

JANE TYSKA/STAFF

Information technology: De Anza High School Information Technology Academy lead teacher Ben Gill assists senior Alicia Green, 17, as they set up multiple video cameras.

By Theresa Harrington

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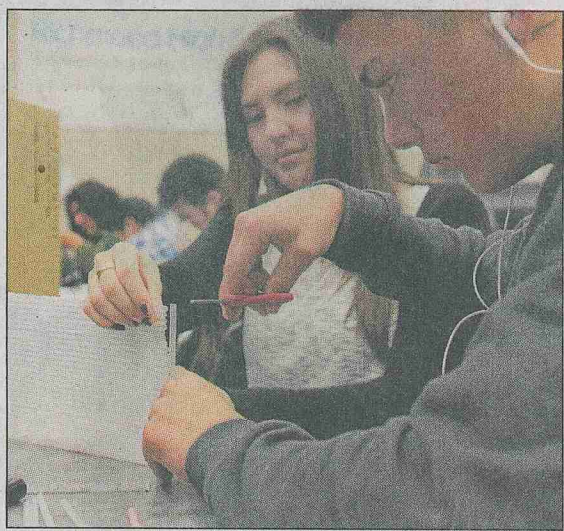
Under the watchful eye of Marin County prosecutor Otis Bruce Jr., De Anza High School senior Angelina Quilic stepped confidently to the podium in her law academy class and fired questions at her witness, classmate Kofi Asante.

Bruce coached Angelina on her line of questioning, reminding her to get to the point quickly.

"Then, bam," he said. "No further questions."

The Law Academy at De Anza High in Richmond is one of hundreds of programs throughout the state providing high school students with hands-on, real-world career training that ties in with what they're learning in classes. So-called "linked learning academies" allow students to explore careers in law, health care, information technology, engineer-

See **LEARNING**, Page 3



LAURA A. ODA/STAFF

Engineering: Alexis Flores, 15, left, and Brandon Carrion, 15, work on a project in Richmond High's Engineering Academy.

...oma Linked Learning District Initiative helped nine districts — including Antioch, Oakland and West Contra Costa in the Bay Area — to create educational programs that give students real-world experience in a variety of fields, such as engineering, information technology, health, law and the arts.

In 2011, about 60 more districts — including East Side Union High in San Jose — joined a statewide Linked Learning Pilot program.

Students in linked learning programs:

2009	0
2010	2,000
2011	9,000
2012	10,000
2013	13,000
2014	14,000
2015	19,000

ONLINE EXTRA

To see a photo gallery of students in linked learning programs, go to <http://photos.mercurynews.com>.

Nearly 5,000 kindergartners in Bay Area without proof of immunization; illness spreads

By Lauren M. Whaley
California Healthcare Foundation Center for Health Reporting
and Tracy Seipel and Lisa M. Krieger
Staff writers

With alarm over the Disneyland measles outbreak growing across California, almost 5,000 kindergartners enrolled in Bay Area schools are without proof they've been fully vaccinated, a major concern as the highly infectious disease continues to spread.

MORE INSIDE

Chart shows vaccination rates at Bay Area schools. **PAGE A6**

Alameda County is home to schools with some of the highest percentages of kindergartners whose vaccination records are incomplete, according to an analysis of state Department of Public Health records, topping 80 percent at some Oakland Unified schools. On the other side of the bay, about two-thirds of the students at the private Waldorf School in upscale Los Altos Hills didn't have the proper immu-

See **MEASLES**, Page 6



The MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine usually is given at ages 1 and 4.

NHAT V. MEYER/STAFF

UP TO 3 FEET OF SNOW

Northeast has no calm ahead of historic storm

By Meghan Barr
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tens of millions of people along the Philadelphia-to-Boston corridor rushed to get home and settle in as a fearsome storm swirled in with the potential for hurricane-force winds and 1 to 3 feet of snow that could paralyze the Northeast for days.

ONLINE EXTRA

Follow progress of the storm at www.mercurynews.com/nation-world.

Snow was coating cars and building up on sidewalks and roadways in New York City by Monday evening and flurries were flying in Boston. Forecasters said the storm would build into a blizzard and the brunt of it would hit late Monday and into Tuesday.

As the snow got heavier, much of the region scurried to shut down.

More than 7,700 flights in and out of the Northeast were canceled and many of them may not take off again until Wednesday.

See **STORM**, Page 6

EAST BAY PROFILE: RENE SILES

Soccer coach's goal: Giving his players 'educational hope'

By Phil Jensen

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Rene Siles wants to make one thing very clear — the success of the Richmond High School boys soccer program is not about him.

"It's about the kids. It's about, if they are placed in the right conditions, with the right support and with education behind them, they can do great things," said the quiet 53-year-old software engineer. "They are the people that make this program, year after year after year."

But the impact Siles has made on players' lives — both on and off the pitch in his 15 sea-

See **SILES**, Page 6



DOUG DURAN/STAFF

Rene Siles worked to change the culture around the team to be college-oriented.

