97,966,555	\$15,410,000
14	Recip. Team [†]	Out of Area Office	Team	Not Applicable	\$108,660,945	\$17,680,000	\$90,980,945
15	Juliana Lee	JLee Realty	Agent	Juliana Lee	\$101,509,488	\$31,343,600	\$70,165,888
16	Jim Arbeed	Coldwell Banker Realty	Agent	Jim Arbeed	\$99,692,276	\$75,112,388	\$24,579,888
17	Sternsmith Group	Compass	Agent	Casey Sternsmith	\$99,409,000	\$53,298,000	\$46,111,000
18	LeMieux Associates [‡]	Compass	Team	Tom LeMieux Jennifer Bitter	\$99,328,000	\$74,923,000	\$24,405,000
19	Len Stone Group	KW Peninsula Estates	Team	Len Stone	\$99,170,500	\$60,761,500	\$38,409,000
20	Dave Clark	Keller Williams Realty - Silicon Valley	Agent	Dave Clark Troy Bambino	\$97,507,500	\$94,107,500	\$3,400,000

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Magali Gauthier

Barbershops, hair salons and gyms can reopen in San Mateo County under a new shelter-at-home order issued Wednesday.

County gets green light from state to open more businesses and activities

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

Effective immediately, a wide range of businesses and activities in San Mateo County are allowed to reopen, according to a June 17 announcement from the county.

Group gatherings are now limited to no more than 50 people with social distancing and face coverings, and people from multiple households are allowed to interact in “social bubbles” of 12 or fewer people.

The following types of business and services can now reopen, so long as they follow health and safety plans: dine-in restaurants, hair salons and barbershops, casinos, family entertainment centers, wineries, bars, zoos, museums, gyms, fitness centers, hotels (for tourism and individual travel), card rooms, racetracks, campgrounds and outdoor recreation areas.

In addition, personal service businesses like nail salons, body waxing and tattoo parlors

may create safety plans and resume operations starting June 19.

Face coverings are still required inside or in line to enter businesses like grocery stores, laundromats, hospitals, clinics, testing locations, dentists, veterinary care sites and public transit or ride share services. They are recommended but not required for outdoor recreation when one can maintain 6 feet of space from others,

See **REOPENING**, page 19

County surpasses 2,600 COVID-19 cases

By **Embarcadero Media staff**

San Mateo County on Tuesday reported 28 new cases of COVID-19 for a total to 2,653. No more people have died of the disease, holding the death toll to 99.

In nearly a week, the number of people hospitalized with confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 has gone down by 50%. Forty-four patients were hospitalized on June 9. Six days later, on June 15, that number went down to 22.

Also, the county recently added residents ages 9 years old or younger to its chart of cases by age group. As of June 16, this group had 101 cases, the second-lowest total across all age groups. Residents ages 90 and older had 83 cases, the lowest total across all age groups, as of Tuesday.

Santa Clara County reported 28 new cases of the coronavirus on Tuesday, bringing its total to 3,254.

The county's number of deaths has stayed at 151 since Sunday. Forty-nine people are hospitalized.

Palo Alto's Channing House and Bridge Point Los Altos are among the eight long-term care facilities found with the coronavirus over the past 14 days. The two local facilities each reported fewer than 11 cases in residents and fewer than 11 cases among staff members as of June 16. Channing House, which also appeared on the same list last week, confirmed at least one

case in a staff member over the past seven days.

COVID-19 numbers stabilize

As California counties collectively move further into reopening businesses and public spaces, the positivity rate of COVID-19 cases and the number of hospitalizations remain stable, Gov. Gavin Newsom said at a Monday press conference.

The positivity rate has remained at around 4.5% over the past 14 days even as the state approaches its testing capacity goal of 60,000 tests per day. The number of hospitalizations and patients admitted to the intensive care unit has stayed relatively flat, Newsom said. However, the rate is still an indication that the virus remains at large.

Cases continue to rise with 2,597 new ones identified across the state on Monday — a 1.7% increase since Sunday — and deaths have increased by 0.5%, with 26 new deaths recorded during the same time span, according to state data.

Newsom said an increase of cases is expected as stay-at-home restrictions are loosened. In the meantime, the state continues to bolster its inventory of personal protective equipment and hospital beds. So far, the state has acquired 73,867 hospital beds and 175.5 million surgical masks, said Newsom.

In addition, 2,243 contact tracers have been trained and

See **COVID-19**, page 18

'It's a moral imperative that we address it'

Portola Valley council discusses racism, policing in wake of killing of George Floyd

By **Julia Brown**
Almanac Assistant Editor

The town of Portola Valley will begin engaging the community about police reform and racial inequality following a Town Council discussion June 10 on the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer and subsequent protests against police brutality.

The council created a subcommittee, made up of Vice Mayor Maryann Derwin and Councilman John Richards, to start a dialogue with residents and the San Mateo County Sheriff's



Jeff Aalfs



Don Horsley

Office about police reform in Portola Valley and other cities that have contracts with the Sheriff's Office for police services. The council members will also request Sheriff's Office data on interactions between its

deputies and people they pull over, including information on race.

“There's no question in my mind there is institutional racism,” Mayor Jeff Aalfs said during the meeting. “It is pervasive, it is corrosive, and I think it's a moral imperative that we address it in some way. We're an affluent community, mostly white, but I think that actually puts us in a position where I feel a certain responsibility to take some of this on.”

At the outset of the discussion, Derwin acknowledged that the

town is “90% white” and talked about previous housing policies that contributed to the lack of diversity.

“When my former husband and I bought our house in 1992 in Westridge, we received the original 1947 CC&Rs (covenants, conditions and restrictions),” Derwin said. “I never read them until many years later and I was absolutely horrified to discover this document contained a restrictive covenant preventing non-Caucasians from buying houses in the subdivision.

“This ugly legacy and our zoning ordinance and housing policies, which have resulted in preserving this paradise we live in, have also been successful in keeping working class and now even middle-class families — and by extension people of color — out of most of our neighborhoods,” she said. “Is it time to connect the dots between this gorgeous place we live — 1,700 households and 9 square miles of land — and the lack of economic and racial diversity in

See **COUNCIL**, page 14



NOTICE INVITING BIDS

TOWN OF ATHERTON, CA

The Town of Atherton will accept bids for construction of the following public work:

2020 SLURRY SEAL PROJECT

Remove existing ADA ramp and install Caltrans standard ADA ramp with truncated dome (concrete inset). Perform installation of Type II micro-surfacing per Town specifications on the listed streets, which includes notifications, traffic control, prep work, oil and chip installation, compaction, sweeping, and re-striping/pavement markings (as needed) with a 1-year guarantee.

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Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for 2020 SLURRY SEAL PROJECT", along with date and time of bid opening.

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High school district debates how to reopen campuses in the fall

Over 900 community members speak out on the issue in Board of Trustees public comment

By Tyler Callister

Almanac Staff Writer

The Sequoia Union High School District is still in wide-ranging discussions over reopening its schools in the fall, Superintendent Mary Streshly said in a June 12 letter.

All 11 district schools — which includes campuses in Menlo Park, Atherton, Woodside, Belmont, Redwood City, and East Palo Alto — have been closed to on-campus learning since mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Streshly's letter expressed her hope that schools would reopen in the fall, but did not provide conclusive details as to how they would reopen.

"As an educator, it is my foundational belief that students need to be in school," Streshly wrote. "At the same time, as we look to reopen in the fall, we are faced with restrictive health orders that are exceptionally difficult for high schools to implement."

Streshly said that the San Mateo County health officer orders for reopening schools amid the pandemic require students to be in "one stable cohort" — a proposition that's difficult, given that high schoolers typically take multiple classes.

In a meeting on June 10, the district's Board of Trustees discussed the school reopening issue after receiving an in-depth report from districtwide leaders. At the forefront of the discussion was what exactly school would look like: A mix of on-campus and online instruction (known as a "hybrid model"), or fully online instruction (known as "distance learning").

Over 900 community members submitted public comments before the meeting, and over 300 watched the Zoom-broadcast meeting online, with most comments addressing online versus on-campus learning.

Many commenters complained of difficulty learning through online instruction, saying it has been a challenge for both teachers and students. Others cited student mental health concerns stemming from social isolation.

"Our students need to get back to school," wrote Mark Federighi, a district parent. "They are at a significant disadvantage by having 100% distance learning and mentally, they need to be back at school. If you look around the globe and throughout the country, the schools are opening up."

Sarah McCaughey, who has children at Sequoia High School in Redwood City, opposed to distance learning. "Please, please consider the mental health of our students when deciding learning options this fall... while they did their part to flatten the curve by staying home for two months, it was at an academic cost," she wrote. "They need to interact with teachers and peers in person at least part of the time to stay engaged, healthy and learning."

