No handshakes at graduation, proms without dancing or high heels
Local high schools offer pandemic-altered rites of passage for seniors

By Angela Swartz and Lloyd Lee
Planning for modified proms, graduation parties and picnics is underway at some local high schools to ensure graduating seniors enjoy at least some of the usual senior rites of passage amid a pandemic that’s stretched over a year. Seniors attending Menlo-Atherton High School’s “Enchanted Forest” prom will have to go without high heels, as the masked outdoor event will take place on the Atherton school’s soccer field. There won’t be dancing at Los Altos High School’s “Seniors Under the Stars.”

Wearing well-fitting face masks, giving shorter commencement speeches and keeping 6 feet of distance between attendees are just some of the guidelines San Mateo County has given schools for safely conducting graduation ceremonies this year. Even with state guidance put out in March that bans handshakes and hugs at ceremonies, this year still offers more than the class of 2020’s car parade graduations and canceled proms.

Other schools are more hesitant to put big parties. Palo Alto Unified School District officials said there won’t be proms or graduation activities other than formal graduation ceremonies at Palo Alto and Gunn high schools this spring.

San Mateo County graduation celebrations
M-A will hold its 70th annual commencement in person this school year after hosting a car parade-style graduation in 2020.

The graduation ceremony will take place at 4 p.m. on June 3 on Coach Parks, the school’s football field, as it has in years past. Each graduate and two family members will be invited to attend in person, said Principal Simone Rick-Kennel in an email, and the ceremony will be streamed live. At 7:30 p.m. seniors will gather near M-A’s gym where they will catch buses to a surprise venue for their graduation night celebration.

Leading up to graduation, there will also be a senior picnic on the baseball field June 1.

Woodside High School will also have an in-person graduation ceremony. Seniors will graduate on Bradley Field as usual on the morning of June 4, said Principal Diane Burbank. It will also be livestreamed, she said.

Graduates are limited to just two guests. There will be a no-touch diploma pickup, no handshakes from the principal and no reception following the ceremony, Burbank said. To limit the spread of COVID-19, seniors will be allowed to keep their orange gown, cap and tassel at no cost, she said.

Sacred Heart Preparatory in Atherton is planning an in-person May 22 graduation ceremony. Similar to the Sacred Heart class of 2020’s “atypical” ceremony last year, the school plans as “traditional” an event as possible, said Elizabeth Nixon, the school’s associate director of communications and public relations, in an email. It will include remarks delivered by the class valedictorian and salutatorian and a faculty speaker, and diploma distribution.

The San Mateo County Office of Education’s recent guidance declares that speakers may remove masks during their remarks.

Menlo Church says worship leader fired over allegations
he asked a teen for nude photos

By Kate Bradshaw
A worship leader at Menlo Church’s Mountain View location was fired after allegations emerged that he solicited nude photos online from a teen boy while working at a church in Oklahoma several years before joining the staff of Menlo Church, according to statements from church leaders.

Menlo Church is a local evangelical Presbyterian faith community that attracts about 6,000 weekly congregants across six Bay Area campuses, and is headquartered in Menlo Park.

The announcement comes on the heels of another revelation in the church community as it grappled with news that its senior pastor, John Ortberg, had repeatedly solicited nude photos from a teenage boy online while working at a church in Oklahoma, according to a March 20 announcement authored by the church’s Transitional Pastor John Crosby and Elder Board Chair David Kim. The alleged solicitations occurred several years before Bryce began work at Menlo Church, and they said they have not received any reports indicating concerns with his actions while working at Menlo Church. Bryce was terminated from his position March 19.

On April 19, Crosby and Kim released an announcement to the community detailing more
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Menlo Park maps road to reopening city services

By Kate Bradshaw

With more than 80% of eligible Menlo Park residents vaccinated against COVID-19, the Menlo Park City Council began to start thinking about how to relaunch city services and programs at its April 27 meeting.

As of April 27, 82.8% of Menlo Park residents ages 16 and up had received at least one vaccine dose against COVID-19, according to San Mateo County health data, which compares the number of residents receiving shots to the city’s population.

Sean Reinhart, director of library and community services for the city, laid out the city’s proposed path to reopening city services, a four-phase approach that would ease in increasingly risky activities over the course of the next six to eight months.

In phase one, the city would launch its plans to transition services offered at the Onetta Harris Community Center and Menlo Park Senior Center in Belle Haven to the Arrillaga Recreation Center and Belle Haven Library. The community center and senior center are slated for demolition starting this summer as part of Facebook’s project to rebuild the facilities into a new multi-use, multigenerational community center, he said.

Phase one would also allow for indoor public access to the city’s main and Belle Haven branch libraries, outdoor recreation programs, and additional virtual classes and events. The police station’s lobby would also reopen in the first phase, and there’s a possibility of reopening the neighborhood service center and police substation in Belle Haven, potentially as a community meeting space.

In a separate meeting held April 19, the city’s Library Commission unanimously recommended that the city reopen indoor access to its libraries on or near July 1, according to staff.

Phase two, which could begin in late summer or early fall, would ease in community service programs considered to pose a more moderate risk of transmitting the coronavirus, such as indoor recreation programs. It would also reopen the chambers for City Council meetings to occur in person again, according to Reinhart.

Phase three would reopen City Hall to the public and permit high-contact indoor programs like gymnastics. However, since the gymnastics program isn’t being funded right now, City Council members will have to decide under what conditions they want to relaunch those services first.

Lastly, phase four, which could begin around the end of 2021 or early 2022, would allow facility rentals for high-density indoor gatherings and large-scale special events, both indoors and outdoors, as well as all other indoor programs, Reinhart said.

During the pandemic, Menlo Park maps road to reopening city services

See REOPENING, page 14

Taking a whack out of COVID

Stanford nurse crafts coronavirus piñatas

By Kate Bradshaw

Elizabeth McCarthy, a Stanford nurse and dedicated crafter, glues “protein spikes” made out of paper straws and pompons onto coronavirus piñatas in her Menlo Park home.

Piñatas had long been associated with birthday celebrations in her household — as one of four children in her family, they were always a part of birthday parties, and the garage door that the family’s piñatas were suspended over accumulated some scars over the years from blindfolded strikes missing their target, she said.

After running across images of other coronavirus piñatas online, she said, she decided to try crafting her own.

“I saw some that looked poorly done, and as a nurse, they didn’t make sense of our world in that cathartic thrill as an artisan making handmade, biologically accurate piñatas shaped like the coronavirus. The project creatively combines McCarthy’s background as a nurse and as a crafty connoisseur of Mexican folk art. Before becoming a nurse, she was a cake decorator who specialized in creating sugar skulls celebrating Mexico’s Day of the Dead.

After the first COVID-19 vaccine was approved, she said, “I started thinking, people are going to start wanting to celebrate. What better way to celebrate the end of COVID than by having a COVID piñata where you can beat COVID with a stick?”

See PIÑATAS, page 17

Woodside High principal to retire in June

Diane Burbank has headed the high school since 2012

By Angela Swartz

Woodside High School Principal Diane Burbank will retire at the end of this school year, she told families last week. Burbank is the second Sequoia Union High School District principal to announce their departure this spring — Menlo-Atherton Principal Simone Rick-Kennel is stepping down to take on a new role in the district office.

Burbank, who has headed Woodside High since 2012, told families in an April 16 email obtained by The Almanac that she has loved her time in the role.

“I’ve enjoyed, and tried to make the most of, the privilege of leading our Woodside staff, community and students,” she said. “As an educator for 38 years, what I’ve embraced is the pace and the rock-n-roll of student life on a large public high school campus. Helping teens navigate their learning, their changing lives, and the changing world has been my career’s work as a teacher of English, activity director, coach and administrator. I’ve valued my opportunities to help teens make sense of our world in
TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
NOTICE OF TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom on the following:


The Town Council will consider amendments to Chapter 15.04 to address fire safety and add recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Wildfire Preparedness Committee into the Building Code. The proposed amendments would extend the provisions of Chapter 7A to additional construction projects in Town and implement best fire-safe practices for elements such as roofing material, exterior wall coverings, and fences.

Information pertaining to the proposed ordinance may be viewed by contacting Laura Russell, Planning & Building Director at russell@portolavalley.net. The agenda and staff report will be published at https://www.portolavalley.net/town-government/town-council/meetings-and-agendas. In advance of the meeting:

Public Hearings provide the general public and interested parties an opportunity to provide testimony on these items. All interested persons are invited to appear before the Town Council to be heard via the Zoom platform. If you challenge a proposed action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at a Public Hearing(s) described above, or in written correspondence delivered to the Town Council at, or prior to, the Public Hearing(s).

