

# The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

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## Head of Menlo Church steps down over 'poor judgment'

Community outcry after revelation that pastor knew of son's attraction to children, but still let him work with youth

By **Kate Bradshaw**  
Almanac Staff Writer

John Ortberg, the senior pastor of Menlo Church, is stepping down from his role at the evangelical Presbyterian church that sits prominently in downtown Menlo Park, following community outcry after the church's board learned that he had allowed his son to continue to work with youth for more than a year after learning that he was sexually attracted to children.



**Pastor John Ortberg**

Menlo Church attracts about 6,000 weekly congregants across six Bay Area campuses, and on its website brands itself as a family-friendly faith community, but it faced a reckoning as details emerged regarding troubling revelations in late 2019 and early 2020. Ortberg, who has led the

church for 17 years, was put on a leave of absence this winter, and later reinstated. On Wednesday morning, the church announced that its governing board unanimously accepted Ortberg's resignation, according to a statement on the church's website.

His last day will be Sunday, Aug. 2, when he is expected to address the congregation.

Ortberg's "poor judgment has resulted in pain and broken trust among many parents, youth volunteers and staff" and he "needs to focus on healing and reconciliation within his own family," the church's board stated.

After an initial investigation that was criticized as inadequate, Menlo Church announced earlier this month it would launch a supplemental investigation, although it has yet to hire an outside firm to conduct it.

The church board plans to hire an interim pastor to serve in a transitional role during the

See **MENLO CHURCH**, page 17



Sammy Dallal

**Menlo Church** is looking for a new leader after revelations about Senior Pastor John Ortberg's son rocked the community.

## San Mateo County joins state's COVID-19 watchlist

Gyms, salons and other nonessential services may be forced to close Saturday

By **Tyler Callister**  
Almanac Staff Writer

For weeks, San Mateo County has been the only Bay Area county to evade the state's coronavirus watchlist, but on Wednesday it joined the crowd.

The July 29 announcement by county officials saying San Mateo County is joining California's watchlist means that a wide range of businesses and activities may be forced to shut down starting Aug. 1 if the county remains on the list for three consecutive days, unless they can be modified to operate outside or by pickup. Visit [almanacnews.com](http://almanacnews.com) for the latest information.

According to the county, this

order means the following would have to cease operation: gyms and fitness centers; places of worship and cultural ceremonies, such as weddings and funerals; offices for businesses not in essential service sectors; personal care services, like nail salons and body waxing; hair salons and barbershops; and shopping malls.

The county also said that shops that offer tattoos, piercings and electrolysis may not be operated outdoors and therefore would have to close.

Among other criteria, the state's threshold for inclusion on the watchlist is a COVID-19 case rate of 100 per 100,000 of the population. The county's case rate as of July 29, based on a 14-day rolling average, was 110.4

positive cases per 100,000.

"If the county exceeds the state's case rate threshold for three consecutive days, certain industries and activities will be required to cease operations unless they can be modified to operate outside or by pick-up," the county said Wednesday.

County officials said they did not expect that the local case rate would decrease after three days, and that they "urge businesses and the community to prepare now for the additional restrictions" expected to be imposed Saturday, Aug. 1.

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced July 17 that public schools on the state's coronavirus watchlist cannot open campuses until they've been off

the list for 14 days.

"We've been anticipating being added to the monitoring list as our case rate hovers above the state's target," said San Mateo County Manager Mike Callagy in the county press release. "It's clear that COVID-19 continues to spread in our community and in the Bay Area. It's vital that we all do everything we can — wearing face coverings, washing our hands, and avoiding gatherings — to slow and eventually stop the spread. These individual actions can make a huge difference."

The California Department of Public Health addresses San Mateo County on its website, saying it "sees roots of community transmission related to

social gatherings without sufficient physical distancing and wearing of facial coverings, as well as higher exposure for residents performing work that involves person-to-person contact and crowded housing conditions that make home isolation difficult."

As of July 28, San Mateo County had a coronavirus case total of 5,306, with a peak number of cases in a single day at nearly 140 on July 20, according to the San Mateo County health department's coronavirus data dashboard.