District parent Karen Paluska complained that her son was having difficulty learning through online instruction. "Remote learning is not working," she wrote. "Our children's education, especially in high school, is way too important for

See **SCHOOLS**, page 9



Magali Gauthier

Menlo-Atherton High School and other Sequoia Union High School District schools have sat empty since mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic. The district is now discussing what learning may look like in the fall.

Woodside Middle School holds drive-in graduation for Class of 2020

By Heather Zimmerman

Woodside Middle School's Class of 2020 celebrated its graduation June 12 during a drive-in ceremony held on the school campus. Students arrived in vehicles with their families and then walked up, one at a time, to receive their diplomas from Woodside Elementary School District Superintendent Steve Frank and school board members.

Bells rang at Woodside Village Church to start the ceremony, and local firefighters gave the graduates a rousing send-off at the close of the event by sounding the sirens on their fire engines.

The drive-in graduation capped a week of activities creatively marking the students' promotion from eighth grade, including a local team-building company leading the students in online games and a drive-thru luncheon that was hosted by the



Courtesy Craig Adams

A graduate sits out the front passenger window of a car at the Woodside Middle School drive-in graduation ceremony on June 12.

school's seventh-grade families.

Some of the usual components of the school's traditional graduation ceremony, such as student speeches, award presentations and a slideshow

featuring photos of class members throughout their time at the K-8 school, were held online before the celebration.

"I'm really impressed with this group of students' resilience



Courtesy Craig Adams

Woodside Elementary School District Superintendent Steve Frank addresses the graduates at the Woodside Middle School drive-in ceremony.

and flexibility and positivity during this time. We know it wasn't the way that they imagined their eighth grade year wrapping up. But we're so happy that we got to go celebrate them

in really unique ways," said Jenn Pedersen, Woodside Middle School's new principal. ▣

Email Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@pawekly.com

Preschools, child care centers battling COVID-19 from the inside

By Tyler Callister

Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park preschool and child care centers have taken a hit since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, with many forced to close for regulatory or financial reasons. Now, as San Mateo County's shelter-in-place order loosens, the remaining preschools and child care centers are adapting to a new normal.

This was the message coming from a recent online panel discussion titled "COVID-19's Impact On Menlo Park and the Region's Childcare Resources," led by Menlo Park City Councilman Ray Mueller and featuring four local experts.

Dayna Chung, the executive director of Community Equity Collaborative, and Build Up San Mateo Director Christine Padilla spoke broadly about a lack of economic support and facilities for child care resources — made worse since the beginning of the shelter in place in mid-March.

"Inequities that were systemic in nature long before the crisis are simply being amplified," Chung said. "Because of the fact that we have not supported early childhood education collectively, as we should, it has had a huge impact on families. Three-quarters of mothers and even half of fathers have had to either leave the workforce or switch to a less demanding job in order to care for their children — and that was before COVID."

Padilla said that Build Up San Mateo is an initiative that advocates for more child care resources in the county. Before the pandemic, there was already a gap in providing child care due largely to a lack of facilities, and now many more have closed.

"We had so many sites that had to close, either because of mandates or because of difficult decisions they had to make for themselves," Padilla said. "Our huge concern now is will they be able to reopen?"

During the shelter in place, about 1 in 5 child care providers in California had suspended operations by May 1, according to data from the Department of Social Services.

Out of Menlo Park's 58 licensed child care providers, only six have remained open during the shelter in place, according to Toddle Preschool owner Heather Hopkins, who spoke during the discussion.

Cleaner, leaner child care

With the county's shelter-in-place order loosening, some child care centers and preschools are reopening — but with a much different look. Face masks for teachers, temperature checks at the door, and constant vigilance in disinfecting the facilities are becoming the norm.

HeadsUp Child Development Center owner Chuck Bernstein, who also spoke during the discussion, said that children step

on sanitary mats sprayed with Lysol in order to disinfect their shoes as they enter one of their facilities. The center has locations in Palo Alto, Pleasanton and San Jose.

In order to reduce contact, when parents drop kids off at a HeadsUp facility, parents no longer enter the building. Instead, parents drop kids at the front and teachers guide them inside.

There are also fewer children. Many parents have chosen not to take the risk of returning their kids to child care, and HeadsUp only has 60% of their normal enrollment, Bernstein said.

Bernstein and Hopkins both said that any staff or children who have symptoms that would suggest COVID-19 infection are asked to stay home.

Many preschools and child

care centers have also tried to work around the virus by offering online learning — with limited success.

Bernstein said that kids at his facilities have enjoyed small moments of online learning, such as an art show done through video chat, but that longer and deeper learning is a challenge.

See **PRESCHOOLS**, page 9



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Magali Gauthier

Menlo-Atherton High School Principal Simone Rick-Kennel, seen here at the school's 2019 graduation ceremony, has been named Principal of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators.

Education briefs

M-A leader named principal of the year

Menlo-Atherton High School Principal Simone Rick-Kennel has been named Principal of the Year for the 2019-20 school year by the Association of California School Administrators. Rick-Kennel was acknowledged at the Sequoia Union High School District's school board meeting on May 13 as an outstanding administrator for Region 5, which encompasses 25 districts in San Francisco and San Mateo counties.

According to a press release from the Sequoia district, Region 5 is considered competitive for such awards "due to its highly ranked schools and distinguished leaders."

Superintendent Mary E. Streshly spoke highly of Rick-Kennel in the press release. "During her tenure at Menlo-Atherton, Simone has always worked diligently to establish a clear vision, cultivate strong relationships, ensure inclusivity as part of M-A's core values, and support the development of both students and staff," she wrote.

"All of us that work closely with Simone know how much she loves her school community and how fortunate we are to have her leadership within our district," Streshly continued.

Rick-Kennel addressed the school board during the May 13 meeting, expressing her gratitude. "I'm honored and humbled by the recognition for the ACSA Secondary Principal of the Year award for Region 5," she said.

"Five years ago I was appointed principal of Menlo-Atherton and I remember standing behind the podium in the boardroom, very nervously, as I addressed the board and cabinet," she continued. "I had big shoes to fill and as my predecessor and mentor Matt Zito said, the song 'New York, New York' sums up a principalship at M-A: 'If I make it there, I'll make it anywhere.'"

Menlo College hires new arts and sciences dean

A longtime political science professor has been appointed as the new dean of arts and sciences at Menlo College in Atherton.

Professor Melissa R. Michelson, who has served in the college's political science department since 2010, will take on the deanship at the Menlo Park-based business school on July 6, according to a statement from the school.

Michelson is the author of six books, and a nationally recognized expert in Latinx and LGBTQ politics, as well as in how to increase voter turnout. She hails from Alameda and received her Ph.D. from Yale University.

"I am delighted that Professor Michelson has agreed to serve as our Dean of Arts and Sciences," said Steven Weiner, president of Menlo College. "She is an accomplished scholar and a proven academic leader. Her leadership of our Arts and Sciences programs will significantly enhance our efforts to increase the interdisciplinary nature of Menlo's academic offerings, building on the momentum that we have enjoyed in recent years thanks to the efforts of a great many members of our faculty, staff, and students."

In the school's statement, Michelson spoke broadly about the value of diversity and a liberal arts education.

"Arts and sciences classes help students to be more understanding of difference and diversity, more knowledgeable and thoughtful about local, national, and world events, more likely to read for pleasure, and more involved in their communities," she said. "I am excited to step into this new role and ensure that our liberal arts core will continue to prepare Menlo students to achieve their career and life goals."

—Tyler Callister

Menlo Park's StreetCode Academy steps up to close local digital divide

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Across San Mateo County, there are an estimated 9,000 households who don't have computers or connections to access the internet.

And nearly half of those households are black or Latinx, according to a press release from StreetCode Academy, a Menlo Park-based nonprofit that provides free community-based classes in coding, entrepreneurship and design to underserved communities of color in Silicon Valley.

In East Palo Alto, the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park, and North Fair Oaks in unincorporated San Mateo County, there are at least 2,500 households that don't have an adequate internet connection, if they have one at all, or a home computer, according to the nonprofit.

To help close the so-called digital divide locally, the academy recently launched a digital inclusion initiative it's calling the "Level Up Initiative."



Sammy Dallal

Luis Magana, 16, picks up a computer from Andy Pascual at Menlo-Atherton High School on March 19. Since schools have been closed, access to laptops and reliable internet service has become even more important for students to succeed in school.

It aims to raise \$2.5 million to provide 2,500 laptops, internet and free tech education to community members in need in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Redwood City. It's collecting money and laptop donations.