Publication Date: April 30, 2021
Sharon Hanlon, Town Clerk

Notice of Public Hearings

Due to COVID-19 protocols, the Woodside School District will hold two separate public hearings on the proposed Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), with the Budget Overview for Parents cover page, and the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-22 on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, virtually at 6:00 pm. Details of the meeting can be found at www.woodsidesschool.us. A copy of the LCAP, with the Budget Overview for Parents cover page, and the proposed budget will be available for public examination at the Woodside School District, 3195 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062 from May 7, 2021 through May 11, 2021 between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and on the school website, www.woodsidesschool.us. Please contact Cathy Sienstra, 650 851-1571, csienstra@woodsidesschool.us to request a print or electronic copy. Public members or stakeholders may complete a comment card and speak to the LCAP and proposed budget or any item therein.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Stop Asian Hate march and rally set for Sunday

A Stop Asian Hate march and rally led by Palo Alto City Councilman Greg Tanaka is set for Sunday, May 2.

The march is set to begin at 528 High St., or Garage B, in Palo Alto at 2 p.m. and the rally is set to begin at 250 Hamilton Ave., or Palo Alto City Hall.

Tanaka is launching an “8 by 8” campaign encouraging people to vote, in which individuals are challenged to invite eight friends, family members or acquaintances to register to vote within eight days. The campaign is in response to concerns that although people who are Asian make up 38% of Silicon Valley residents, they represent only 15% of registered voters, according to a press statement.

Participants who post with the hashtags #StopAsianHate #8by8 to social media will benefit from giveaways of milk tea and baked goods while supplies last. Attendees will also be provided with yellow whistles, part of a national campaign called “The Yellow Whistle” to support self-protection and solidarity against Asian violence and discrimination.

Scheduled guest speakers for the rally include Tanaka, Palo Alto City Councilwoman Lydia Kou, former Congressman Mike Honda, former “Survivor” winner Yul Kwon, Old Navy co-founder Jenny Ming, state Treasurer Fiona Ma, Assemblyman Marc Berman, president of Ascend Foundation Anna Mok, and trustee of the Foothill-DeAnza Community College District and former Cupertino Mayor Gilbert Wong.

After the remarks, booths will be set up by the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters, Palo Alto Chinese Parents’ Club, and Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association Peninsula Chapter. There will also be exhibits showing the Chinese railroad workers in North America and the Arboretum Chinese Labor Quarters projects at Stanford.

Participants are encouraged to register for the rally, which also helps organizers with contact tracing, at gregtanaka.org/8by8.

Funds sought to build memorial bench

Cafe Zoë, a coffee shop in the Willowords neighborhood of Menlo Park, is working with the nonprofit group Get Human, Inc. to raise funds to build a bench in memory of longtime Willowords resident and community volunteer Katherine Strehi to place in Willow Oaks Park. People may donate online at gethumaninc.org or make checks payable to Get Human Inc.

—Kate Bradshaw

Media literacy tips talk

Michelle Lipkin of the National Association for Media Literacy Education will host a talk on how to help children become critical thinkers called “Digital Media Literacy Tips and Tools” on Friday, April 30, from noon to 1 p.m. through the Parent Education Series. Sign up online at tinyurl.com/seqoiamedialiteracy.

Portola Valley annual Youth Photography Exhibit

The Portola Valley Cultural Arts Committee is calling for all youth photographers who reside or go to school in Portola Valley to submit their photos for the town’s annual art show. Whether you use an old film camera, a digital camera, or your cellphone, selected images will be shown at an exhibit at Town Center. Photo entries are due May 14.

Visit tinyurl.com/PVphotography for more information.

Sudden Oak Death event

The 2021 Sudden Oak Death (SOD) blights will soon come to Bay Area neighborhoods. Organizers need help to map the distribution of the disease that kills many oaks, tanoaks and — since 2017 — some of the California-unique manzanitas and the animals that depend on them, according to an April 22 town of Portola Valley newsletter. Portola Valley’s blitz will take place from May 14 to 18.

This year, organizers need as many people as possible to complete the yearly statewide survey, given that a dangerous novel strain of the SOD pathogen was detected in California forests last year, according to SOD chairperson Debbie Mendelson. All plant material submitted will be tested for infection by the SOD pathogen and for presence of the EU1 variant, known to be more aggressive than the NA1 variant, currently present in the vast majority of California forests. Mendelson said it is imperative to social media will benefit from giveaways of milk tea and baked goods while supplies last. Attendees will also be provided with yellow whistles, part of a national campaign called “The Yellow Whistle” to support self-protection and solidarity against Asian violence and discrimination.

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Menlo College to require students to be vaccinated before fall return to campus

By Angela Swartz

After over a year of full distance learning, Menlo College plans to have its 800 students return for in-person instruction this fall. The private four-year Atherton college is following the lead of other universities nationwide by requiring its students to get vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to stepping back on campus.

Menlo College students will need to submit proof of vaccination two weeks before they start classes on Aug. 23, school officials told students via email on April 21. As the pandemic continues, different degrees of social distancing, mask wearing, and testing protocols might be needed during the fall, the email states.

“It’s what will allow us to provide the type of student experience we offered in the past safely,” said Angela Schmiede, vice president for student success and chair of the pandemic planning team at Menlo College.

California public university officials and Stanford University joined Menlo College in making vaccines mandatory when they announced on April 22 that they intend to require students, faculty, academic appointees and staff to be immunized in order to return to campus this fall.

Menlo College also plans to resume sports competitions and other on-campus activities that were put on hold during the pandemic. These plans are subject to change depending on the trajectory of the virus, Schmiede said.

“The college will continue to make evidence-based decisions, and together we will adapt nimbly as circumstances change,” officials said in the email. “We all know the past several months have been hard. Throughout, many of us have looked to the fall 2021 semester as a beacon of light — the time when our entire community might safely come together in person again. With the arrival of effective and safe COVID-19 vaccines, we can now make that happen.

“It’s ‘murky’ legal water when it comes requiring employees to be vaccinated, Schmiede explained.

“At this point we’re strongly encouraging faculty and staff to do the same. A requirement is not in the works yet at this time.”

Despite pandemic, one last hurrah for local centenarian

Eleanor McLoughlin, longtime Menlo Park resident, dies shortly after her 100th birthday celebration

By Heather Zimmermann

Eleanor McLoughlin, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday, died at her Menlo Park home on April 19. By her side were Deacon Dominic Peloso and Monsignor Steven Ottellini of Church of the Nativity and her caregiver, Edith.

McLoughlin was a longtime Menlo Park resident and active volunteer in the community who saw many milestones in the Bay Area. Her family recalls she was particularly proud of being one of the first, along with her brother, Cedric, to walk across the newly completed Golden Gate Bridge in 1937 on the day before it opened to vehicles.

In mid-April, McLoughlin’s five daughters organized a drive-thru birthday celebration to mark her turning 100 on April 4. The party was held in the back parking lot at the Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park, where McLoughlin had been a parishioner since 1945, and a member of the choir for 53 years. Her family said she loved the church’s Children of Mary meetings, which she attended until just last year.

About 50 family members and friends came to celebrate, some driving in from as far as Reno, Nevada.

Flanked by her daughters, McLoughlin, wearing a tiara, was seated beneath a tent in her wheelchair, which had been decorated to look like a throne. Well-wishers in vehicles slowly drove past, leaning out windows to chat and waving colorful signs with birthday greetings. The Menlo Park Fire Protection District and Menlo Park Police Department each sent several vehicles to participate in the procession, and sounded their sirens to mark the festivities.

“It was so sweet to see her reaction, with all the people driving by. ... It was delightful,” said her daughter Joanne Taylor. “I think she was pleased and it was a success.”

McLoughlin was born Eleanor Julia Lussier in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on April 4, 1921, to Eva Julia Leveque and Norman Albertus Lussier, who met in France during World War I. She moved to the Bay Area with her family in 1925 following her mother’s death. The family first lived in San Leandro and moved several times before settling in San Francisco in the 1930s.

She attended Sacred Heart School in San Francisco and San Francisco College for Women. She is also known as Lone Mountain College, and which later became part of the University of San Francisco. Her mother had been a nurse during World War I and McLoughlin followed in her footsteps, training in nursing at St. Joseph’s Hospital during World War II and graduating in 1945.

After the war, she worked at her father’s dental office in San Francisco.

Her daughters remember how proud she was of her registered nurse pin, cape and hat, which she kept all her life.

The same year McLoughlin graduated from nursing school, her family moved to 1 Flood Circle in Atherton’s Lindenwood neighborhood, bringing her to the area that she would call home for the rest of her life.

In 1948, she met Menlo Park native Joseph Ross McLoughlin at a square dancing class in Palo Alto and they married in 1949. After the death of her father that same year, Joe McLoughlin took over McLoughlin’s Shoe Repair, which he ran for more than 35 years.

After getting married, McLoughlin left nursing and focused on raising a family that would grow to six daughters.

The McLoughlins enjoyed traveling, with a highlight being a trip between New York and London on the supersonic Concorde. They were both longtime Meals on Wheels volunteers and were very active at the Little House Senior Center in Menlo Park.