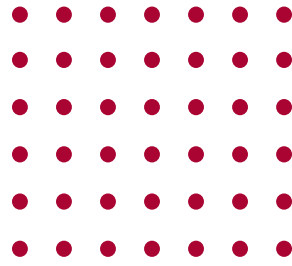
"The state has not offered guidelines for when restrictions might be lifted," county officials said in the July 29 press release. ▀

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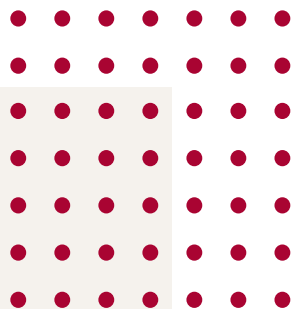
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## PANELISTS

*Shown above from top left*

### **Ayinde Bomar Olukotun**

2020 graduate of Menlo School and incoming freshman at Pomona College, where he will be studying Public Policy. One of the organizers of the Palo Alto Community Protest on June 6th.

### **Divya Ganesan**

Rising senior at Castilleja School and former president of the Palo Alto Youth Council. Co-founder of Real Talk, a student-led group engaging high schoolers in civil discourse and engagement. Spearheaded a #2020ready campaign to engage Palo Alto youth voters.

### **Cleo Goodwin**

2018 Gunn High School graduate. Transferring to North Carolina Central for the upcoming year

after attending De Anza College and studying communications following high school. Was a speaker at Palo Alto’s Juneteenth event.

### **Hele’ine Grewe**

Rising senior at Menlo Atherton High School; daughter of a Black father and Tongan mother and active in various social justice and environmental campaigns and organizations. Raised in East Palo Alto and the eldest of four children. Works part time as a Census worker and a graphic designer.

### **Makayla Miller**

2020 graduate of Palo Alto High School and currently a student at Louisiana State University. Organizer and speaker at Palo Alto’s Juneteenth march and Menlo Park’s Black LGBTQIA Lives Matter rally and march. Former president of Black Scholars United at Paly.

## MODERATOR

### **Julie Lythcott-Haims**

Former corporate lawyer, former Stanford dean of freshmen and undergraduate advising, and bestselling author of the anti-helicopter parenting manifesto “How to Raise an Adult.” Her second book is the award-winning prose poetry memoir “Real American,” which illustrates her experience as a Black and biracial person in white spaces. A third book, “Your Turn: How to Be an Adult,” will be published in April 2021. BA from Stanford, JD from Harvard, and MFA in Writing from California College of the Arts. Serves on the boards of Foundation for a College Education, Global Citizen Year, and Common Sense Media.



# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Magali Gauthier

**Woodside Elementary** will announce its back-to-school decision Aug. 7. Portola Valley's school board decided to start the school year with distance learning.

## More local elementary students will go back to school online

Portola Valley is latest district to opt for distance learning, others will decide in coming week

By Tyler Callister  
Almanac Staff Writer

Ever since the coronavirus crisis forced all San Mateo County schools to close back in mid-March, one question has plagued students, parents, and teachers alike: Will students come back to campus in the fall?

At the high school level, the answer from the Sequoia Union High School District at a July 21 board meeting was no. Students will learn virtually, through Zoom and other tech tools, the district said, for at least the first quarter of the fall semester.

Now, with rising coronavirus case numbers in San Mateo County, many local elementary

school districts are doing the same thing.

The Portola Valley School District, at a school board meeting July 24, became the next domino to fall in a series of Midpeninsula school districts announcing their students will start the new school year from home, with

See **ELEMENTARY**, page 6

## Atherton VC sentenced in college admissions scam

Judge orders Manuel Henriquez to serve six months in prison

By Jamey Padojino

Manuel Henriquez, the former CEO of a Palo Alto-based venture capital firm, was sentenced Wednesday to six months in prison for paying more than \$500,000 in a national admissions scam that involved more than 50 parents, sports staff and test proctors, federal prosecutors said. He helped his daughters get admitted to college by ensuring they did well on college entrance exams five times.