A little more than two weeks into the campaign, the nonprofit has raised about a quarter

of the needed funds, StreetCode Academy CEO Olatunde Sobomehin said in an interview.

Early supporters of the program include the Peery Foundation, Google.org, The Magic Beans, the Franklin & Catherine Johnson Foundation, Concrete Rose, and an anonymous funder.

"StreetCode Academy has been a phenomenal partner and advocate in driving engagement with technology for learners in East Palo Alto and neighboring communities," said East Palo Alto Mayor Regina Wallace-Jones in a statement. "I am encouraged by their aspiration to make technology resources and enrichment available to our residents and I am optimistic about our ability to partner with them to unlock the power of hope, will, triumph and resilience."

Sobomehin said he sees closing the digital divide as a critical part of the Black Lives Matter movement.

"The goal is not just surviving. You can't survive without tech. The goal is thriving," he said.

There are too many households right now without access to the devices and internet access they need to participate in schooling and society, he said.

But just ensuring everyone has a laptop and internet access shouldn't be the goal, he said.

That should be the floor, and the community should be striving for the ceiling instead, he said.

"I think what's even more inspiring is what the potential is when someone gets the tech that they need, what possibilities open up when you have the right tools, the right access," he said. "We don't know what kind of innovators, what kind of executives, what kind of founders, what kind of leaders are going to emerge from us putting the right tools in the right hands."

"In a moment when the inequity that faces black people is being spotlighted and highlighted to the whole world, every person should ask the question, 'How can we continue erasing this inequity? What job opening can I push toward overlooked black talent? What resources can I channel toward not just black life survival but black life thriving?'... Let's live up to the best Silicon Valley we can be."

Go to streetcode.us/give for more information. ■

SCHOOLS

continued from page 6

us to sacrifice an entire year to remote learning ... To learn the core content, kids were expected to watch videos and read things to essentially teach themselves. We know that our kids are not prepared to teach themselves subjects like Algebra 3 or chemistry — this is why we're sending them to school in the first place."

Following the meeting, district leaders have returned to the drawing board and plan to present a final recommendation to the board at its meeting Wednesday, June 24, according to Streshly's letter.

Streshly said that the board is "equally committed to having our students back in our classrooms in August and provided feedback on the proposals (from district leaders)."

"Although our district is working very hard to return students to in-classroom instruction, we will have to adhere to the orders established by the San Mateo County Public Health Department," she said in the letter. "For that reason, any decision that is ultimately made will be contingent on their directive." ■

Email Tyler Callister at tcallister@almanacnews.com

PRESCHOOLS

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"I think there are some good parts to it, but talking about several hours a day, I think that's problematic," he said.

Hopkins agreed. "Two- and 3-year-olds, their ability to focus on anything, especially on a screen, is limited," she said.

But Bernstein and Hopkins

both noted that during an online learning session, parents at home get to participate in ways that they wouldn't have before. "That's a great silver lining," Hopkins said.

"That parents can see the work of early childhood educators, and how valuable they are, as opposed to just dropping the kids off and going on their way." ■

Email Tyler Callister at tcallister@almanacnews.com

Crime brief

Teen pleads no contest to drive-by robbery

Last week, a 19-year-old from Menlo Park pleaded no contest to charges related to a February robbery of a senior citizen at a bus stop.

On Feb. 28, Lorenzo Kenthwan Spears drove a stolen 2017 Ford Explorer up to a 72-year-old woman sitting on a bench at a bus stop in Broadmoor, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

An unnamed juvenile accomplice then jumped out of the vehicle, grabbed the woman's purse and fled, according to prosecutors.

The woman chased the accomplice and grabbed the purse strap, but the juvenile got back into the car and Spears accelerated away, knocking the woman to the ground and

leaving her cut and bruised.

In fleeing the scene, Spears took a turn too fast and collided with another vehicle, injuring the driver of that car, according to prosecutors.

Spears, the juvenile accomplice and another person jumped out of the car and took off running.

Daly City and Broadmoor police officers set up a perimeter and caught Spears and the juvenile accomplice.

Spears pleaded no contest on the condition that he not serve time in state prison and no more than one year in the county jail. He has 208 days credit for time served, and will be placed on three years' supervised probation afterward. His next court date is July 10 to receive the restitution order. He remains in custody on \$50,000 bail, according to prosecutors.

—Kate Bradshaw

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For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.2Hawkview.com

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COUNCIL

continued from page 5

our town, and reexamine our zoning ordinances and our housing policies to consider accepting more density so that we can welcome more people of color into our community?”

Councilwoman Ann Wengert said she also encountered a covenant upon moving to Portola Valley in 1999 that had previously prevented African Americans from buying the home. She turned the discussion to policing, proposing that the town of Portola Valley and other cities that contract with the Sheriff’s Office form a group with a representative from each area to discuss policing and subject matters they’d like more clarity on.

“I am still very pleased with the work we have gotten and the service we have gotten from our police department, but now is the time to take it to a new level, and to make sure that we ask for some clear prohibitions and new standards,” Wengert said. “It starts with things like prohibiting the police from using chokeholds or applying any pressure to the throat, uniform standards for police departments regarding use of force, civilian review,

transparency, due process, body cameras and training, eliminate qualified immunity for police officers and a few more, including military equipment and the use of that and whether it’s appropriate or not, and clearly an uptick in cultural competence and unconscious bias training for law enforcement.”

In a June 2 letter to San Mateo County residents, Sheriff Carlos Bolanos wrote that “our policies and training

‘I’m not someone that had to research what racism is like in Portola Valley — it’s something that I’ve truly experienced.’

ANNALISE CONSTANTZ

explicitly prohibit the neck restraint used on Mr. Floyd.” In response to the “8 Can’t Wait” campaign, which was launched by the police-reform nonprofit Campaign Zero and advocates for cities nationwide to adopt a set of eight policies regarding use of force, the Sheriff’s Office released a graphic summarizing how its policies look by comparison.

The Sheriff’s Office claims it follows six of the eight policies, but does not currently mandate warnings before shooting or ban shooting at moving vehicles.

“The Sheriff’s Office trains its employees to, when feasible, provide a verbal warning and opportunity to comply prior to the use of OC Spray, Pepper Projectile Systems, Baton, Tear Gas, Speciality Impact Munitions, Canine, the TASER, and Firearm,” according to the Sheriff’s Office.

Floyd’s death in police custody May 25 has spurred protests worldwide and calls for police reform and decreasing law enforcement funding. Menlo Park Mayor Cecilia Taylor recently said she’d like to see the city’s police budget reduced by 20%. The Palo Alto City Council on Tuesday moved toward adopting the “8 Can’t Wait” platform and signaled its desire to consider combining its police and fire agencies into a single Department of Public Safety. In San Francisco, police officers will be replaced with trained, unarmed professionals to respond to noncriminal calls for help involving mental health, school discipline and the homeless as part of new reforms announced last week.

“It’s recently been pointed out that the scope and the mission of the police has grown dramatically over the years to include more and more things that aren’t related to law enforcement,” Richards said during last week’s council meeting. “Rethinking the actual mission of the police, I would think some of them would be delighted to get some of these things off their plate, like the mental health issues that have fallen apart ever since one of our long-ago governors tore apart the system in California.”

Reached Wednesday, San Mateo County Supervisor Don Horsley, who served as county sheriff from 1993 to 2007, said he’s discussed with the county manager the idea of “civilianizing” the Sheriff’s Office’s psychiatric emergency response team.

“Why can’t all police departments contribute (funding) to a unit of specially trained psychiatric or social workers that could respond to calls for mentally ill people?” he said. “I think they’d be glad to hand off those kinds of cases. Sometimes you have to take a police officer to the scene, especially if someone is armed ... but it might be a better approach.”

He added that he anticipates the Sheriff’s Office will

‘8 Can’t Wait’ policies by Campaign Zero

- Ban chokeholds and strangleholds
- Require de-escalation
- Require warning before shooting
- Exhaust all alternatives before shooting
- Duty to intervene
- Ban shooting at moving vehicles
- Require use of force continuum
- Require comprehensive reporting

see cuts due to a significant budget shortfall the county is facing amidst the coronavirus pandemic.

“The Sheriff’s Office, probations, the DA — all of our departments are going to have to take pretty significant cuts,” he said. “If we’re going to keep clinics and hospitals open we’re going to have to redirect funding from other departments to keep vital services.”

During public comment June 10, Annalise Constantz, a biracial woman who grew up in Portola Valley, emphasized the importance of education in addressing systematic racism.