The couple was married 66 years, until Joe McLoughlin’s death in 2015.

McLoughlin was also preceded in death by her daughter, Margaret Sarah, her brother, Cedric Stephen Lussier, and her sons-in-law Russell Moore and David Haughton. She is survived by her daughters Eileen (David) Haughton, Cecelia (John) Dickinson, Julia (Wayne) Usher, Mary El (Rus-sell) Moore, and Joanne (Bill) Taylor; 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 6, at the Church of the Nativity, with interment at Holy Cross Cemetery in Menlo Park. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of John D. O’Connor, Menlo Park Funerals.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Church of the Nativity, Peninsular Volunteers Inc., Macular Degeneration Research, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital or a favorite charity. 

Real Estate Q&A

by Monica Cormann

Prop 19 Opens New Counties for Some Buyers

Dear Monica: Since Prop. 19 passed I have expanded the area that I am considering for my next home. Has the market been impacted by this change?

Julia C.

Dear Julia: Prop 19 just passed in November of 2020 and it is too soon to see much effect. Among other changes, now buyers 55+ years of age can move to any county in California and pay the same property tax on the new property they had on their former one. We are beginning to see buyers do this. Sellers must still pay capital gains taxes on the appreciation but not all sellers are affected in the same way. It will take months to see the any real impact of Prop 19.

Contact me at monica@monicacorman.com; Office: 650-465-5971, COMPASS: WSJ Nationally Ranked. Real Trends Bay Area Top 100 Agents

REAL ESTATE Q&A
High school sports roundup

Sacred Heart Prep lacrosse teams score easy victories

Phoebe Kim scored seven goals and the Palo Alto girls lacrosse team beat visiting Menlo-Atherton, 12-6, in a nonleague contest Monday to remain unbeaten in four games.

Rachel Ellisen added three goals and Laney Henry scored twice for the Vikings, who are scheduled to host Wilcox in a Santa Clara Valley Athletic League game Saturday.

Lilly Cobos scored three goals for the Bears (1-4), who were scheduled to host Mitty in a West Bay Athletic League contest Wednesday.

Megan Cobos scored twice and Amelia Poier also netted a goal for M-A.

Henry also recorded five draw controls while Kim and Lulu Gaither each recorded three.

In another nonleague contest, Ellie Noto and Ava Shenk each scored three goals to lead Sacred Heart Prep past host Woodside, 16-4.

Sloot added four assists, and Ben Ramsey three as 15 different Gators (3-1-1) scored in the contest.

Max Sloat scored five goals.

Three M-A pitchers combine to shut out Homestead

Nate Baxter, Colin Galles and Will Ryan combined to throw a two-hitter in M-A’s win over visiting Homestead on Monday.

Baxter struck out eight, walked one and did not allow a hit in his four innings. Galles and Ryan combined for five strikeouts without a walk.

Griffin Williams and Joe Meyer each drove in three runs for the Bears (6-5), who have won three straight heading into their PAL Ocean Division opener Tuesday at El Camino in South San Francisco.

M-A broke a scoreless tie with four runs in the bottom of the third. John Quinlan and Max Sloat each added three singles and Tommy Elmore tripled with the bases loaded in the sixth.

Coupe single home two runs in the fifth, and Meyer, pinch hitting for Williams, tripled with the bases loaded in the sixth.

Ben Cohen and James Roberts each added two hits and drove in a run. Rowen Barnes and Ethan Bergan also drove in runs.

Read more online

Get the latest on local prep sports delivered to your inbox Monday through Friday by signing up for The Almanac’s Express newsletter at almanacnews.com/express.

—Rick Eymer

Coronavirus central: County to resume mass vaccinations this week

By Embarcadero Media staff

San Mateo County as of Tuesday had 41,404 cumulative cases of COVID-19, with 564 deaths. There were 12 people hospitalized, Santa Clara County as of Tuesday had 118,036 cumulative COVID-19 cases and 2,048 deaths. There were 76 people hospitalized, nine of whom were new.

San Mateo County to resume mass vaccination sites this week

Starting Thursday, April 29, San Mateo County will have weekly COVID-19 mass vaccination clinics for anyone who lives or works in the county.

The San Mateo County Event Center mass vaccination clinic will return as the county’s vaccine supply increases following weeks of constrained supply that prompted county officials to pause mass vaccination sites in mid-March.

Moving forward, the county will host two to three mass vaccination sites every week as supply allows. These are in addition to the community clinics in hard hit neighborhoods, where vaccine efforts have been focused for the past month.

County Manager Mike Callagy encouraged people to get the vaccine, saying in a statement that the more vaccines the county can get out, the safer the county becomes.

“We need to have everyone think of this vaccine as a lifesaving measure that moves us closer to normalcy,” Callagy said.

People can sign up for drive-thru appointments at the Event Center through the state’s MyTurn.ca.gov website.

The county will also resume use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, per guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The county will continue to target vaccination efforts for people who are homeless, farmworkers and residents in communities with low vaccination rates.

First- and second-dose clinics will continue in neighborhoods and sites like North Fair Oaks, East Palo Alto, San Mateo, Daly City, El Granada and Half Moon Bay.

As of Monday, 445,776 San Mateo County residents have received at least the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. This number represents 69% of the adult population eligible for the vaccine.

For vulnerable communities — those with lower vaccination rates and which have had high exposure to the virus — vaccination rates are at 56%.

County health officials: Johnson & Johnson vaccine is safe

Nine health officers from the greater Bay Area on Sunday released a statement supporting recent federal guidance to lift the pause on the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine for adults.

The health officers, from the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Solano, and the city of Berkeley, said they agree with findings that the vaccine is safe and the risk of developing the rare cloting disorder is extremely low.

On April 23, the Centers for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration announced they would accept the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ recommendations to lift passing on the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine for all adults.

According to the CDC, there have been 15 confirmed cases of the rare clotting event among nearly 8 million total doses administered in the U.S. Nearly all the cases have been in women.

The region’s health officers also support adding a warning label and the Western States Scientific Safety Review’s recommendation that culturally and linguistically appropriate informational materials in an accessible reading level be made available.

Anyone who has received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should contact their primary health care provider if they have concerns or if they develop severe symptoms of headache, abdominal pain, leg pain or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination, the health officers said.

Comprehensive COVID-19 coverage


CalMatters and Bay City News Service contributed to this report.
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Netflix doc “Operation Varsity Blues” delves into college admissions scandal

Netflix (Netflix)

Money talks in every aspect of American life, a history we’re doomed to repeat. Lately, the scuttlebutt’s been about the well-connected “jumping the line” for vaccines, but it wasn’t so long ago that scandal erupted in the sphere of college admissions. The nationwide bribery scheme, which broke in 2019, included a Stanford University sailing team coach as well as parents from Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton and Hillsborough among the dozens indicted during the investigation.

Netflix revisits this recent history in its new, utterly fascinating, and plenty juicy white-collar crime documentary/docudrama “Operation Varsity Blues: The College Admissions Scandal.”

Director Chris Smith, well known in the documentary world for such films as “American Movie” and the Netflix docuseries “Jim & Andy: The Great Beyond” and “Fyre: The Greatest Party That Never Happened,” elevates the art of reenactments to fuel his account of independent college counselor Rick Singer and the conspiracy he coordinated. Between 2011 and 2018, Singer famously guaranteed parents the desired college admissions for their children — for a price. “Operation Varsity Blues” — named for the FBI investigation into Singer, his clients and his collaborators — intriguingly psychoanalyzes the mastermind, seen in archival video footage but also played by Matthew Modine of “Full Metal Jacket” fame.

Singer scoffed at the “front door” of colleges (whereby students earned their own admissions) and decreed the “back door” (donations in the tens of millions to all but guarantee a spot by sanctioned bribery). Instead, he built his own “side door” into colleges: targeted bribes to athletic programs — funneled through Singer’s bogus philanthropic organization — that would gain mostly nonathletic students spots on college teams and, with them, admission to the college of their choice.

In a nod to convention, Smith employs bits of news footage and expert talking heads, including former Stanford University admissions officer Jon Reider (whose observations are as informative as they are delightfully acerbic). The film also can boast Oscar-winning composer Atticus Ross (“The Social Network”) as one of three credited contributors to the film’s original score. But what sets “Operation Varsity Blues” apart are its reenactments of wiretapped conversations.

Using montages of social media college-acceptance (and non-acceptance) videos as Exhibit A, Smith contextualizes the elusive and, more importantly, illusory nature of college “prestige,” built on low supply and high demand for top-ranked colleges. The manic expectations around the college application project mean big money for independent college counselors (a mix of adviser, coach, therapist, and Hollywood talent agent for high school juniors) and the test prep market. Not surprisingly, the highly desirable Stanford University plays a central role, with Smith indicting its practices even as he paints John Vandemoer, Stanford sailing team head coach, as something of a tragic figure, almost more a victim of Singer than a conspirator in a bribery scheme. To be fair, Vandemoer differed from other coaches and university administrators in taking money not directly for himself but instead for the Stanford sailing program.