Atherton resident Henriquez, 56, pleaded guilty last year to a charge of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and honest services mail and wire fraud, plus

an additional charge of conspiracy to commit money laundering, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. He founded Hercules Capital and stepped down as CEO when federal indictments in the college admissions scandal were announced in March 2019.

The indictments claimed the parents paid large sums of money to education consultant Rick Singer, who used the funds to bribe universities into guaranteeing their children admission, mostly as athletic recruits despite the applicants having little to no experience in the sport. The funds were disguised as donations to Singer's fake nonprofit organization, The Key Worldwide

Foundation. Oftentimes, parents worked with Singer to have test proctors correct their student's answers on the SAT or ACT college entrance exams.

In June 2015, Henriquez paid Singer to have a third party correct his older daughter's answers on SAT II subject tests and four months later on a SAT exam, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Henriquez continued seeking Singer's services for his youngest daughter three times between 2016 and 2017 by paying for a third party to correct tests she took in Los Angeles and Houston,

See **ADMISSIONS SCAM**, page 12

## Airbnb, short-term rental hosts to start paying hotel taxes

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

Across Menlo Park, potentially hundreds of housing units are used as short-term rentals, yet only a small portion are registered and pay the city's 12% hotel tax, according to data collected by the city.

The Menlo Park City Council voted unanimously on July 28 to move forward with a plan to hire a third-party vendor to create a database and notify all of the short-term rental housing operators in the city about the ordinance that requires them to pay the city's 12% transient occupancy tax, also known as a hotel tax.

The council also agreed to delay enforcement of the ordinance until January 2021.

While the city's hotel tax ordinance applies to all housing units rented for less than 30 days, enforcement has usually been directed toward hotels. Under the city's ordinance, operators of other types of short-term housing rentals are supposed to register with the city and then report and remit taxes quarterly, according to staff. However, in Menlo Park, only 12 homes and four corporate lease companies are registered and voluntarily remitting taxes to the city, according to staff.

Hotel taxes usually go into the city's general fund. The city's Housing Commission had recommended that the revenue be set aside to support affordable housing activities specifically, but the council didn't decide how it might spend the new revenues Tuesday, or the logistics of how the ordinance will be enforced in the new year.

The closest estimate to the true number of short-term rental units on the market comes from a website called AirDNA, which is not entirely accurate, said Rhonda Coffman, deputy community development director. In some instances, housing units may be duplicated if they are marketed on multiple sites, and unincorporated Menlo Park data is not separated out, she said.

However, according to that data source, looking at the last two quarters of 2019, there were anywhere between 396 and 524 short-term rental units on the market in

Menlo Park, and average nightly rates fluctuated between \$211 and \$254.

Several council members discussed concerns that short-term rental operators are likely seeing revenues drop during the pandemic, and argued that now is not a good time to start enforcing a tax that hasn't been enforced before.

"For me this issue is not if, it's just when," said Councilman Ray Mueller.

Councilwoman Catherine Carlton initially opposed the measure, raising concerns that some households rely on the income from short-term rentals and that the tax could drive up prices and send visitors to stay in neighboring communities instead, but ultimately agreed when the enforcement date was pushed back.

Currently, though, the few people who are following the rules and paying their taxes are the ones most adversely affected by the city's hotel tax ordinance, and that should be remedied, Vice Mayor Drew Combs said.

Councilwoman Betsy Nash and Mayor Cecilia Taylor also favored the step and pushed to avoid additional delays.

Airbnb also has a program where it makes agreements with governments to collect and remit local taxes on behalf of hosts, collecting them from guests at the time they book their stays, according to its website. While Airbnb has such agreements in Redwood City, Palo Alto and Mountain View, among many other California cities, according to its website, the company was not able to immediately commit to a similar agreement in Menlo Park, according to Coffman, who told the council she had recently spoken with company representatives.