“As someone who grew up in both Ormondale and Corte Madera schools, I can’t say that I ever remember talking about race or inclusion, and meanwhile we have students being bused in from East Palo Alto and those students unfortunately were my peers who were racially profiled while walking to Roberts (Market) after school or to the deli ... It’s our duty as an extremely privileged white community in the Bay Area with so many resources to really do a lot about this,” she said. “I’m not someone that had to research what racism is like in Portola Valley — it’s something that I’ve truly experienced.”

Resident Betsy Morgenthaler

said she has been disheartened to see police use rubber bullets and tear gas against protesters nationwide and highlighted the Taser-related deaths of three people in San Mateo County in 2018. She called on the use of “fully independent prosecutors” and critical incident review boards that would include community members as well as law enforcement officials.

“The goal is ostensibly to protect the public, but I feel radically less safe than I would like to, and I’d very much like to see as much local community pressure as we can apply to drive what’s also happening at the state, and God knows what we hope will happen at the national level,” she said.

In a June 12 email to residents, Aalfs wrote that he and his colleagues “are learning about (‘8 Can’t Wait’) and other measures, and we plan to engage with local agencies to pursue them.”

“In the coming days, the town will seek your input, ideas and thoughts through an online portal we hope will engender a community conversation about not only what we should say in response to this great ongoing national discussion, but also what we can do in our own community to be part of the solution,” he said. ▣

Email Julia Brown at jbrown@almanacnews.com

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Almanac file photo

The Portola Valley Town Council is initiating a community conversation about policing and racism.



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What do we want racial justice and policing to look like in our community and what’s keeping us from getting there?

PANELISTS

Shown above from top left

Paul Bains

President & Co-Founder, Project WeHope; chaplain for East Palo Alto, Palo Alto and Menlo Park police departments; pastor of Saint Samuel Church of God in Christ

Henrietta Burroughs

Executive Director, East Palo Alto Center for Community Media

Ron Davis

Former East Palo Alto Police Chief (2005-2013); Executive Director of President Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing; currently advising Gov. Gavin Newsom on policing and social justice reform

Winter Dellenbach

Former public interest law attorney and community advocate; founder of Friends of Buena Vista Mobile Home Park

Al Pardini

Chief of Police, East Palo Alto

Olatunde (“Tunde”) Sobomehin

CEO of StreetCode Academy, East Palo Alto; active in numerous community organizations, including the Mural Music & Arts Project, Eastside College Prep and Live In Peace

MODERATOR

Michael Grant

Journalist & Teaching Fellow at Google News Lab; former Knight Journalism Fellow



PROTEST

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hundreds of people gathered at Farrell Park in East Palo Alto, where rally organizers described the shortcomings they've identified in local law enforcement agencies.

That night, the names of Floyd, Taylor and other black people killed at the hands of police echoed through East Palo Alto and Menlo Park during a rally that at one point brought traffic to a standstill on the Dumbarton Bridge.

Rally organizer JT Faraji, who founded Tha Hood Squad Art Collective and The Real Community Coalition, said that East Palo Alto police are not working hard enough to hold other police departments, particularly Menlo Park police, accountable when they enter the city and aggressively respond to incidents.

Activists also raised concerns over private companies benefiting from their contracts with police and prisons, including Amazon and Facebook, which they said profit from a "racist criminal injustice system."

A flyer for the event highlighted past Facebook donations to Menlo Park police. The company's 2017 offer promised to distribute \$11.2 million in funds to start a new police unit to cover the Facebook campuses and nearby areas that were recently rezoned for redevelopment over the next five years.

Organizers claimed Amazon earned "billions" through contracts with police departments, prisons, ICE and the American military. The event also supported efforts to end mass incarceration and defund and demilitarize police, according to the flyer.



Magali Gauthier

A protest organized by a Menlo Park teen on June 1 drew hundreds to Burgess Park. The group marched from Menlo Park to join another crowd of protesters gathering in Palo Alto.

The group disputed recent statements from Amazon and Facebook that showed support for the Black Lives Matter movement, viewing them as a public facade.

The peaceful rally that spanned about four hours began at 5 p.m. at Farrell Park, where demonstrators listened to local activists and were given ground rules, such as not throwing rocks or igniting fireworks. Chanting "no justice no peace, no racist police," marchers made their way through East Palo Alto, where drummers playing from the back of a truck accompanied their calls.

By 6:30 p.m., the group reached Amazon's University Avenue offices, then made their way east to Menlo Park. About an hour later, they reached Bayfront Expressway near the

Dumbarton Bridge, where California Highway Patrol officers and their vehicles blocked the freeway entrance.

Traffic on the bridge came to a standstill as the protesters continued chanting and knelt down for eight minutes and 46 seconds, the length of time a handcuffed Floyd was pinned to the ground by a Minneapolis police officer's knee on his neck on May 25. Some drivers and passengers caught in the backup joined the moment of silence.

"Marching is a way of spreading awareness," Kenan Moos said to the crowd. Moos, a Los Altos High School graduate, co-organized a protest in Los Altos attended by hundreds of people on June 5. At Friday's rally, he said showing up was the first step — people need to take action and vote.

The group then marched to Facebook headquarters down the street for speeches from local activists that criticized the relationship between the social media giant and Menlo Park police before returning to the park at about 9 p.m.

Faraji said in a June 15 interview that he was happy with the turnout and the resonance of the protest's message among attendees.

He said he also opposed Facebook's contribution to fund policing in the city of Menlo Park in 2017.

At the time, Faraji told the Menlo Park City Council, "When you have that many more police patrolling the area and no increase in crime, there is a tendency for over-policing and that can sometimes result in racial profiling." He said he was also "concerned about a private corporation that is going to be funding public officials. ... Instead of being beholden to the public, public servants will be beholden to a private company."

Of the recent community

activism, Faraji said, "One thing that's come out of this is a lot of unity and solidarity — not just with East Palo Alto and other cities, but among East Palo Alto residents. I'm really happy to see that the young in East Palo Alto are not just turning out — but turning out in solidarity with each other."

"It was definitely a piece of Peninsula history I don't think people will forget anytime soon," he said.

Belle Haven residents protest budget cuts

On Tuesday evening, June 16, about 50 Belle Haven residents and supporters gathered at the corner of Ivy Drive and Willow Road to protest proposed budget cuts to Menlo Park's Onetta Harris Community Community and the Belle Haven Senior Center.

The City Council has discussed keeping the community center and senior center closed ahead of a plan in the works to build a new community center. The project, led by Facebook, is currently scheduled to begin demolition work in March.

The protest, organized by Belle Haven resident Brighit Babb, who volunteers at the senior center, and Patty Mayall, who teaches classes there, was an effort to protect community programs in Belle Haven. Mayall teaches music appreciation, stress management and art, and said that staff members at the senior center have worked hard during the pandemic to deliver materials for classes, as well as groceries and food to seniors in the community.

"Without the senior center, seniors will stay at home and deteriorate," said Babb, who said she relied on the center to provide needed respite while she was a caregiver for her mother.

"For most of us, it was our second home," said Ismael O., a regular at the senior center.

See **PROTEST**, page 17



Magali Gauthier

Brighit Babb cheers alongside other demonstrators on Willow Road in Menlo Park at a June 16 protest to oppose Menlo Park's proposed budget cuts to Belle Haven's senior and child care centers.



Magali Gauthier

Over 100 protesters chanted in front of California Highway Patrol officers blocking the approach to the Dumbarton Bridge on Bayfront Expressway on June 12.

PROTEST

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“Without the center it’s like being in hell.”

Rev. Teirrah McNair, who is a pastor at Fountain of Life Global Christian Ministries and identifies as a senior herself, sat at the protest with a microphone, leading chants like “No cuts! No cuts! No cuts — they make us bleed!” and “Build this community up, don’t tear it down!”

As a longtime resident of Belle Haven, she said, she saw her father fight for the same things — equality and sufficient services for her neighborhood.

“When you start messing with seniors and babies you’re treading on dangerous ground,” she said, referring to the council’s earlier discussions about cutting child care services to balance the city’s budget. It voted last week to keep offering child care services, and increase rates for families at the Burgess Park child care center but not the one in Belle Haven.

Another reason for her concern, McNair said, is that in earlier conversations with



Magali Gauthier

Rickey McLane wears a shirt that lists the names of black victims of violence at a June 12 protest in East Palo Alto.

Facebook about the new Belle Haven community center, which will include senior services, a new library and youth center, the company’s representatives had taken the time to meet with seniors in the community and

hear them out.

Since the pandemic started, she said, those meetings, including discussions of how to continue senior services during the construction of the new project, have largely dissipated. The

current plan is to bus seniors across town to the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center.