The Singer case got most of its attention because two of his clients were Hollywood actors: Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman. Though neither takes up much screen time here, Loughlin takes more of a hit, with Smith highlighting her daughter Olivia Jade’s academic failings and including a story of Loughlin’s husband, Mossimo Giannulli, intimidating Olivia Jade’s college counselor. That the barely mentioned Huffman escapes such attention probably owes more to her story being less gossipy in the details, but it’s hard not to wonder if she was spared due to her own Hollywood “cool kid” status, which would certainly be an irony of ironies.

The later passages of “Operation Varsity Blues” move on from the athletic recruitment scheme to elucidate a test cheating scheme, also cooked up by Singer. In the end, it’s everyone but Singer who pays the most, as his cooperation with FBI investigators has allowed him, thus far, to remain free from prosecution. As Fisher puts it, “There

See PAYING UP, page 17

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A paver pathway through a peaceful garden entrance leads to this fresh, modern home with a coveted address in the sought-after Willows neighborhood. Built in 2015 and showcasing outstanding build quality throughout, this home enjoys an open, light-filled floorplan perfectly suited for a contemporary lifestyle. Glide across stylish hardwood floors that extend throughout the incredible great room, where a sleek linear fireplace centers the living room, and glass doors open to the peaceful backyard patio for true indoor/outdoor living. Inspire your inner chef in the granite-appointed kitchen with ample cabinetry and stainless-steel appliances. Three bedrooms include the brilliant primary suite with custom built-ins for ample storage space. An incredible location adds the finishing touch, as you will find yourself just moments to Willow Oaks Park, top-ranked schools, and downtown Menlo Park, and just a short drive to downtown Palo Alto, Stanford University, and Facebook.

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Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com
中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
255 OLD SPANISH TRAIL, PORTOLA VALLEY

The peaceful feeling that only Portola Valley can provide captivates the senses from the moment you approach this inviting home nestled on over 1.2 acres. Bordered on nearly all sides by resplendent nature preserves, this home enjoys a light, breezy ambiance with cathedral ceilings and views that stretch for miles to the crystal blue waters of the San Francisco Bay. Nearly every room in this nearly 3,500-square-foot home opens to multi-level decks, taking full advantage of the tranquil setting and offering a true California indoor/outdoor lifestyle. The traditional floorplan unfolds with expansive gathering areas perfect for entertaining, including the living room with a focal-point fireplace in floor-to-ceiling stone. Four comfortable bedrooms include the generous master suite with a fireplace all its own, plus an extra-large, walk-in closet, and an outdoor hot tub. The fast-pace routine of Silicon Valley living will be the furthest thing from your mind in this relaxing location, yet you will still be just a short drive to top tech companies, Stanford University, and Interstate 280, and the iconic Roberts Market is just a few minutes away. Plus, this home is located in the sought-after Portola Valley Elementary school district.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:
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中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
M-A’s prom party
Senior Maya Kennedy, 18, is part of the leadership class planning M-A’s May 7 prom and is eager to host the dance. This will be the class of 2021’s first prom, as their junior prom was canceled due to COVID-19. Students will be allowed to dance, but with masks on, she said.

“Definitely feels great (to be able to host the event),” she said. “I was on the prom committee last year planning that one; it was a bit of a disappointment because we put a lot of time into that one. A lot of us haven’t seen each other in now over a year. It will be nice to see everyone back on campus and together.”

The soccer field will be decorated with vines and fairy trees for the “Enchanted Forest” theme, she said.

Charlie Smith, 17, a fellow senior at M-A, plans to wear a yellow-gold dress that looks similar to Belle’s in the movie “Beauty and the Beast.”

“This is probably one of the most unique proms ever,” she said. “It just shows how my peers and friends have adapted to such unique circumstances; it’s not every year that we get a masquerade ball as prom.”

Michael Amoroso, the activities director at M-A, said he is “super grateful to honor this senior class with a prom,” even if it’s a scaled-down event outdoors instead of the usual glammed-up prom in San Francisco.

“It’s no San Francisco, but it is a prom,” he said. “Seniors have expressed their feelings that they just want to do something to get together as a class.”

Limited celebrations in Palo Alto
Although Palo Alto schools plan to host in-person graduations, prom is off the table, much to the disappointment of some students.

Paly and Gunn principals emailed parents on April 23 that the schools “will not be entertaining a prom or modified prom event this year” to ensure students “remain healthy and are able to participate in their graduation ceremony.”

PASUSD Superintendent Don Austin said county health officials are reluctant to individually sign off on events. The health department’s approach so far has been to leave the decision to hold certain events to school leaders discretion, he noted.

“They (the health department) won’t even entertain the question,” Austin said. “As a veteran former high school principal and former activities director, I fully understand and empathize with the desire with everyone involved to have activities at the end of the year. Unfortunately that’s not our reality right now…… We continue to prioritize in-person graduation and don’t want to do anything to jeopardize that.”

Some parents are trying to devise their own plans for a prom, which some students would choose to attend over a graduation ceremony, said Julie Dubrouillet, Gunn PTSA senior parent network coordinator. She hasn’t been able to secure a venue for the event and noted that every venue seems to be waiting for June 15, when Gov. Gavin Newsom said the state’s coronavirus tier system restrictions could be lifted.

Dubrouillet said it’s not just the events that are gone, but all the little moments that come with it: a day to shop for prom dresses, “promposals,” and the video reveal of the year’s venue. A planned grad night celebration is also off the table at Gunn, after the school’s PTSA Executive Council announced on April 25 that it won’t be sponsoring an event because its insurance doesn’t cover “communicable diseases,” Dubrouillet said. Gunn seniors will graduate on the school’s football field on June 2.

Gunn senior Madeline Sui, 18, recalls how there were a flurry of rumors about an “improved senior prom” on the football field.

“It’s a bummer,” she said. “We got excited about it, we had our hopes up. But now I think we’ve all kind of reined back and sadly taken that reality check of ‘things can’t always be normalcy.’ At this point, I’m just really glad to have a graduation at the bare minimum.”

Castilleja School, a Palo Alto private school for girls in grades 6-12, was able to hold its Fabulous Dinner Dance (FDD) for students accompanied by one of their parents on April 24, said Lorrain Brown, the school’s director of communications and community relations, in an email. The event typically is open to all seven grades, but only included seniors this year to limit its size because of the pandemic.

“We wanted to honor our seniors who’ve missed so many of their favorite traditions in the past year, so we held FDD just for the Class of 2021,” she said. FDD included a dinner, slideshow of the students, and a dance performance by the parents.

“While everyone was distanced and masked, they still loved the chance to dress up, be together and celebrate,” she said.

Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District events
Mountain View and Los Altos high schools will use the PayPal Park stadium, home of the San Jose Earthquakes soccer team, for their ceremonies.

Since the venue is large, graduates can invite more guests, who will be able to properly physically distance, according to LAHS Assistant Principal Suzanne Woolfolk.

In addition to graduation ceremonies, MVHS and LAHS will have their own themed proms.

Los Altos High’s Seniors Under the Stars prom, April 15, will be held on the school’s football field. So far 290 of the class’ 500 seniors have signed up, Woolfolk said. The venue can hold up to 300 people. Although there won’t be dancing, there will be a senior talent show. Students must stay in their assigned seats—they can choose who will sit on their table using an app—and can’t mingle with other pods. Servers will bring food to tables.

“These seniors haven’t had a chance to gather as a class at all this year,” she said. “To be able to say hello and goodbye is something that is encapsulated in this evening. ... The seniors just needed a chance to be kids one more time before they graduate.”

Prom will look a little different at MVHS. There won’t be a dance floor for the carnivalesque themed event, which will take place on the campuses’ main quad and science quad, according to junior Dylan Leahy, 17, a member of the dance committee and of the school’s Associated Students. Leahy says there will be carnival games, mini golf, a DJ and food trucks. Unlike LAHS, Mountain View students will be able to move around.

Although the plan was to keep the event to seniors, organizers announced on Monday, April 27, that juniors can also attend the modified prom event. They’ve sold over 200 tickets so far and aim to sell 500.

“I think that this is a great replacement,” he said. “Even if we had to compromise a little bit with dancing and stuff like that, to me it’s a really good last send-off and I’m excited about it.”

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com and Staff Writer Lloyd Lee at llee@paweekly.com.

REOPENING continued from page 5

a number of city services have remained open, including police operations, the public works department and most parks.

The city has continued to feed seniors by delivering meals, and the city’s child care and after school programs, aquatic centers and skate park, tennis courts, sports fields, playgrounds and the City Hall permit counter have reopened with limitations. The library has also reopened to offer curbside pick-ups. Roughly 45% of the city’s workforce is working remotely, according to City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson.