SPORTS » C1

Thompson's huge game talk of NBA

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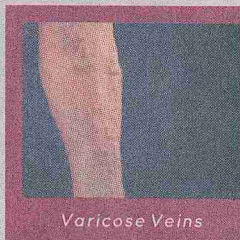
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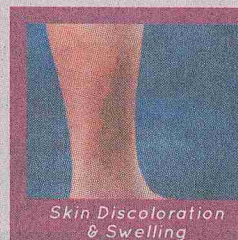
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break was first reported late last month, growing public attention has focused on the controversial "personal beliefs exemption" cited by the second group. But less well known is that many students are being allowed to enter school with some, but not all, of their shots.

These kindergarten students enter on a "conditional" basis — with the promise by parents to get fully vaccinated soon. Yet it is nearly impossible to tell if this promise is kept at any given school, since no formal process exists to ensure that these students' immunization records are adequately kept and tracked.

Public health experts say schools must maintain at least a 92 percent measles immunization rate to achieve what's known as "herd immunity." If enough people are immunized, it becomes very difficult for

A Walgreens pharmacist administers a measles, mumps and rubella vaccination to a man in San Jose.

the virus to spread. Even the unimmunized are protected.

But if more than 8 percent of parents opt out of getting their children the vaccinations — or don't complete the full series of vaccinations — schools are no longer protected. The risk is not just for those who have chosen not to be vaccinated; it's also for those who can't be immunized — such as infants, a child being treated for cancer or a child with a blood disorder.

Pine has been watching the issue closely, for good reason: This school year, 9.68 percent of Alameda County students entered kindergarten on a conditional basis, well above the state average of 6.68 percent.

"It is basically an honor system that schools are appropriately following up on those students," said Pine.

Dr. Gil Chavez, state epidemiologist and deputy director of the California Department of Public Health, acknowledged that.

"There is no reporting required of schools on their follow-up activities with 'conditional' entrants," Chavez said.

California is all too familiar with vaccine-preventable diseases. Last year, the state declared an epidemic of pertussis (whooping cough), with 10,831 cases reported, including two infant deaths.

On Monday, a California lawmaker said he will introduce legislation next month

ment website. "It should be on a piece of paper or an email sent to parents," said Pan, who sponsored legislation that made it tougher starting last year for parents to opt out of vaccinations. To claim an exemption, parents must now meet with a health care practitioner to learn about vaccines and diseases.

At the Los Altos-based Waldorf School of the Peninsula, only 33 percent of the kindergarten class was up to date on vaccines, and half were unvaccinated due to parents' "personal beliefs exemptions."

"We comply with state law," said Sandy Olson, the school's development director. "Vaccination is an issue between a parent and child and their doctor. We don't get involved in that choice."

For most schools, exemptions aren't the major issue. It often comes down to par-

Many California schools, however, don't have full-time nurses on staff any more, so the challenge is left to school administrators.

"It is something I have to keep doing, on a weekly basis — letters and phone calls and having one-on-one conversations with families to tell them they're missing a vaccine," said Roma Groves, principal of Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School in Oakland, which reported a 37 percent vaccination rate — and 63 percent "conditional" rate.

"Sometimes they can't get a doctor's appointment. Or they're waiting on the doctor to fax it in," she said. "We need a full-time person to do this job of collecting information."

Staff data analyst Daniel Willis contributed to this report.

to spokeswoman Cheryl Marcell.

"Sometimes when it comes to weather cancellations, it can be a snowball effect," Marcell said. "But today, it's been so far so good."

On the East Coast on Monday, schools and businesses let out early. Government offices closed. Shoppers stocking up on food jammed supermarkets and elbowed one another for what was left. Broadway stages went dark.

"It's going to be ridiculous out there, frightening," said postal carrier Peter Hovey, standing on a snowy commuter train platform in White Plains, New York.

Governors and mayors moved quickly to declare emergencies and order the shutdown of streets and highways to prevent travelers from getting stranded and to enable plows and emergency vehicles to get through.

"This will most likely be one of the largest blizzards in the history of New York City," New York Mayor Bill de Blasio warned.

He urged New Yorkers to go home and stay there, adding: "People have to make smart decisions from this point on."

Boston was expected to get 2 to 3 feet of snow, New York 1½ to 2 feet and Philadelphia more than a foot.

Whiteout potential

The National Weather Service issued a blizzard warning for a 250-mile swath of the region, meaning heavy, blowing snow and potential whiteout conditions. Forecasters warned the wind could gust to 75 mph or more along the Massachusetts coast and up to 50 mph farther inland.

New York City's subways and buses planned to shut down by 11 p.m. In Massachusetts, ferry service to Martha's Vineyard was greatly curtailed while service to Nantucket was suspended. Commuter railroads across the Northeast announced plans to stop running overnight.

Authorities banned travel on all streets and highways in New York City and on Long Island and warned that violators could be fined \$300. Even food deliveries were off-limits on the streets of takeout-friendly Manhattan. The governors of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island also slapped restrictions on nonessential travel.