McNair said she’s deeply opposed to any cuts to staff at the Belle Haven Senior Center. Taking care of seniors is hard

work — she said she took care of one senior for 10 years, and it felt like the work of seven people. To think two or three staff members at the center would be sufficient “doesn’t make sense,” she said.

The city has scheduled a telephone town hall at 4 p.m. Thursday, June 18, to hear input from the community on policing practices, after which the City Council will hold a study session to discuss possible responses. Call 1-877-229-8493 and enter the PIN code 119449 to participate.

A BBQ and protest is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 20, in East Palo Alto at Jack Farrell Park, 2509 Fordham St., in recognition of Juneteenth, the June 19 holiday celebrating the emancipation of enslaved people in the U.S. Attendees are advised to bring their own grills and food and maintain social distancing requirements. The event will also celebrate black graduates of the class of 2020. ▣

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com and Jamey Padojino at jpadojino@paweekly.com

Pandemic signals end for Menlo Park’s J Floral Art

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac staff writer

After three decades in the business of floral design and event planning, Jeffrey Adair and Craig Kozlowski of J Floral Art in Menlo Park plan to close their shop and relocate to Southern California.

The business partners and couple specialize in floral design for events, and have been closely involved in charitable and philanthropic events in particular over the years.

“We’ve been involved in pretty much any charity event you can think of on the Peninsula,” said Adair in an interview.

The coronavirus pandemic in some ways spurred the process to close the business. “Craig and I have wanted to slow our lives down for a couple of years,” Adair said. “With the closedown, the universe is telling us something.”

When the pandemic struck, the supply chain for imported flowers disappeared, he said. Then, the flower market in San Francisco shut down. It’s been slowly opening up in recent weeks, he said, but the more exotic flowers have been slower to return. Fortunately, he said, they did have a successful Mother’s Day, which

provided critical revenue to cover rent at their warehouse in unincorporated Menlo Park, located at 3489 Edison Way.

They moved their studio to the warehouse about 17 years ago, after starting about 30 years ago in the historic building at 1162 El Camino Real, followed by a location on Santa Cruz Avenue.

Over the years, the duo expanded their work into not just floral design, but coordinating events. “It’s something we graduated into over the years,” Adair said.

Adair said one of his favorite events to plan was Stanford’s “Rodin by Moonlight” fundraiser for the Cantor Arts Center, held every two years. People dined among the stars at night, and he helped to decorate the museum and coordinate the theme. “It was a lot of fun to come up with a different theme each time,” he said.

They have also been involved in civic, business and arts affairs in the community. Adair has served on the board of the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce, and on the national board of the Human Rights Campaign. He directed the Menlo School benefit for many years and was a professional dancer and singer before

opening J Floral Art. He grew up in Redwood City, attended Sequoia High School, and studied theater arts at San Jose State University before performing around the world and the U.S.

He and Kozlowski were married by county Supervisor and Assemblyman Rich Gordon the day that same-sex marriage was legalized in California in 2008, and have been involved

with LGBTQ issues in the community, according to previous Almanac reporting.

J Floral plans to be in business through June 27, and is lining up a liquidation sale with supplies and props from the many events the owners have coordinated over the years, likely to be held around the third week of June.

Adair and Kozlowski are planning to relocate to Rancho

Mirage, a community near Palm Springs.

It’ll be different — and the changes bring feelings of excitement, nervousness and sadness, Adair said.

“It’s going to be good for us to slow down. After working so hard for 30 years, we’re looking forward to the next chapter,” he said. ▣

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Magali Gauthier

Jeffrey Adair and Craig Kozlowski, the owners of J Floral Art, stand in their Menlo Park warehouse on May 28. The pair announced they’re closing the longtime floral design and event planning business at the end of the month.

Atherton's Steph Curry talks activism, race and fatherhood in local nonprofit interview

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

In a candid June 8 interview with Menlo Park-based nonprofit StreetCode Academy, Warriors star Steph Curry discussed participating in Palo Alto's Black Lives Matter protest, activism, fatherhood and making a difference.

The interview, held on Instagram Live between Curry and the chief evangelist at StreetCode Academy who goes by the nickname Squint, presents a warm and thoughtful conversation between two men discussing, in large part, the Peninsula's response to the Black Lives Matter movement.

Curry, who lives in Atherton, participated in Black Lives Matter protests in Oakland and Palo Alto. At the Palo Alto protest, Curry brought his 7-year-old daughter, Riley, who participated with classmates.

"That's a moment I know she'll remember for a long time, in terms of the diversity of people that were out there speaking on behalf of change for the black experience," Curry said. "For her I know that's going to be a life-changing perspective, even at 7. ... It was amazing. It was a proud moment



Steph Curry of the Golden State Warriors, center, marches with Ayesha Curry, who is carrying their daughter Riley on her back at the Palo Alto demonstration for racial justice on June 6.

Lloyd Lee

as a parent to be a part of that."

Curry and Squint also talked about racism, and about how they, as parents, both used the protest as a teaching moment with their kids.

"Four hundred years of systemic racism, people living bad intentions and morals, and world

views that don't make sense in terms of humanity and equality — those are all learned traits," Curry said. "As a parent, you grow into that responsibility year after year after year as your kids develop and understand that."

When it comes to longer-range activism, he said one

challenge can be to "keep people accountable in the minutiae of their lives," whether it's someone challenging a family member's "racist tendencies" or, for himself, thinking of questions to ask brand partners, investors and others in the corporate world about how they're investing in

the black community.

"If people can handle the minutiae of their lives and keep people accountable and get the hate out of people's (hearts), then we're on the right track," he said.

Squint asked Curry what he thought is the best way to make change.

"Having love and valuing people for who they are is huge," Curry said.

"The thing I'm thinking about now is how you can connect as many dots as possible with the resources you have available. That can look a lot of different ways for a lot of different people. ... Whatever is within your means and your reach, you exhaust them. That's what I'm trying to do on my own and with our family, but everyone can do that. It just might look different, and that's OK."

Go to is.gd/Curry_StreetCode to watch the interview, starting around 21:00.

StreetCode Academy is a nonprofit based in Menlo Park that provides free coding, entrepreneurship and design education to underserved communities of color in Silicon Valley. ▣

Email *Kate Bradshaw* at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

COVID-19

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an additional 4,855 people are near the end of the training process. The goal is to have 10,000 contact tracers by July 1.

More data also has allowed state officials to highlight which groups of people are most affected by the coronavirus and to what extent.

According to Dr. Mark

Ghaly, the state secretary of health and human services, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected Latinos and African Americans. Latinos, who make up 38.9% of the state's population, account for 56% of total coronavirus cases and 40.4% of total deaths. African Americans, who make up 6% of the California population, account for 4.7% of total cases and 9.5% of the total deaths.



Magali Gauthier

Cheryl Pan and her daughter **Chloe Leung** pick up a book they ordered from a table outside Kepler's Books on June 2. As more of the state reopens for business, Gov. Gavin Newsom warned residents to stay smart about physical distancing and wearing masks.

Nursing home residents also have been heavily impacted by the coronavirus. Newsom said that 50.3% of COVID-19 deaths came from those facilities.

As the governor shared stable numbers and touted increased preparations for surge cases, Newsom stressed that physical distancing, wearing masks and washing hands continue to be critical practices.

He displayed a graph charting the death tolls of the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic, which showed a significantly higher peak of deaths later in the year, as a caution to viewers.

"We don't want to experience the second wave as they experienced in 1918 in the fall," Newsom said. "Be smart about physically being distanced; wear a face covering."

Pop-up test site in Palo Alto

For the first time, Santa Clara County has opened a pop-up test site in Palo Alto for free COVID-19 tests at City Hall for a four-day stretch.

The site is open to anyone, regardless of age or immigration status. Those seeking a test don't need an appointment, doctor's note or health insurance. Tests will be provided

at the lobby of City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave., through June 19 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

There is no defined limit to the total number of nasal-swab tests the site can provide, but the county's target goal is to perform around 500 tests per day in Palo Alto, according to Ky Le, director of Santa Clara County's Office of Supportive Housing.

The pop-up is mainly geared toward asymptomatic individuals — those who do not show any symptoms of the coronavirus. People who do have symptoms should get tested by contacting their medical provider, Le said.

Construction sites become COVID-19 hot spots

Construction sites in Santa Clara County, including one in Mountain View, have become a new hot spot for coronavirus cases, according to the county Public Health Department.

A Mountain View construction site has confirmed 10 positive cases and more than 30 people potentially exposed to COVID-19, according to a June 10 news release. An additional 12 construction sites throughout the county have reported at least one confirmed case of

the coronavirus.