The discussion raised several questions that are not yet resolved. For example, the city’s Councilman Ray Mueller about the proposed phase-in is to what degree the city plans to track the vaccination status of its employees.

Another, raised by Complete Streets Commission member Adina Levin in a public comment, is whether some of the case that offering public meetings virtually has provided community members will be retained as the pandemic’s threats ease.

She pointed to proposed state legislation, Assembly Bill 339, which would, if passed, permit people to continue to provide comments in public meetings over the phone or online rather than having to attend in person. The city could perhaps consider supporting the legislation, because it allows people in the community, particularly those with family or work obligations in the evenings, to more easily participate, she said.

Vice Mayor Betsy Nash asked about how many staff need to be added back to reopen services and when, and Councilwoman Cecilia Taylor asked about how the city could go about permitting on-site sign-ups for facilities like pool lanes rather than requiring advance reservations.

Councilwoman Jen Wolosin asked about the possibility of setting up portables near Willow Road and Ivy Drive rather than busing seniors from Belle Haven to the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center for senior programs, a suggestion raised by Belle Haven resident Pam Jones. Prior to the pandemic, the council had agreed on the busing option, but the council could revisit the topic in the future.

Mayor Drew Combs noted that the Menlo Park City School District was ahead of many other school districts in the region to reopen, and so families in the community have high reopening expectations. “It’s not a bad thing,” he said, adding that “every decision should be led by safety and science.”

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.
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Colleges have the legal authority to require proof of vaccination for students — they already require that students be vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella, meningitis, and other vaccine-preventable diseases. The first in line for the emergency use authorization status of the COVID-19 vaccines “raises a wrinkle,” Joanne Rosen, an associate lecturer in the Department of Health Policy and Management at Johns Hopkins University’s Bloomberg School of Public Health, told Inside Higher Ed.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued guidance in December suggesting that employers can make it mandatory for employees to receive one of the COVID-19 vaccines. Colleges have the legal authority to require proof of vaccination for students — they already require that students be vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella, meningitis, and other vaccine-preventable diseases. The first in line for the emergency use authorization status of the COVID-19 vaccines “raises a wrinkle,” Joanne Rosen, an associate lecturer in the Department of Health Policy and Management at Johns Hopkins University’s Bloomberg School of Public Health, told Inside Higher Ed.

Few cases on campus

About 250 students are currently living in dorms on campus in residence hall pods and 100 come onto campus for athletic training, Schmiede said. Some students still need housing while waiting for per- mits to enter the dorms due to the university’s housing shortage.

Algorithms are working to find new students in dorms and their rooms, and an algorithm is in place to represent the vaccination status of all students. Students who are not vaccinated will receive a “green dot” on their status. Students who are not vaccinated but have a medical exemption will receive a “blue dot.” Students who are not vaccinated and do not have a medical exemption will receive a “red dot.” Students who are vaccinated will receive a “black dot.”

Although the goal for the fall is to have all instruction be in person, some students awaiting visas in their home countries or students with medical conditions that don’t allow for them to be vaccinated may be offered online courses, Schmiede said. Menlo College will only grant medical exemptions and not religious or philosophical vaccine exemptions, according to the email.

The school received a $2.7 million Paycheck Protection Program loan in April, according to ProPublica. Menlo College employs 185 people, according to the loan. In January, the school received $802,478 through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, according to the school’s website. Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

Mary Lou Carlsen
August 15, 1922 – April 23, 2021

Mary Lou Carlsen passed away peacefully on April 23, 2021 at the Vi seniors facility in Palo Alto, where she resided for 15 years. She was 98 years old. Born Mary Louise Martin in Hanford, California on August 15, 1922. Her Central Valley roots ran deep and were a source of considerable pride.

Following his service in the Civil War her beloved great grandfather, Claude Giddings, settled in Visalia where he would become a founding member of the emerging local business community. In 1891, Mary Lou’s grandmother Blanche “Mimi” Giddings married James Hickman. They moved to Hanford where James became a fixture in the local banking industry. In 1892, Mimi and James gave birth to Mary Lou’s mother, Nadine. Mary Lou’s father, Robert Martin, hailed from the mountains of rural Kentucky, which was also a source of pride. It bears mention that like grandmother Mimi and mother Nadine, Mary Lou was an only child, she was a strong female.

Mary Lou attended UC Berkeley where she was a member of the Sigma Kappa sorority. It was at Berkeley that she met her future husband, Carl Carlsen. The couple was married in 1946 and made their home in Pacific Grove, Marin County, and later in Woodside and Portola Valley.

Carl and Mary Lou loved to travel and spent many happy years boating in Mexico and the Pacific Northwest. Mary Lou’s adventurous spirit was evident in her hiking the Colorado Trail with friends, her trekking to remote parts of Canyonlands National Park in Utah, and her various visits to Mayan Indian villages in highland Guatemala. Mary Lou was also an avid bird watcher and enjoyed her birding expeditions.

Mary Lou and Carl were longtime members of the St. Francis Yacht Club. She was a member of Menlo Presbyterian Church for many years. Mary Lou is preceded in death by her husband of 59 years. She is survived by daughter Kristin (Gary) Wheeler, son Robert (Gail) Carlsen, daughter Leslie (Rich) Tinchner, grandchildren Wade, Daniel, Maya, Katherine, Laurel and great-grandchildren Torki, Woodson, Coen, Quincy, Reese. She will forever live in our loving memories.
PIÑATAS
continued from page 5

flies on her busy street in the
Willows neighborhood.

As a full-time nurse, her craft-
ing time is limited, but she’s been
having fun with it — in contrast
to what’s otherwise been an awful
year, she said.

“It’s definitely been the worst
year of my life, professionally,”
she said.

“My house is a piñata factory
right now,” she said. “It’s just
a great distraction. It’s better than
sitting and eating ice cream or
any other vice.”

As people get vaccinated and
begin gathering with friends and
loved ones again, she said, she’s
hoping that people use the piña-
tas to safely celebrate with one
another.

“It’s just been so much fun to
think that people are going to be
able to enjoy them and get their
frustrations out — and celebrate
the end of this, God willing.”

McCarthy added that there’s
one person she definitely plans
to send a coronavirus piñata to:
Dr. Anthony Fauci, the country’s
leading expert on contagious
diseases.

“He seems like the kind of
guy who, I imagine, more than
anyone, would get it on the first
whack,” she said.

People interested in purchasing
a piñata from McCarthy can
reach her at (650) 328-2083. They
cost $40 to cover the cost of mate-
rials, she said. 

— Peter Canavese
995 Fictitious Name Statement
LANDA CLEANING SERVICE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 287097
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Landa Cleaning Services, located at 671 Stow Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ANA L. LANDA VERA
671 Stow Avenue
Redwood City, CA 94063
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 25, 2021.
[JALM Apr. 9, 16, 23, 31, 2021]

GABRIEL V. GARCIA GARDENING SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 287154
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Gabriel V. Garcia Gardening Services, located at PO Box 51187, Palo Alto, California, 94303, San Mateo County.
Mailing address: 1657 Purdave Ave., East Palo Alto, California 94303.
Registered owner(s):
GABRIEL GARCIA VAZQUEZ
1657 Purdave Ave.
East Palo Alto, California 94303
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 29, 2021.
[JALM Apr. 16, 23, 31, 2021]

NUCLEATION CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
CLIMATE COALITION
U.S. CLIMATE COALITION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 287183
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1) Nucleation Capital Management, 2) Climate Coalition, 3) U.S. Climate Coalition, located at 750 Melio Avenue, Suite 300, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Mailing address: PO Box 15, Menlo Park, CA 94026.
Registered owner(s): KIT VENTURES LLC
18 McClellan Lane
Atherton, CA 94022
California
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 31, 2021.
[JALM Apr. 9, 16, 23, 31, 2021]

NELSON CAPITAL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 286674
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Nelson Capital, located at 545 Middlefield Road, #200, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Mailing address: 545 Middlefield Road, #200, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s): NELSON CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC
545 Middlefield Road, #200
Menlo Park, CA 94025
CALIFORNIA
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 15, 2021.
[JALM Apr. 9, 16, 23, 31, 2021]

MINT CHIROPRACTIC CARE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 287177
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Mint Chiropractic Care, located at 605-233-6578 or email asantillan@paweekly.com for assistance with your legal advertising needs.
McDill Driv, So, San Francisco, CA 94080, San Mateo County.
Registered owner:
KRISTY CARRANZA
600 McElhan Drive
So. San Francisco, CA 94080
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 2, 2021.
[JALM Apr. 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2021]

BUICO TRUCKING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 287212
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Buico Trucking, located at 900 Tinsley St. #1E10, E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
N&N TRANSPORTATION LLC
900 Tinsley St. #1E10
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303
California
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 1, 2021.
[JALM Apr. 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2021]