However, that program doesn't provide the same level of data that working with an outside compliance management service might, she said. Having clearer data about the short-term rental market in Menlo Park could also set the city up to tackle larger questions about short-term rentals, such as whether they're impacting housing availability, Coffman said. ▀

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# Atherton: Three candidates vying for two spots in upcoming City Council election

By Tyler Callister

Almanac Staff Writer

This November, there will be some competition for a seat on the Atherton City Council. After three uncontested elections since 2012, this year there are two openings and so far, three candidates are running.

The 2020 race includes two incumbents, Vice Mayor Elizabeth Lewis (12 years on the council) and Councilman Cary Wiest (8 years on the council). The challenger is Christine David, a former Park and Recreation Committee vice chair and longtime Atherton resident.

Atherton City Clerk Anthony Suber confirmed that all three candidates have taken out

nomination papers and were deemed qualified as of July 28, meaning the county has verified at least 20 signatures on their nomination forms.

In 2019, David and fellow Park and Recreation Committee member John Davey made waves when they both resigned from their committee positions in protest of a City Council decision to turn down the building of a new off-leash dog park near Holbrook-Palmer Park. David and Davey had been longtime advocates of the dog park.

In an email, David suggested one of her main policy priorities would be zoning standards that affect the landscape of the town. In particular, she referenced Senate Bill 50, a divisive housing bill that would have relaxed

zoning standards for residential developments, but which failed to pass the state Senate in January.

"While SB 50 itself is dead, the legislature could always bring back another SB 50-like bill to override the town's zoning to place high rise apartment buildings within a mile to half mile of the train station," she said. "When this bill failed to pass, the legislature created nine other state bills to replace it. This issue has the greatest potential to change the very character of our town and cities and towns like it across California."

David also said she is concerned about noise levels in Atherton and the need for a "quiet zone," suggesting her approval of the town's recent

decision to close the Atherton train station. "The main benefit Atherton residents have said they want is the townwide quiet zone," she said. "Right now, Caltrain can use its horns southbound right after the Fair Oaks Lane rail crossing and northbound until it passes Watkins."

David is an independent marketing consultant with experience working at local tech startups and public relations firms and has lived in Atherton for 16 years.

Suber said that there's still time for more interested candidates to file nomination papers. The deadline for the Nov. 3 election is Friday, Aug. 7. ■

Email Tyler Callister at  
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## ELEMENTARY

continued from page 5

100% online classes.

"We believe we have a defensible plan for on-campus learning, however there are factors beyond our control," Superintendent Roberta Zarea told the school board.

Zarea cited rising cases in San Mateo County — a total of 5,306 cases as of July 28 — and a lack of testing infrastructure as reasons for the district's decision to keep students and staff home.

Before Portola Valley School District, two other local schools had already made the same choice: Belle Haven Elementary in Menlo Park and Selby Lane Elementary in Atherton have both announced plans to start school with virtual learning.

The flurry of announcements comes as school districts have been scrambling to respond to recent health orders from the state.

On July 17, California's 1,037 school districts saw a major announcement from Gov. Gavin Newsom about the fall semester: Schools in counties on the state's coronavirus watchlist must be off the list for 14 days before opening.

San Mateo County had been the only Bay Area county to stay off the state's watchlist until Wednesday.

Zarea said July 24 that district officials felt they should commit to virtual learning if school closures are inevitable. "Deciding now gives parents time to plan for fall rather than at the last minute," she said.

Districts are also preparing for how to potentially reopen.

Even if students did go back to campus in the fall, there's no question that school would look very different.

For one, many elementary students will have to wear masks: The state's order requires face masks for third graders and above, and strongly recommends them for kindergarten through second graders.

School staff will also be required to keep 6 feet of distance from students, while students should maintain 6 feet from one another "as practicable," according to California Department of Public Health rules. Schools would also be required to check students' temperatures and symptoms daily.

Many elementary schools in the district have presented "hybrid" models in the event of school openings, meaning students would be on a split schedule — half online, half on-campus.

## Some districts still in flux

While districts across the Midpeninsula — including Palo Alto Unified, Redwood City Elementary and Ravenswood

## OBITUARIES

A list of local residents who died recently:

**Grace Elise Vilez Butcher**, 89, a Menlo Park resident, died on July 9. **Phyllis Bird Roth**, 90, a teacher and longtime Atherton resident, died on July 26.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at [almanacnews.com/obituaries](http://almanacnews.com/obituaries).