Of the 12 locations, two sites in San Jose and one in Milpitas have each reported between three and five cases. These sites as well as the Mountain View location have shut down operations as they cooperate with the health department, the news release stated.

"These cases emphasize the fact that we are still in the midst of a pandemic," Dr. Sara Cody, the county health officer, said. "With additional sectors reopening, it is vital that everyone carefully follow social distancing protocols to ensure that workers are safe. This includes keeping physical distance and wearing a face covering."

Comprehensive COVID-19 coverage

View interactive charts tracking the spread of the coronavirus in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties online at paloaltoonline.atavist.com/tracking-the-coronavirus. Find a comprehensive collection of coverage on the Midpeninsula's response to the new coronavirus by The Almanac and its sister publications, Palo Alto Online, and the Mountain View Voice, at tinyurl.com/c19-Almanac. ▣

SANTA CRUZ AVE

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Other downtown restaurants that aren't along Santa Cruz Avenue, such as The Refuge, Ristorante Carpaccio and Cafe Del Sol, would have to apply for encroachment permits to offer outdoor seating, but the process would be streamlined.

More than supporting downtown businesses, closing the street is a step for public health, argued Councilman Ray Mueller.

"We're still in a pandemic," he said. "We're looking for a way to make it safe for people to enjoy downtown."

Councilwoman Catherine Carlton proposed public health measures being utilized in Europe to accompany outdoor dining — requiring people to have their temperature taken and mandating restaurants collect a name and phone number for each party so that they can be contacted if someone they were in contact with tests positive for COVID-19.

The measures could prompt greater confidence in the health and safety measures being taken and encourage more people to venture out, she suggested. "Everybody has a right to know that they're not sitting next to someone that has a very high fever that's potentially ill," she added.



Magali Gauthier

Santa Cruz Avenue in downtown Menlo Park will have three blocks closed to vehicle traffic as soon as next week.

Other council members pushed back, arguing that while those aren't bad or onerous public health ideas, they should come from the county public health department. Mandating that restaurants in Menlo Park enforce those policies could be a challenge for restaurant workers and result in unpleasant exchanges with customers, Vice Mayor Drew Combs said.

He added that Santa Cruz Avenue, unlike other areas where shutdowns are being contemplated, is a key transportation thoroughfare, and many people

use it for utilitarian trips to the hardware store or pharmacy. For those users of the street, the closures could prove to be a nuisance. But he still backed the measure to support downtown businesses.

Mayor Cecilia Taylor suggested adding hand-washing stations and developing measures to help salons and barbershops offer social distancing.

The pilot program is expected to launch next week. After 45 days, the City Council plans to check in to see how the initiative is going and whether any

changes should be made.

There is not yet a dedicated budget for the proposal; the city is working on tracking down materials to close the street, and the plan is to make businesses cover material costs for expanding outdoors.

The idea was first publicly suggested months ago by Cafe Zoë owner Kathleen Daly, after which council members Betsy Nash and Mueller worked on a subcommittee to develop the idea.

Nash and Mueller said they'd initially favored closing down

the length of Santa Cruz Avenue.

But not all downtown businesses were on board, and the Chamber of Commerce collected input and developed a proposed partial-shutdown compromise.

"We are all operating at 20%, 25%, maybe 35% or 50% if you're lucky," Daly said Tuesday night.

Allowing restaurants to be creative in offering outdoor seating in the coming months could help those restaurants stay alive, she said.

"I encourage the city and everyone to just get behind it for a little while so we can figure out and navigate in our industry how to move forward," she added.

The move follows in the footsteps of many other cities, including Palo Alto and Redwood City which are adopting similar programs to support small businesses decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic and enhancing their ability to serve customers more safely.

"All the other cities around us are doing this," Mueller said. "We're not being mavericks. Candidly, we're last."

The council is set to review a resolution and finalize a few more of the initiative's details at its next meeting, tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 19. ■

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REOPENING

continued from page 5

but people should have them on hand in case they do have to go near others.

The new order also permits people to interact with other households as part of a cohort termed a "social bubble." These groups of 12 or fewer people from different households or living units agree to socialize only with members of that group. The cohort should be maintained for three weeks at a minimum, and individuals should be part of only one bubble at a time. People who are part of the same bubble are advised, but not required, to practice social distancing and wear face coverings. Violations of the order are punishable by fine, imprisonment or both, according to the revised health order.

Go to is.gd/smc_order_june to access the full order.

The county is now caught up to many other communities across the state that are further along in the reopening process. Last week, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors sent a letter to the state affirming that it can satisfy certain criteria laid out in the state's plan for reopening, called its "Resilience

Roadmap," and asking for permission to reopen businesses. The state granted the request.

"People want to get back to work. That said, it is up to all of us to continue to wear face coverings and to maintain social distancing so we can continue to reopen both the economy and our social lives in a safe manner," Warren Slocum, president of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors whose district includes East Palo Alto and North Fair Oaks, said in a press statement.

He added that many residents of those communities have had to choose between their physical and economic health during the pandemic.

"This is great news for so many of the thousands of small businesses that are truly the backbone of our local economy, especially in East Palo Alto and North Fair Oaks," he said in a written statement.

The county's request to the state argued that the county is making good progress toward the state's benchmark goals even though it is not meeting all of them.

One of the benchmarks is to have no more than 5% of COVID-19 cases admitted to hospitals, or about 20 per day.

The county has exceeded that rate on three of the last 44 days. Hospital surge capacity remains strong, county officials said in their application for permission to reopen, which compares county results in combating the coronavirus to state benchmarks.

Another benchmark is for hospitals and skilled nursing facilities to have enough personal protective equipment (PPE) to last 14 days. The county is working to build up its reserves.

The health department works with a coordinator in Redwood City using software to collect requests from health care facilities, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, skilled nursing facilities and others that need medical and health supplies. The coordinator works with the county to keep a list of vendors and make sure they have the supplies needed to fulfill requests. The county's 17 skilled nursing facilities are polled daily to confirm they have enough PPE, according to the application.

One of the state requirements is to have no more than 25 cases per 100,000 residents over a two-week period or for the rate of COVID-positive tests to be less than 8% in a one-week period.

The county's current rate is 62 cases per 100,000 residents — more than twice the state benchmark. However, it passes the other part of the requirement, for testing. Only about 3.2% of tests in the county were COVID-positive June 3 through 9.

The county is also expanding its staffing for contact tracing. It has already increased the number of full-time people working on contact tracing from eight to 30, and plans to increase that to 75 by July by recruiting from among other county departments. The health department plans to be ready to expand the number of contact tracers to investigate up to 230 cases per day with 115 full-time employees by recruiting.

For much of the time the shelter-in-place orders have been in effect, COVID-19 testing was not offered unless someone showed symptoms. With the loosening of those restrictions to people who are mildly or moderately ill, presymptomatic or asymptomatic, the county has been able to exceed the state's benchmark for the number of daily tests offered by 26%, or about 1,151. During the week of May 31 to June 6, the county averaged 1,456 tests per day.


The county reports it's planning to target high-risk communities by testing all symptomatic and asymptomatic adults and their caregivers in skilled nursing facilities and congregate care settings every two weeks. The county has also been expanding testing services in East Palo Alto, North Fair Oaks, Daly City and Half Moon Bay.

As of June 10, about 20% of the positive cases of COVID-19 and 63% of the COVID-19 related deaths in the county have been associated with congregate care facilities.

The county is planning to develop a draft of a COVID-19 containment plan by July 3. ■

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

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ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

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Community School of Music Mountain View

Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) Mountain View 50+ creative camps for grades K-12! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, Summer Music Workshops and more! One and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care from 8:30am-5:30pm. Financial aid offered.

arts4all.org (650) 917-6800 ext. 0

Let's Go Crafting Palo Alto

Let's Go Crafting's Studio is where your child will have fun while learning many different fiber related arts. We teach sewing, knitting, crochet, weaving and jewelry making to children ages 8 to 15 years. AM or PM camps \$275/week. Full day camps \$550/week. 5 student minimum for all sessions; 10 student maximum.

letsgocrafting.org (650) 814-4183

Oshman Family JCC Camps Palo Alto

Camps at the OFJCC introduce your child to new experiences while creating friendships in a fun and safe environment. We work to build confidence, stretch imaginations and teach new skills.

paloaltojcc.org/Camps (650) 223-8622

Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC) Palo Alto

PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades 1st to 6th, a wide variety of engaging opportunities. We are excited to announce all of your returning favorites: Leaders in Training (L.I.T.), Camp YOUNIQUE, F.A.M.E. (Fine Arts, Music and Entertainment), J.V. Sports, Operation: Chef and Chef Jr.! Periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the variety of offerings at PACCC Summer Camps. Open to campers from all communities. Register online.

paccc.org (650) 493-2361

ATHLETICS

Dance Connection Palo Alto Palo Alto

Share the joy of dance with us! Our studio is an extended family and a "home away from home" for our community of children and teens. At Dance Connection, we value the positive energy and atmosphere that we continuously strive to provide. Summer Dance Camps include all styles of dance for ages 4 and up and features our new "This is Me!" Empowerment Camp along with Teen Jazz and Hip Hop Camps.

danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps
(650) 852-0418 or (650) 322-7032

ATHLETICS

Kim Grant Tennis Summer Camps Palo Alto Monterey Bay

Fun and specialized Junior Camps for Mini (3-5), Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, High Performance and Elite tennis levels. Weekly programs designed by Kim Grant to improve player technique, fitness, agility, mental toughness and all around game. Weekly camps in Palo Alto and Sleep-Away Camps in Monterey Bay. SO MUCH FUN!