AERIEL SKIRNIR OLYMPIC FUND
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 287289
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Aeriel Skirnir Olympic Fund, 2995 Woodside Rd. #400, Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
STEVEN FLYNN
2995 Woodside #400
Woodside, CA 94062
Woodside, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 9, 2021.
[JALM Apr. 23, 30, May 7, 21, 2021]

AUTO - VQA PRESERVE FOR FINE CARS AND ACCESSORIES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 287349
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Auto VQA - A Preserve for Fine Cars and Accessories, located at 2995 Woodside Rd. #400, Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ATHERTON ASSOCIATES, INC
2995 Woodside Rd.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 11, 2021.
[JALM Apr. 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2021]

BAY AREA MOBILE NOTARY & SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 287381
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Bay Area Mobile Notary & Services, located at 1103 Countryside Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
DEBORAH PAYTON
1103 Countryside Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 16, 2021.
[JALM Apr. 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2021]

PUBLIC HEARING
2. Steve Peterson
ASRB2017-0007; XSET2017-0002; VARIB2017-0001
215 Grandview Drive
Pension: Shane Schaan, Principal Planner
Presentation and consideration of a proposal, requiring Formal Design Review (ASRB2017-0007), to construct a two-story single-family residence, including an attached garage and an attached Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU). Site Improvements include, but are not limited to, a driveway, parking area, retaining walls, vehicle gate, and replacement fencing adjacent to the north and east property lines.
The project requires approval of a Setback Exception to reduce the required 50- foot front setback (XSET2017-0002); and a Variance to allow development on slopes greater than 35% (VARIB2017-0001). The Planning Commission will consider the ASRB’s recommendation on the project design and take action on all requested entitlements.

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING SAGE SCHAAAN AT SSCHAAAN@WOODSIDEITOWN.ORG

Catching some air
Arya Nazeri soars high above the skate park located in Menlo Park’s Burgess Park on March 30. With the warm spring weather, the park is proving to be a popular destination for people eager to get out of the house.

Payton-Miyazaki said increasing equity has always been a focus for her. At 14 years old, she started a small nonprofit making science kits for students in inner-city schools. “Inequitable access and outcomes in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields have lifelong implications for students, and my depth of knowledge in both of these areas is what we need at this moment,” she said.

Payton-Miyazaki said she looks forward to a full return to classrooms and hopes to spend next year “pod busting.” “The pods we have formed to keep ourselves safe during the pandemic have also tended to reinforce our existing relationships,” she said. “I want us to have authentic conversations with people who have different experiences than ourselves. Our diversity really does make us stronger.”

She would replace Kristin Garcia, who is leaving to take on a role at the district office. The district will conduct a search for the next assistant principal of Oak Knoll, according to the press release.

Earth Day cleanup
Two dozen Kings Mountain community members held a trash cleanup on April 24 for Earth Day, according to resident and community leader Janie Dawies. They collected more than 50 bags of garbage, which they then worked with Caltrans to pick up. The event was put on by friends and neighbors Aiden Zahedi and Niamh Janie Dawies, two children who led a cleanup in Kings Mountain back in December after noticing a trash problem.

—Angela Swartz
Teen substance use treatment center shutters after few show up

By Kevin Forestieri

In 2018, San Mateo County launched a specialized clinic in East Palo Alto aimed at providing treatment to underserved teens suffering from substance use disorders. It was meant to be a hub for troubled teens to tap into low-cost therapy and mental health support, with an eye toward relapse prevention and mindfulness.

But three years later, the clinic has been permanently shut down, and both the county and the nonprofit running the program — Healthright 360 — agreed to cut the program loose after its short-lived run. The reason? Too few kids were willing to show up, making it an ill fit for tackling the problem of teen drug abuse.

The clinic was meant to be there for the long haul. Healthright had spent a year finding a suitable place for outpatient services, and sought to weave itself into the safety net services available in southern San Mateo County. Though the doors were open to all, the clinic sought to serve the most vulnerable youth, including those with a criminal record and those with incarcerated parents.

Since opening, however, the clinic barely served more than a half-dozen people at any given time, well below what Healthright had hoped, said Vitka Eisen, president and CEO of the nonprofit.

“We never really saw more than five clients at any given time, maybe six, which is not a lot,” Eisen said. “Despite our team working very closely in the community, we did not see lots of clients who were coming in for care.”

Unpacking what went wrong, Eisen said it likely comes down to a fundamental mismatch between the services provided and what teens are willing to voluntarily attend. The program was funded by Medi-Cal, Eisen said, which has a narrow scope for what services are eligible for reimbursement. And it turns out those limited services — specifically individual and group therapy — don’t hold enough allure to attract teens suffering from drug abuse. Most clients in traditional outpatient treatment are in their late 30s and 40s, she said.

“Young people are more engaged in care when you have social activities, athletic activities, field trips and things that are more engaging, and you build therapy around that,” Eisen said. “Medi-Cal doesn’t really fit that.”

Also suppressing the number of kids showing up at the clinic were changes to mandatory substance use treatment by the courts. San Mateo County health officials say a decline in court-ordered treatment means fewer teens are being compelled to enter outpatient treatment programs, which had been a common source for new referrals. When Healthright began its effort to open the clinic, there were 140 kids in juvenile hall with some history of either drug use or possession of drugs, Eisen said. By the time the program opened up, that number had plummeted.

Eisen said the changes to the criminal justice system are positive, and that there is an overreliance on coerced treatment that criminalizes health conditions. Telling people they can either go into substance use treatment or go to juvenile hall for drug arrests causes long-term damage, particularly in Black and brown communities, she said. But it also means more people who could benefit from outpatient treatment are now falling through the cracks.

The circumstances changed so we weren’t coercing people into treatment, which is great, but it means young people aren’t necessarily going into treatment,” she said.

Healthright was among the nonprofit mental health providers that switched to telehealth during the pandemic, meaning the clinic’s shutdown at the end of December last year was a quiet loss. Instead, Eisen said the nonprofit will continue to provide drug treatment services within East Palo Alto without a brick-and-mortar clinic, meeting clients in places like schools and community centers. The goal is to stay integrated in the community, she said, and it doesn’t take a physical location to do it.

“The important part is to remain visible and engage with the community, and having an office in a place, staffed at all times, where people don’t come is not necessarily welcoming,” she said. “Having a connection to the community, I think, is just as effective.”

Email Staff Writer Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com.

Menlo Church, an evangelical Presbyterian faith community headquartered in Menlo Park, draws about 6,000 weekly congregants to its six Bay Area campuses.

Sankey Dallal

Menlo Church

continued from page 1

information about the allegations and the steps church leaders took to respond.

According to the statement, a young man had been following news stories about a prominent Christian leader’s sexual misconduct, which had triggered “unexplained anger,” so he began working with a therapist and, through that process, allegedly remembered receiving unwanted solicitations from Bryce. He contacted Menlo Church, and the church asked Bryce about the allegations.

Bryce, according to the church announcement, had “confirmed the solicitations but denied knowing he (the young man) was a minor at the time.” As mandated reporters, the church then notified law enforcement with the information, the statement said.

From there, the Oklahoma City Police Department conducted an investigation, according to the statement. Working with the district attorney there, charges were not filed against Bryce because they were unable to confirm if the solicitation had occurred within the police department’s jurisdiction. There also was uncertainty about when the solicitations occurred, and it was not clear whether the young man was 16, 17 or 18 years old at the time the solicitations took place, according to the statement.

“Law enforcement’s decision to not charge me was the (final) part of my change Michael’s termination status with us,” the announcement stated.

Menlo Church leaders plan to have a forensic specialist examine Bryce’s work computer, they added.

“In Michael’s case, the past solicitations with a teen demonstrated poor judgment on his part, which was compounded by his withholding of this information when he was hired at Menlo Church. Neither action is consistent with our expectations of our staff,” Crosby and Kim wrote.

People on campus or Zero Abuse, an outside party the church is working with, on menlo@zerobaseuserproject.org.

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.
3198 MADDUX DRIVE, PALO ALTO

Bright, Luxurious, and Built in 2017

Fresh, inviting living spaces filled with natural light and high-end appointments give this 4-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom Midtown home an attractive ambiance from the moment you step inside. Built in 2017, this home showcases outstanding build quality throughout both luxurious levels, with over 3,000 square feet of space including the attached 1-car garage. Beautiful engineered oak floors flow through expansive gathering areas ideal for both entertaining and everyday living, including the living room with a stately fireplace flanked by custom built-ins, and the private office that may be converted into an additional bedroom. An incredible chef’s kitchen is at the heart of the home and boasts marble countertops and high-end appliances from Wolf and Sub-Zero, and it opens to the family room with a built-in entertainment center. The palatial master suite features 2 closets and a spa-like bathroom, while 2 additional bedroom suites provide comfort and convenience for friends and family. And when the outdoors beckon, the sizable backyard will answer the call, with a lush lawn and ample space to relax and unwind, including a magnificent veranda. Just moments to the Midtown Shopping Center, this home is also close to California Avenue, known as Palo Alto’s “second downtown” thanks to great shopping and dining. Plus, numerous parks are all within a mile of the home, as is top-ranked Palo Verde Elementary.