Elementary — have announced plans, a handful of local schools haven't committed yet.

Menlo Park City, Woodside Elementary, and Las Lomitas Elementary school districts have yet to confirm whether they will follow other districts' lead.

Menlo Park City School District's board discussed a draft of its virtual learning plan at its meeting July 23. The board will make a final decision at its July 30 meeting, Superintendent Erik Burmeister said in a presentation to the board.

According to the Woodside Elementary School District website, information about the 2020-2021 school year reopening "will be communicated to

parents on Friday, August 7." Superintendent Steve Frank did not respond to requests for further comment by The Almanac's press deadline on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Las Lomitas Elementary School District is set to discuss the issue of virtual learning at its Aug. 5 board meeting, according to Superintendent Beth Polito. "LLESD currently has a full, five-day in-person program planned for fall," Polito said in an email. "However with the county on the precipice of being added to the Monitoring List, we will have to revisit that at our August 5th Board meeting." ■

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## CRIME BRIEFS

## Atherton burglary

A Gresham Lane homeowner scared off a burglar on July 28, Atherton police reported. Around 2:30 a.m., noise coming from the master bathroom woke up the homeowner, who saw that a window in the bedroom was open and the screen removed, police said in a statement. After the homeowner banged on the door to the bathroom, the burglary suspect fled through the bathroom window.

Police said the burglar escaped with a wallet containing \$96 and had apparently used a patio chair to climb into the bedroom window. There is no suspect description and the incident is under investigation.

—Andrea Gemmet

## Minor injuries in crash

A vehicle heading north on Interstate 280 in Woodside crashed into the center divider Saturday afternoon, then careened across all northbound lanes before going over the right shoulder guardrail and down a 25-foot embankment, according to a California Highway Patrol spokesperson.

The accident was reported at 4:10 p.m. The CHP says that the vehicle came to rest on the embankment between Interstate 280 and Canada Road, which parallels the freeway.

One person suffered minor injuries in the crash and was transported to Stanford University Medical Center for treatment.

—Bay City News Service

# New faces join Portola Valley council race

Councilwoman Ann Wengert decides not to seek reelection

By Julia Brown

Almanac Assistant Editor

Driving down Alpine Road on her first visit to Portola Valley was a moment that has stayed with Sarah Wernikoff over a decade later.

“The first time we came down Alpine Road I was instantly in love with Portola Valley,” said Wernikoff, who grew up in Chicago and moved to the Bay Area with her husband in the late ‘90s before settling in Portola Valley 14 years ago. “We were definitely automatically attracted to the rural nature, but we knew we needed a really strong community and school district, and we made the right decision.”

Wernikoff says it’s her love and appreciation for the town that’s the driving factor behind her decision to run for a seat on the Portola Valley Town Council. She is the first to qualify for the November ballot and has already racked up a list of endorsements, including from all current council members and former and current elected officials such as former Mayor Jon Silver and Assemblyman Marc Berman. Mary Hufty, a retired Palo Alto Medical Foundation family physician who has served on town committees, has pulled papers and confirmed her candidacy via email Tuesday. (An article about Hufty’s candidacy is planned for the Aug. 7 edition.)

Ann Wengert, who has served on the council for 13 years, is not running for reelection, she confirmed in a statement Tuesday. Mayor Jeff Aalfs told The Almanac he has decided to run for reelection, but has not yet pulled papers, according to the San Mateo County Elections Office candidate roster.

Although this is her first time running for public office, Wernikoff is no stranger to politics. She recently worked nearly two years as the chief of operations for Close the Gap California, a Palo-Alto based organization that recruits women to run for office and helps them launch their campaigns. Its goal is to increase the percentage of women in the state Legislature from 33% to 50%.

Wernikoff also spent the last eight months working as the campaign manager for state Senate District 15 candidate Ann Ravel, which helped influence her own decision to run for office.