KimGrantTennis.com Text: (650) 690-0678
Call: (650) 752-8061

Nike Tennis Camps Stanford University

Junior Overnight and Day Camps for boys & girls, ages 9-18 offered throughout June, July and August. Adult Weekend Clinics (June & Aug). Camps directed by Head Men's Coach, Paul Goldstein, Head Women's Coach, Lele Forood, and Associate Men's and Women's Coaches, Brandon Coupe and Frankie Brennan. Come join the fun and get better this summer!

ussportscamps.com (800) NIKE-CAMP
(800) 645-3226

Run for Fun Camps Bay Area

Run for Fun's mission is to provide creative and engaging play for all youth by getting kids active in an inclusive community centered around outdoor fun! We pride ourselves on hiring an enthusiastic, highly trained staff who love what they do. Summer 2020 features four weeks of Adventure Day Camp and two weeks of Overnight Camp High Five. Adventure Day Camp is a new discovery every day filled with sports, crafts and nature, including explorations to Camp Jones Gulch, Capitola Beach, Foothills Park, Shoreline Lake and Great America. Camp High Five is six days and five nights of traditional overnight camp mixed with challenge-by-choice activities, campfires, friendships and lots of laughter.

runforfuncamps.com/summer-camps-and-school-holiday-camps/camp-overview (650) 823-5167

Spartans Sports Camp Mountain View

Spartans Sports Camp offers a wide variety of sports, performing arts, and academic enrichment camps for kids entering grades 1-9. Experienced staff ensures everyone has fun. Daily on-site swimming is offered for all camps. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available for your convenience. Flexible cancellation policies.

spartanssportscamp.com (650) 479-5906

YMCA of Silicon Valley Summer Camps Silicon Valley

At the Y, children and teens of all abilities acquire new skills, make friends, and feel that they belong. With hundreds of Summer Day Camps plus Overnight Camps, you will find a camp that's right for your family. Sign up today, camps are filling up! Financial assistance is available.

ymcasv.org/summercamp (408) 351-6473

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

What we've lost in the pandemic, and what we'll (hopefully) gain

By Arhaan Gupta-Rastogi

It's amazing how much I took for granted. I played sports, my family traveled, my grandparents visited, I went to school, and the internet had entertaining stories on all sorts of things. Now all of that is gone.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a struggle for teenagers in many ways, but the main source of our pain is the loss of social networks and all the contact with friends and family that made our world livable. The only thing that makes it bearable is knowing that we're saving lives and that it won't last forever. Sometimes I wonder, though, what will come out of this. What will the new normal look like?

Social networks — friends, extended family, and classmates — make up most of a teenager's life. As psychology professor Catherine Bagwell points out, "Adolescence is a time when forming and maintaining close, intimate friendships is a critical developmental task — a main 'job' of being an adolescent." She goes on to say that much of this work happens in "face-to-face interactions when teens gather in the basement, legs and arms entwined as three or four pile on a couch talking and hanging out, or at the school lunch table when a dozen teens sit together at a table designed for half as many." All of this closeness is important for our development and happiness. It's one thing to play virtual tennis

GUEST OPINION

online with a friend, but it's a whole other thing to be playing actual sports with friends. Social distancing has taken this away, and now it looks like we won't be getting it back any time soon.

There is some comfort in knowing that our pain is saving lives. In an April 15 article for WTTV Chicago, Heather Cherone reports that according to city data, Chicago's stay-at-home order had "saved nearly 1,700 lives" in that city. These are dramatic numbers, and they show that social distancing is slowing down the infection rate and keeping people alive.

My mom's parents live in Ohio, and they are both over 70. When I get bored or frustrated at home, I think of them and how I hope that young people in their state are also doing the right thing to keep my family safe. Maybe there are kids in Ohio with grandparents in Menlo Park, so I'm helping to keep their family safe while they're doing what they can to protect mine.

All this talk about protecting the vulnerable makes me think about how ideas of community and social networks might change after the pandemic ends. Will I feel closer to those kids in Ohio who stayed in and saved my grandparents? Will they feel grateful to us for protecting their grandparents? Will this bring us

together? Are there other ways that this pandemic can help us to be connected?

Most of the news I read is pretty negative, but there are signs of hope. In Albany, New York, for example, there is a boom in community gardening that is "helping to save money and ... getting people outside during the COVID-19 pandemic." It's also a positive step forward in the fight against climate change. Even in the Middle East, there is talk of hope. In Israel, the national health care system is bringing Jews, Muslims, and Christians together in a unified effort to halt the spread of the virus. As Yossi Klein Halevi has reported, Israel is now in a position to turn "crisis into opportunity" and build a unified society that is secure and free.

In the end, there's no way to spin this pandemic into a good thing — it just isn't. The United States has 4% of the world's population, but we have over a quarter of the world's coronavirus infections. Over 40 million Americans are without work, and over 100,000 have died so far. Despite the bad news, there is reason to believe that the shelter-in-place order is saving lives and that new possibilities can come out of this hardship. I look forward to being there to help make that happen.

Arhaan Gupta-Rastogi is a student at Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park.

Understandably, this time the young man spoke up to defend himself which prompted the man to call the police, who soon arrived to diffuse the situation and send each on his way.

I cringe to think what could have happened if the teen had reached for his cellphone to record the incidents, and, if any of the three, thinking that the teen was reaching for a gun, in turn had a gun. What if the teen had called police to complain of being harassed? Would he have been believed? Perhaps, but only if he had been able to document these incidents without fear.

Is this the best use of our already-limited law enforcement resources? Aren't there more urgent calls to attend to? Last, do we want this type of behavior to thrive in our community? This

incident could have had a different ending, as it tragically did for Trayvon Martin, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and too many others.

*Patty New
Edison Way, Menlo Park*

LETTERS

Our readers write

Racism alive and "well"

Recently, the distraught mother of a biracial teenage son spoke to me about what happened to him that day, before the murder of George Floyd.

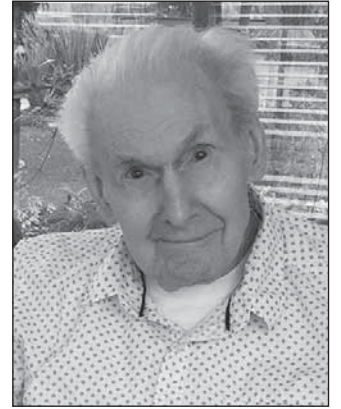
He attends a local high school and lives in the Menlo Park community.

Close to tears, she recounted how he was accosted, not once, but twice, as he walked a dog in an affluent area of Menlo Park: First by two white women who asked him what he was doing there, and a short time and distance later, a white man who, saying that he was a lawyer, told him that he didn't belong there.

Paul Eugene Stoft

May 28, 1922 – June 1, 2020

Paul Eugene Stoft passed away peacefully at age 98 on June 1. Born in Pittsburg, Kansas, the son of a minister, Paul lived through the dust bowl, earned a bachelor's degree from University of Colorado, served 2 years in the Navy at the end of WWII and then completed a doctorate at MIT in electrical engineering. During his long career at Hewlett-Packard, he managed the section of HP labs that developed the 9100A desktop computer and the HP-35 pocket calculator. Apart from career, Paul, and his wife Dorothy who passed away in 2002, touched many lives through their mentoring of young people and their generous charitable contributions.



He is survived by two sons, Steven Stoft of Berkeley; and David Stoft of Menlo Park; and by a daughter, Judy Stoft of Albuquerque, NM. Memorial donations: Eastside College Preparatory School, www.eastside.org.