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**Viewpoint**

**Why we decided to send our kids back to school**

By Josh Becker

L ast week, my two kids returned to high school. They sat in an actual classroom and spoke to their teachers and friends, in person. This is something they have done countless times growing up. But for over a year, neither one of them had been inside a classroom. Our school gave families the option to go back, and we discussed it with our kids and said yes.

My family is not alone. In California, we say trust the data and the science. Both show that it is safe to return to school. As Dr. Grace Lee, professor of pediatrics at Stanford University School of Medicine, has said, “It’s possible to open schools safely — it’s being done.”

There are dozens of reports from around the country that support this assertion. Experts at UCSF recently cited CDC studies in Wisconsin and North Carolina that all showed K-12 schools can have in-person learning with limited in-school COVID-19 spread, and no spread is known to have occurred to or from staff.

This has been an incredibly difficult year for teachers. I believe it is important that our teachers feel as safe as possible. That is why I called for prioritizing teachers for the vaccine back in December. Now all teachers and staff in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties have been given the opportunity to receive the vaccine. Most are now fully vaccinated, and all available data shows that once vaccinated you can’t transmit the virus.

Evidence also demonstrates that K-12 schools that have implemented prevention strategies have been able to safely open for in-person instruction and remain open. As a result, states such as Florida have been back five days a week since September to some form of in-person learning without major outbreaks of COVID-19.

We can do the same here in California. We have the benefit of incorporating the best practices from around the country, and we have extensive resources to do so, along with a much lower community transmission rate. Due to our temperate climate, we can cut down on airborne particles with more ventilation by opening windows and installing MERV filters. Masks work and 3 feet of separation will help keep our schools safe, even without a broadly vaccinated community.

The CDC has called for children to return to American classrooms as soon as possible, and with adequate masking, distancing, and ventilation, the benefits of opening schools outweigh the risks of keeping kids at home. To ensure our schools are able to implement such measures, I voted for an additional $6.6 billion in funding for school safety.

The past year has been unimaginably difficult for all of us. We have all suffered in different ways. For many students and parents, this suffering has been particularly acute. I have seen firsthand the mental and emotional toll this takes as I have watched my own kids struggle with distance learning and isolation. The negative consequences and loss of learning are significant, and the long-term impact is unclear.

This is why it’s imperative that we act as much as science allows, to normal in the fall with school five days a week with full instructional minutes.

Now that we see that bright light at the end of the tunnel, and we have the science and data to prove it, it is time to reopen our schools, while allowing for flexibility for those with risk factors as we have always done. For the majority of children in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, it is reasonable, responsible and delightful to allow them to pack a lunch, strap on their backpacks and head back to the wonderful schools our community is fortunate to have.

Josh Becker (D-Menlo Park) represents California’s 13th Senate district in the state Legislature.

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**San Mateo County DA should speak out against death penalty**

By Henry P. Organ

A cross the nation, there has been a gradual decline in death penalty indictments and convictions. Twenty-three states have abolished the death penalty, with Virginia being the latest. Increasingly, more district attorneys have pledged not to seek the death penalty, or governors declaring moratoria against it. Thankfully, the current president of the United States has halted federal executions, which were regretfully resurrected by the last president.

Concurrently, there has been an increase in “life without parole” indictments and sentences. It should be noted that one particular international religious leader, Pope Francis, has commented that life without parole is in substance “the death penalty in disguise.” Life without parole, considered by many as an acceptable option, is probably plagued with the same failures as the death penalty when race and social equality are considered.

In California, thankfully and wisely, the governor has invoked a moratorium on the death penalty. It is to be noted, however, that this action is operative as long as the governor desires, and is subject to revocation and revision by him — and his successor. The solution to this uncertainty would be abolition of the death penalty by the state, again, by ballot initiative.

Which leads to San Mateo County. The current district attorney, Steve Wagstaffe, was elected to this office in 2010, where he had previously served for several years. Last December, Mr. Wagstaffe stated in an interview that “...the views on the death penalty here in California, and specifically with me, are evolving.” This statement is important and pivotal. Mr. Wagstaffe played a major role in opposing an initiative to abolish the death penalty, Proposition 66, in 2016. Further, on the same ballot, he supported a competing initiative, Proposition 62, in support of the death penalty.

At that time, he was also president of the California District Attorneys Association, further emphasizing the criticality of his “evolving.” Consummating his “evolving” with a pledge not to seek this penalty in this term, and if reelected, is welcomed and encouraged. It would be a moral credit to him, especially as a person of religious conviction who hungers and thirsts for righteousness. Consummating his evolution would enhance his electability as well. As an astute public servant he will take note that Proposition 66 in support of abolition of the death penalty was approved by the voters in San Mateo County by an impressive margin of 15%.

Beyond Mr. Wagstaffe’s personal commitment to such a pledge, it would have an enormous effect on his fellow district attorneys throughout the state and nation. It would have a positive impact on gaining signatures to get an abolition initiative on the ballot, and on its ultimate passage.

I hope Mr. Wagstaffe will seek and welcome this opportunity to serve the common good, and to be a faithful citizen.

Henry P. Organ has lived in Menlo Park for almost 50 years, and was a member of the 2010 Charter Review Committee for San Mateo County.
The sound of a story: How the Dragon is bringing ‘The Creature’ back to life

Theater company releases podcast of Trevor Allen’s ‘Frankenstein’ adaptation

By Karla Kane

The story is a classic: The chilling tale of a mad scientist and the grotesque “monster” he creates. But the 200-year-old “Frankenstein” narrative has been given new life with Dragon Productions Theatre Company’s “The Creature,” a serialized podcast production of Bay Area playwright Trevor Allen’s radio play.

“It’s been quite a roller coaster ride,” Spencer-Koknar said of the long-awaited production, which was scheduled as an in-person staged show in 2020 before transitioning into a podcast last autumn, then rescheduled and revamped again for this spring.

“We decided to go back to square one and figure out how to properly produce this podcast the way we wanted to instead of rushing into it,” she said. “It’s been a really cool experience experimenting with the available technology and with what we can do with those tools on a low budget to sound like a really high-quality, fully produced audiobook.”

Key to that quality is the work of sound engineer, designer and composer Gregory Holmes, who’s created an original musical score, along with being the directorial port of the creature.

“This adaptation really makes you stop and ponder: How is our society open to people who are different — and not open to people who are different?” she said. “I’ve seen a lot of other adaptations where the point of view of the Creature is kind of lost.”

“When switching the production plans from stage play to podcast, it was important to Spencer-Koknar and her team not only to create a rich acoustic atmosphere, but also to maintain the chemistry and energy that comes from performers interacting with each other.”

“This was a big thing at the very beginning of the pandemic: How do we still do things that are ‘live’ but not in person?” she said. “I wanted to keep that ‘live’ kind of feeling.” To capture that energy, the cast rehearsed over Zoom and recorded those sessions, their isolated vocal tracks edited and processed after.

“The Creature” boasts an immersive soundtrack thanks to binaural recordings and an original score by Gregory Holmes.

“The Creature” is being released as a serial in nine episodes, one per week through June 21, with the first two episodes out May 3 and 4, respectively.

“The Creature” boasts an immersive soundtrack thanks to binaural recordings and an original score by Gregory Holmes.

“Now that we’ve got this one under our belt, I’d love to keep exploring ways to keep telling these stories,” Spencer-Koknar said.

While there have been many “Frankenstein” adaptations over the years, from musical comedies to campy melodrama, Spencer-Koknar said she’s partial to Allen’s incisive take on it because of how true it is to Mary Shelley’s 1818 novel, and how compassionately it brings forth the perspective of the “monster” himself.

“By doing both jobs, I could make the music fit the actors, and make the actors fit the music,” he said. “Staggering technology was available to me that was extremely cost prohibitive just a few years earlier,” including high-quality MIDI instruments for his orchestrations (MIDI, or Musical Instrument Digital Interface), allows electronic instruments and devices to communicate with each other), and affordable binaural microphones. Binaural recording (“bi” meaning two and “aural” meaning ears) captures the way human ears and brains process sound in the real world, allowing for a lush, three-dimensional sound quality.

“If this project had come to me in 2012, it would have been entirely impossible at worst, and embarrassing at best,” he noted. “But the technology has advanced so much that there is an equal temperament system, an alternate carving up of Western music’s divisions of the octave,” he said. This choice “complicates things” but gives us some truer harmonies, while allowing some complex chords that are not possible with the standard 12 notes.