“That was an incredible opportunity and I learned a tremendous amount and find the work really interesting,” she said. Her background is in management of nonprofit organizations and e-commerce general

management, according to her LinkedIn profile.

Wernikoff has three children — a son starting college in the fall, a daughter heading into her junior year at Woodside High School and another son going into eighth grade at Menlo School — and has served as a community volunteer in the Portola Valley School District, fulfilling a number of roles including parent-teacher organization president, foundation trustee and member of the Measure Z Leadership Committee.

She credits her daughter, who has Down syndrome, with inspiring her to get more active in the community.

“My advocacy and civic mindedness turned on from my work with the school district,” she said. “She was the only kiddo with Down syndrome the entire time we went through (the district). I benefited from their partnership with me and our family in terms of helping us assure the best outcomes for her.”

Wernikoff also joined the LuMind IDSC Down Syndrome Foundation shortly after it was founded and was there for 12 years, including three years as board chair.

“I dealt with having to hire two different executive directors... and we had board members across the country who didn’t really know each other,” she recalled. “I learned there are always going to be difficult issues you have to navigate, and you need to be thoughtful and balanced and a good listener.”

She said the decision to run for office now was “super spontaneous” and not based on any particular issues or platform.

“I am not getting involved over an issue — I am doing it because we live in a special place and this is the kind of work I like to do,” Wernikoff said.

She said it’s fair to say she’s not looking to shake things up from how they’ve been run, saying she respects the town’s general plan and considers it the “backbone and guidepost for what you’re using to make decisions.” At the same time, she said the town should be “evolving in a way that respects the intent of the general plan.”

Wernikoff anticipates some of the major issues on the council in the years to come include housing and wildfire preparedness. Asked about balancing the interests of building more housing to meet state mandates and retaining the rural character of the town, she said, “My hope is you can do both.”

“The town clearly needs to address the housing issue and it’s

a state requirement so it’s not if, it’s when and how,” she said. “I hope if I have the opportunity to serve we can find the right path forward that fits the rural character and the intent of the general plan.”

She said she does not have an opinion on the town’s recent work to engage residents on racial equality and policing or the Stanford Wedge project, a plan initiated by Stanford University to build faculty homes and affordable rental units on property it owns along Alpine Road.

“Our town could clearly benefit from more diversity,” she said when asked about the council’s race and policing subcommittee.

Wernikoff has a bachelor’s degree in international relations from Miami University and an MBA from the George Washington University School of Business. Her campaign website is sarahforptowntowncouncil.org.

## Ann Wengert

Councilwoman Ann Wengert, who joined the Portola Valley council in 2007, issued a statement after she decided not to seek reelection.

“Thank you to all I have had the pleasure to meet and work with over these 17 years of public service,” she said. “I am excited to embrace new opportunities and challenges, and to continue my exploration of all this area has to offer.”

Wengert was appointed to the council after running unopposed and served as mayor three times,

most recently last year.

Reached by phone Wednesday, Wengert said she had been weighing whether to run again for over a year and that it came down to “length of service.”

“It felt like a natural time for me to step down,” she said, adding that the pandemic “wasn’t really a factor” in her decision.

Looking back on her tenure, Wengert says much has changed since she joined the council. Back then the council dealt with much more localized issues, and now “we have a much greater role in regional representation,” she said, noting her participation in the Select Committee on aircraft noise issues and county committees.

Housing, finance, and bicycle and pedestrian safety are among the issues “where I’ve developed expertise and interest,” she said.

Wengert added that she hopes that there will not be council candidates campaigning around a single issue, and that whoever takes her place will offer a new perspective. She also hopes the council continues to work on addressing the town’s housing shortage.

“While we’ve had an ethos of wanting to preserve our local culture and I agree with that, it requires a modification and growth that allows for reasonable change,” she said. “Now is the time, and now we can’t delay any further because the need is critical.” ■

Email Julia Brown at [jbrown@almanacnews.com](mailto:jbrown@almanacnews.com)

## COMMUNITY BRIEF

### County tops 5,000 coronavirus cases

San Mateo County reported 89 new cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday, bringing the county’s total to 5,306. No new deaths were reported, keeping the death toll at 118. Seventy people are hospitalized as of Tuesday.