PAID OBITUARY

William Brulé Johnson

July 21, 1934 - May 31, 2020

William Brulé Johnson died peacefully at home on May 31, 2020 from complications of multiple system atrophy. He was surrounded by Jane, his wife of 57 years, and by daughters Rebecca Hogenhuis and Melissa Johnson. He is also survived by grandchildren Alexander and Valentina Hogenhuis.

Bill was born on July 21, 1934, in Rawlins, WY. He moved at a young age to Southern California but continued to spend summers in Wyoming with family. After graduating from Harvard University with a degree in Physics in 1956, he returned to California for graduate work in particle physics at UC Berkeley, receiving a PhD in 1963. That same year, he married Jane and joined researchers at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center where he remained for his entire career. His work in high energy physics centered on hadronic spectroscopy with Group B, evolving from bubble chambers to the LASS detector. Along with international collaborators, he authored or co-authored some 75 scientific papers. Bill recognized early on the importance of the computing revolution in analyzing the increasingly large data samples, what we now call "big data." Eventually, his abiding interest in scientific computing led him to move away from experimental data analysis and into the IT department at SLAC where he led groups on the development of scientific computing until his retirement.

Bill was a loving husband, a patient father and grandfather, a true renaissance man with wide interests in literature and music. He was also an avid tennis player, runner, wine connoisseur and maker, amateur astronomer, backpacker as well as witty punster. A thoughtful, quiet man, Bill didn't speak much, but what he said was always appreciated and respected. It came from a brilliant, principled, and extraordinarily kind man whose penetrating blue eyes welcomed and reassured. He provided an outstanding example of a life well lived and will continue to inspire all of us who knew and loved him.

"If you walk, just walk. If you sit, just sit. But whatever you do, don't wobble."

PAID OBITUARY

What's on your mind?

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

Questions? Email editor@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6537.

Food & Drink

‘All of us can do something.’ Local black restaurant owners react to George Floyd protests

By Elena Kadvany

Lisa Spencer holds her breath when her youngest son, Myles, leaves their home in East Palo Alto.

He’s 15 years old now — not yet an adult, but old enough for his parents to sit him down for a conversation about how to behave in any interactions with police officers.

“You have to behave better than other people,” Spencer tells her son. “If a policeman comes up to you, you can no longer be the person that we raised you to be, which is to debate things that you feel are wrong or to fight for your rights. You have to suddenly be docile. You can’t move your arms. You have to just sit there and be quiet in order to be able to come home safely. Don’t reach for anything. Don’t argue.”

“In America or any other country in this day and time, that is not something you should have to be telling your black children,” she said.

Spencer runs Savor Seasoning Blends, a homemade rubs and spices company, out of her home with her son and husband. She’s been wading through deep feelings of anger, disbelief and

helplessness since the death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man who was killed in police custody in Minnesota on May 25. His death has sparked impassioned nationwide protests, including locally, against police brutality and racism in America.

In interviews, African Americans who run food businesses on the Peninsula expressed a mix of dismay and hope, at once heartened by the momentum driving the protests and worried that this will not mark a turning point in the United States’ long history of violence against black people. Each of them condemned the looting and violence, worried it would distract from the underlying message of the peaceful protests.

Claire Mack, 83, is the owner of Claire’s Crunch Cake in San Mateo. Before she started selling her cakes out of her home, she was a public servant for most of her life. In 1991, she became the first African American woman to be elected to San Mateo’s City Council and went on to become the city’s first African American mayor. A plan to build public housing in north central San Mateo, where mostly people of color lived at the time, propelled



Photo by Sinead Chang

Lisa, Myles and Dulani Spencer in their home kitchen in East Palo Alto.

her to run for office. She fought to preserve the neighborhood and for jobs programs for local youth.

Mack has lived in San Mateo her entire life and has deep roots

in the community. Her mother and aunts and uncles went to school with the men who went on to become the city’s policemen. She’s served on numerous local boards, commissions and organizations and won community service awards. Her youngest daughter is a colonel in the Air Force, following in the footsteps of many family members who have served in the military.

“I served my city as the mayor three times. I believe in this country. Yet when stuff like this happens, it’s — excuse me,” she paused, starting to cry. “It makes it a very tough road to walk.”

Mack still lives with a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week fear for her life.

“I’m a person who has very good relationships with the police department, at least in my city and with most police, but there’s still a fear that when I’m out that I could be Sandra Bland. That is a reality,” she said, referring to an African American woman who was arrested and died in jail in Texas following a widely criticized traffic stop in 2015.

When Mack recites the Pledge

of Allegiance, she doesn’t say “with liberty and justice for all.”

She says, “with liberty and justice for some.”

Spencer, who grew up in East Palo Alto and now works at Facebook, supports the peaceful protests but thinks meaningful change will have to come from within law enforcement.

“Police have got to say ‘no’ when they see their partners doing these things and they don’t feel good about it,” she said. “They have to say, ‘This isn’t right. Take your knee off this person’s neck.’”

She’s felt heartened by the images of law enforcement officials across the country taking a knee with protesters, some joining hands across protest lines, or the Michigan sheriff who took off his helmet and walked alongside a peaceful crowd of protesters. On June 2, the East Palo Alto Police Department posted to social media a video of an officer kneeling with protesting teenagers.

“All police aren’t bad just like all people aren’t bad, but if you don’t break the chain then your silence isn’t going to stop that organization,” Spencer said. “I think that was my glimmer of



Photo by Charles Russo

Max Fennell on the current moment: ‘If anything, this continues to wake something up inside of myself.’

hope, seeing those police. ... We need more of that.”

Keith Richardson opened Keith’s Chicken N Waffles in Daly City almost four years ago, serving fried chicken legs and thighs with Belgian waffles, candied yams and mac and cheese that people tell him remind them of their grandmother’s cooking. He’s been feeling a sad form of *deja vu* from the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles in 1992.

“To me, it’s kind of a repeat. The only difference is Rodney King lived. We didn’t have to see a man die. As far as the justice system is concerned, it’s just a repeat,” he said.

The Rodney King riots felt like an expression of “straight anger,” he said, while the current protests have a different feel.

“This hurt is different. This hurt is a different pain than before,” he said. “This one is you’re angry but you’re really devastated; you can’t believe what happened right in front of you and how the other officers just let it happen.”

Sandra Dailey, a Palo Alto native who now runs a catering company in Santa Clara, is active in the community as the former president of the Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet of Silicon Valley, a member of the

board of directors of African-American Community Services Agency and a volunteer with Hunger at Home, which serves meals to people in need. But she can’t help but feel “paralyzed” at this moment.

“My heart is heavy. I feel fearful for my men in my family,” she said of her two sons and husband.

This fear is nothing new for Dailey, who said growing up in Palo Alto her brothers were often stopped by the police. But she feels hopeful when she sees positive police leadership — she lauded San Jose Chief of Police Eddie Garcia as an example of a transparent communicator — and a new level of discourse about race relations.

For Menlo Park resident Max Fennell, founder of Fenn Coffee, this moment feels different only in terms of “other people showing outrage. But for a black person, no. We’ve been fed up a long time,” he said.

Yet it’s lit a fire under Fennell, not unlike Mack three decades ago. He’s thinking about running for a seat on the Menlo Park City Council to have a direct hand in improving local police-community relations.

Fennell, a professional triathlete who was profiled in the New York Times as the sport’s



Courtesy Claire’s Crunch Cake

Claire Mack, the first African American mayor of San Mateo, runs a cake business out of her home.

sole African American athlete, said he’s been pulled over by police four times in his five years living in Silicon Valley. Once he was driving down Willow Road toward Highway 101 with bottles of Fenn Coffee espresso shots in his lap. An undercover

cop pulled him over. Hand on his gun, the officer asked Fennell what was in his lap. Fennell explained it was one of his company’s products. He said the police officer told him he thought it was cough syrup, and that there had been issues with

abuse in the community recently.

“If anything, this continues to wake something up inside of myself,” Fennell said. “I think people are frustrated. I’m frustrated.” He’s now asking himself: “Max, are you just going to post Instagram posts or are you going to give up the next four years and be in service for your community?”

For people searching for tangible action to take during this time, Mack urged them to speak up, to vote, to go to City Council meetings, to get involved in their communities.

I asked Mack: Does this moment feel like a turning point?

“At 83, I don’t know. I’m hoping so,” she said. “The election is going to mean a lot. What gives me hope and heart is that the marches and the protests have been multicultural.

“The marches and the protests,” she said, “look like America.”

If you’re looking for other ways to support the black community, visit tinyurl.com/PeninsulaFoodist for a list of black-owned food and drink businesses on the Peninsula. Know of a business that’s missing? Send an email to ekadvany@paweekly.com.

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