“By doing both jobs, I could make the music fit the actors, and make the actors fit the music,” he said. “Staggering technology was available to me that was extremely cost prohibitive just a few years earlier,” including high-quality MIDI instruments for his orchestrations (MIDI, or Musical Instrument Digital Interface), allows electronic instruments and devices to communicate with each other), and affordable binaural microphones. Binaural recording (“bi” meaning two and “aural” meaning ears) captures the way human ears and brains process sound in the real world, allowing for a lush, three-dimensional sound quality.

“We live in an age where we must approach our work not like a factory, but like a garden; an ecosystem to be supported, cared for and nurtured so that it can grow and flourish,” Spencer-Koknar said in a video announcing the company’s relaunch.

More podcast-style theater may be in the Dragon’s future. “Now that we’ve got this one under our belt, I’d love to keep finding ways to keep telling these stories,” Spencer-Koknar said.

More information is available at dragonproductions.net/creature.

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Karla Kane at kkane@paweekly.com.
spring is here and the Peninsula's sidewalks, parklets and dining rooms are beginning to fill with people tired from a long year cooped up at home, drinking wine in sweatpants.

On the cocktail front, there's something to be said for the classics — after all, they're classics for a reason — but we also love to find bartenders willing to take a winning formula and mess with it a little bit. After a year of routine, it's a welcome change.

So put yourself back in the capable hands of the Peninsula's most creative bartenders and venture out to try one of these riffs on the classic cocktails we know and love. They prove you can teach an old cocktail new tricks.

**Sarakku at Ettan**

Ettan: 518 Bryant St., Palo Alto; 650-752-6281. At the Palo Alto restaurant Ettan, the cocktail menu is designed to complement the "Cal-Indian" flavors of Michelin-starred chef Srijith Gopinathan's menu. The Sarakku is cheekily named after the colloquial catch-all term for booze in Tamil, a South Indian language, and is Ettan's take on a pilsa colada. Built on a base of Battavia arrack instead of rum, with pineapple and lime juices, Liquid Alchemist coconut syrup and nutmeg, the tall drink goes down quickly, especially on a warm evening.

If you'd prefer not to imbibe, Ettan also offers a "sober" version of the Sarakku, swapping out the booze for Seedlip Spirit 42, a non-alcoholic distillate made with orange, lemon, lemongrass and ginger.

**Polanco at San Agus**


Having pushed their customers off the beaten path of margaritas to try other Mexican-inspired cocktails, San Agus in Palo Alto has set its sights on another category of drinks ripe for experimentation: tiki. On Thursdays, San Agus offers tequila and mezcal-based variants of the boozy, chuggable, citrus-packed rum drinks that typify the genre.

In the Polanco, blanco tequila is mixed with La Luna mezcal, elderflower liqueur, Benedictine D.O.M. (a French herbal liqueur), lemon and lime juices, bitters and house-made pineapple-ginger and passion fruit-sage syrups for a supremely complex tiki drink with a strong influence of agave.

**Sequoya Sour at Nighthawk**

Nighthawk: 2035 Broadway St., Redwood City; 650-503-8025.

Nighthawk, in downtown Redwood City, is serving up seasonal variations on the classic whiskey sour.

For its Sequoya Sour, the bar combines Larceny bourbon whiskey with kiwi fruit, ginger, black pepper and rosemary, which is then infused under gentle heat, sous vide, before being mixed with lemon juice, agave simple syrup and egg white and served with Amargo Chuncho Peruvian bitters. The infusions rotate every two to three weeks to feature new seasonal fruits.

Though it's not a classic (yet), Nighthawk also serves its own version of White Claw, the canned flavored malt beverage that you've probably seen encroaching on the beer selection at your local supermarket. To make the drink, aptly named the Night- claw, the bar clarifies passion fruit purée in a centrifuge and mixes it with vodka and seltzer to serve as a highball.

**Admiral Kay at Amandine**

Amandine: 235 First St., Los Altos; 650-204-9222.

Amandine opened in Los Altos in late July of 2019, promising its customers a "Japanese-inspired cocktail experience" before shuttering at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, the bar and its vest-clad bartenders are once again inviting guests to sip and savor in its plush, exquisitely comfortable interior bar room and heated patio.

The Admiral Kay is a flip — a category of drinks that's usually served hot, sweet and with tons of body and mouthfeel from the addition of a whole egg. At Amandine, the Admiral Kay is served cold, with lots of flavor coming from a base of Scotch whisky infused with masala (a blend of spices), vanilla syrup, cream, bitters, an egg and a house-made allspice tincture, shaken and served up in a coupe. It's perfect as liquid dessert or a nightcap, but not too sweet to enjoy as your first drink of the evening. As Amandine prepares to rotate its cocktail list, you can ask a bartender for the Admiral Kay even if it's not printed on the menu. The bar says that the drink will always be around.

You could also try one of Amandine's cocktails on tap. They serve a black Manhattan which, though not original to this bar, is a popular variation on the classic Manhattan that substitutes Amaro Averna, a bitter Sicilian liqueur, in place of sweet vermouth. Also on tap is Amandine's Gran Negroni, a symphony of bitter and sweet flavors made with gin, Campari, St. George Bruto Americano, Tempus Fugit Gran Classico and Carpano Antica Formula as well as Punt e Mes vermouths.

**Lovely Bubbly at Faith & Spirits**

Faith & Spirits: 765 Laurel St., San Carlos; 650-394-8466.

Faith & Spirits, which opened in San Carlos in the middle of the pandemic, bills itself as equal parts craft cocktail bar and live music lounge, complete with a raised stage and piano in its interior.

If you don't fancy yourself talented enough to jump on their stage but still want to feel like a crooner, you can order a classic gin martini, Frank Sinatra's second favorite cocktail (after Jack Daniels on the rocks), which Faith & Spirits says they take pride in. For a twist on a classic, try the Lovely Bub- bly, a drink reminiscent of a French 75, but lighter and more aromatic, with the flavor of lemon swapped for grapefruit. To make the drink, Hendrick's gin is perfumed with pamplemousse liqueur and topped with prosecco for the perfect patio spritz.

**Bloody Mary at Alpine Inn**

Alpine Inn: 3915 Alpine Road, Portola Valley; 650-854-4004.

Tweaks on the Bloody Mary are usually limited to the variety of garnishes a bar chooses to adorn the drink with. Last year, one Minnesota bar attempted to set a world record by offering 219 different garnishes. At Alpine Inn (affectionately known to locals as Zott's) in Portola Valley, the bartender keeps it simple with a green bean and cherry tomato, and looks to their smoker to imbue additional flavor to their take on the brunch cocktail staple (available on the weekends).

To amp up flavor, Alpine Inn leaves whole tomatoes in a smoker before they are juiced and mixed with Tito's vodka and lime for its Smoked Bloody Mary;

**Aged Rum Old Fashioned at Timber & Salt**

Timber & Salt: 881 Middlefield Road, Redwood City; 650-362-3777.

Though Timber & Salt in Redwood City is known for its rotating seasonal craft cocktail menu, often entirely based on a pop culture theme of the bar staff's choos- ing (their current cocktails are all named after Neil Young songs) there's one spin on a classic that hasn't left the menu since the bar opened over six years ago: the Aged Rum Old Fashioned.

The drink abandons the classic old fash- ioned's base liquor of whiskey for an eight-year aged Barbancourt rum from Haiti. But the star of the cocktail's complexity is a house-made mauby syrup, based on a bitter drink consumed in many of the Caribbean islands. Timber & Salt's version of mauby is made by boiling the dried bark of the mauby tree with spices and citrus zest before sweetening the infusion with both brown and white sugars. The bar uses the intense bitterness of the mauby syrup to round out the vanilla notes of the aged rum.

Though you could get the drink as part of Timber & Salt's to-go cocktail menu, you're better off enjoying it at the restaur- ant, where it's served over a perfectly clear, hand-carved cube of ice. The bar staff whittle individual cubes down from a large block that can usually be spotted behind the bar, tempering as the night goes on.

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By Zack Fernandes

Food & Drink

Creative twists on classic drinks from Peninsula bartenders

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MENLO PARK | $3,950,000
4br/3.5ba home on sought-after, tree lined street in Menlo Park close to schools, parks & downtown. Multiple office areas, lg. bedrooms, hardwood floors, recessed lighting, plantation shutters, skylights, vaulted ceilings in great room. Kitchen w/stainless steel appliances. Master w/2 walk-in closets & window seat. Spacious, shaded back brick patio w/ verdant lawn & newly landscaped gardens.

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Newly remodeled coastal home in this sought-after Westside Miramar neighborhood, approximately 3 blocks from spectacular Miramar Beach. This classic one-level beach house features 3br/1.5ba and upgraded kitchen & baths. The property is a short distance to restaurants and an easy commute to San Francisco or Silicon Valley.

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