Long-term care facilities have 552 reported cases as of July 22, the latest date for which data is available. No new cases have been reported out of long-term care facilities in the county since July 13.

The facilities, which make up about 6% of the county’s total, have seen its case total rise by single digits since June 2, indicating a slowdown in the spread of COVID-19 in those spaces.

Santa Clara County reported 259 new cases of the coronavirus on Wednesday, bringing the total to 9,612. Two more people have died of the disease, raising the county’s death toll to 187.

Of the 185 people hospitalized in the county due to COVID-19, 29 patients are new. Another 25 patients are under investigation for the virus. The seven-day average of hospitalized COVID-19 patients has more than doubled over the past month, from 2.96% on June 29 to 7.4% on July 28.

—Embarcadero Media staff



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# Portola Valley considers buying 3 acres from equestrian center

By **Julia Brown**  
Almanac Assistant Editor

The Portola Valley Town Council on July 22 held a closed-session discussion on the possible town acquisition of a parcel at 725 Portola Road, the current location of Spring Down Equestrian Center.

Nothing was reported out of closed session, according to Town Manager Jeremy Dennis,

who said he could not elaborate beyond the information provided on the agenda. The closed-session agenda item was a conference between real property negotiators and Goodstein Family Partners Lp with “transfer of property to town ownership” under negotiation. Carol Goodstein is listed as the owner of the center on its website.

Spring Down Equestrian Center officials did not return requests

for comment before The Almanac’s Wednesday press deadline.

The parcel under discussion, one of four lots on the property, is just under 3 acres and is the only one owned by Goodstein, according to the San Mateo County Assessor’s Office.

The center, which has operated in Portola Valley since 1984, abuts the Portola Valley Town Center complex at 765 Portola Road. In 2000, the town purchased 3 acres

of the 12-acre equestrian center property and later 3 adjoining acres to use as public open space, now known as Spring Down Open Space. According to an October 2000 Almanac article, Stanley and Carol Goodstein sold the front two lots of their property to the town at below market value and in exchange were allowed to use the land for horse shows and equestrian training for a decade. As a result of the sale,

the Goodsteins had to reduce the number of horses from 84 to 40, and move the riding ring back beside the stables.

In 2009 the Woodside-area Horse Owners Association gave Carol Goodstein its Hall of Fame award. In a post on its website, the association notes, “There are many kids that grew up at Spring Down who successfully went on

See **SPRING DOWN**, page 19

## Panel discussion to be held on Generation Z and racial justice

Aug. 6 conversation will be moderated by former Stanford dean

Embarcadero Media staff

Five young adults who’ve led recent efforts to bring about social change along the Midpeninsula will share their perspectives on racial justice and advocacy in a virtual panel discussion on Thursday, Aug. 6, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Moderated by former Stanford University Dean of Freshmen and Undergraduate Advising, Julie Lythcott-Haims, “Youth Rising Up: Can Gen Z Lead on Social Change?” will feature Ayinde Bomar Olukotun, Divya Ganesan, Cleo Goodwin, Hele’ine Grewe

and Makayla Miller. The free, public event is being presented by Embarcadero Media and Youth Community Service (YCS).

Olukotun, a 2020 graduate of Menlo School, was one of the organizers of the Palo Alto Community Protest on June 6. An incoming freshman at Pomona College, he will be studying public policy.

Ganesan is a rising senior at Castilleja School and former president of the Palo Alto Youth Council. She co-founded Real Talk, a student-led group engaging high school students in civil discourse and engagement, and

also spearheaded a #2020ready campaign to engage Palo Alto youth voters.

Goodwin graduated from Gunn High School in 2018 and was a speaker at Palo Alto’s Juneteenth rally and march in downtown Palo Alto. After attending De Anza College and studying communications, Goodwin will be transferring to North Carolina Central for the upcoming academic year.