Staff writer Karina Ioffe contributed to this report.

Three area businesses post measles warning

By Tracy Seipel

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Three businesses in Milpitas and Gilroy are warning customers they might have been exposed to the measles after a man who is infected visited the stores earlier this month.

Santa Clara County Health officials on Monday said a man and woman from the county are among 73 people statewide who have been infected with the virus.

Both of the cases in the county were reported last week. Neither was hospitalized, but both are being

treated.

The health department said that other residents may have been exposed to measles because the infected man visited both the Costco at 7251 Camino Arroyo in Gilroy on Sunday, Jan. 18, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., as well as the Walmart at 7150 Camino Arroyo in Gilroy during the same time period.

On Monday, Jan. 19, the man also visited the Dave & Busters at 940 Great Mall Drive in Milpitas from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. He did not walk through other parts of the Great Mall.

Health department officials said it has been working with the three businesses to alert people who may have been exposed to measles so that employees and customers can check their vaccination records and make sure that they are protected.

A measles outbreak in California linked to Disneyland has now infected 73 people across the state, but no new cases were reported in the Bay Area since last week, state health officials said Monday. Of the total statewide cases, 50 are linked to people who re-

cently visited the Disney theme parks, according to the California Department of Public Health.

Alameda County has five cases, three of which are believed to have come from the theme parks.

But parents of 30 infants last week were urged to keep their children isolated in their homes because of possible exposure, county officials said. None of the two cases in Santa Clara County and two in San Mateo County are directly linked to the Disney theme parks.

The risk of developing

infection after brief encounters with people with measles is low, but as a precaution, people who may have been exposed should:

- Review their vaccination history. People who have not had measles or received the measles vaccine should talk with a health care provider;

- Monitor themselves for fever and unexplained rash until Feb. 8;

- Stay home if symptoms develop and call a health care provider immediately.

Staff writer Katie Nelson contributed to this report.

Siles

Continued from Page 1

sons as the Oilers' head coach — is undeniable.

"He is an incredible person, very humble, very passionate about what he does, whether it is coaching or the community," said Daniel Ponce, a 2001 Richmond graduate who was coached by Siles.

On the field, his teams had a 243-56-40 record entering the 2014-2015 season. His Oilers have won 13 league championships and have reached the North Coast Section playoffs 14 times. Year in and year out, it has been the most successful team at Richmond.

Off the field, Siles' concern for the players' academic progress is evident.

In 2005, Siles had a conversation with Brad Blake at a West Contra Costa Unified School District meeting "about, essentially, the need for the players in his program to have educational hope," Blake recalled.

Siles said recently that educational hope means going to a four-year college



DOUG DURAN/STAFF

Richmond High soccer coach Rene Siles, center, had a 243-56-40 record entering the 2014-2015 season.

and having more choices in life.

Blake is the founder and president of the College is Real program at Richmond High, which provides academic counseling, tutoring and mentoring. It started with 16 boys soccer players and now has approximately 120 Richmond High students. The conversation with Siles was the catalyst for Blake starting the program.

"It has grown substantially beyond the soccer

program. It is available to all students at Richmond High," Blake said. "Rene was very instrumental in the initial inspiration for it."

Siles, a Richmond resident, moved to the U.S. from France in 1985 to study math at UC Berkeley in a postgraduate program. In 1986, he started coaching for the Berkeley Mavericks soccer club and continued after he decided to stay in the East Bay to work. Most of the Mavericks players were first-generation

RENE SILES

Age: 53

Hometown: Richmond

Claim to fame: Longtime successful Richmond High School boys soccer coach, proponent of College is Real program

Quote: "What coaching at Richmond did is that it made me try to make a change beyond soccer. ... You could make an impact on the kids' lives."

Americans.

"I saw the struggles they were going through," said Siles, who could relate to the challenges of living in a new country. "I spoke some Spanish, so I could communicate fairly well."

When he started coaching the Oilers in 2000, he wanted to establish discipline, respect and academic achievement.

"The culture around the team was not about college and not about grades," he said. "Most wanted to play and get grades for the season, but after that didn't care. I wanted to change that."

Siles promoted academics and the College is Real

program, and the academic culture within the team has improved so much that this season's squad has a first-quarter grade-point average of 3.4.

"Rene has done a great job with emphasizing academics and athletics," Richmond athletic director Rob Collins said. "I think he has done an admirable job of continuing the success of the Richmond soccer program."

He also impacted how his teams played soccer.

"He taught us how to be courteous ... and to play with sportsmanship," said Ramon Zambrano, who played for Siles and graduated in 2001. "He showed us how to respect referees; he made parents understand they had to respect referees."

He also has made an impression on other coaches.

"One of those adages in sports is that teams take on the personality of their coach. He is passionate, so his kids are passionate, but he is disciplined within himself," said Don Busboom, a longtime San Ramon Valley High coach. "He is a unique guy that has given his life to the boys at Richmond, to serve them. He's selfless."