Hele’ine Grewe is a rising senior at Menlo-Atherton High School who also works part-time for the U.S. Census and as a graphic designer. The daughter of a Black

father and Tongan mother, Grewe has been active in various social justice and environmental campaigns and organizations. Raised in East Palo Alto, she is the eldest of four children.

Makayla Miller, a recent graduate of Palo Alto High School, co-organized and spoke at Palo Alto’s Juneteenth march and Menlo Park’s Black LGBTQIA Lives Matter rally and march. The former president of Black Scholars United at Paly, she’s currently a student at Louisiana State University.

Lythcott-Haims is a former corporate lawyer and author

of the anti-helicopter parenting manifesto “How to Raise an Adult.” Her second book is the award-winning prose poetry memoir “Real American,” which illustrates her experience as a Black and biracial person in white spaces. A third book, “Your Turn: How to Be an Adult,” will be published in April 2021. She serves on the boards of Foundation for a College Education, Global Citizen Year and Common Sense Media.

Registration is required to attend the event, which will be hosted on Zoom. Go to [EmbarcaderoMediaGroup.com/youth-forum](https://EmbarcaderoMediaGroup.com/youth-forum) to reserve a spot. ■

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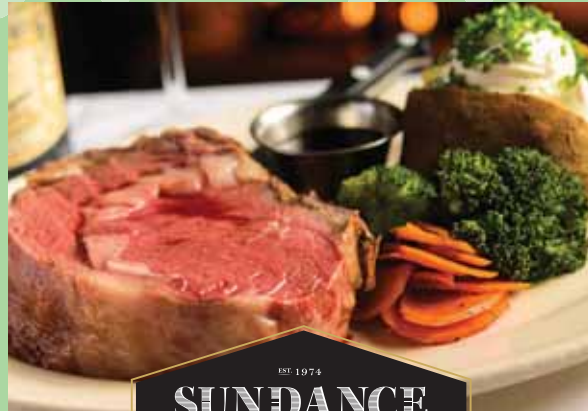
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# Town Square to test limiting comments to registered users

By Almanac staff

Starting Aug. 1, participation in The Almanac's popular Town Square reader forum will be limited to those who register on the site with their name and email address.

The change is an experiment to determine if requiring registration will lead to a more welcoming environment for those interested in respectful discussions of local issues, according to Publisher Bill Johnson.

"In spite of the large numbers of people who enjoy engaging

in meaningful discussion on Town Square, we know that there are many others who stay away because they view it as an inhospitable place too often dominated by rude posters who belittle others and their motives," Johnson said. "Town Square wasn't intended as a place exclusively for the thick-skinned."

"The actions of these problematic posters have demanded increasing amounts of our staff's time to moderate, edit and sometimes delete disrespectful comments that seem intended to antagonize or manipulate public opinion with false or misleading information."

Johnson said that the volume of commenting has soared since the shelter-in-place orders were made in mid-March, fueled by deep divisions over the handling of the pandemic response and, more recently, on protests and advocacy relating to racial injustice and police reform.

"We are constantly evaluating how to make Town Square a safer place for all posters and to keep out those who attack

others, make repetitive comments and side-track discussions," Johnson said. "With an expected highly-charged election season ahead of us, it seemed like the right time to implement new requirements."

Becoming a registered user requires a person to register their name and email address with AlmanacNews.com. Although posters are encouraged to use their name when they post comments, they may choose to use a screen name instead. But the registration requirement will create some accountability and a way for Almanac moderators to contact the poster.

"There is no perfect way to weed out posters who are hell-bent on being snarky or disrespectful," Johnson said. "But at a time when emotions are high and so much polarization exists in politics, we hope this step will move Town Square closer to a place where constructive dialogue and debate can occur."

Almanac readers will be asked to help evaluate the registration requirement after the Nov. 3 election. ▣

## ADMISSIONS SCAM

continued from page 5

prosecutors said.

The Atherton resident also paid \$400,000 to help his daughter become a tennis recruit at Georgetown University despite her having no competitive experience in the sport, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

In a July 21 letter to Gorton, Henriquez expressed "regrets, shame, sorrow and remorse" for his actions. "I never imagined being called a 'common thief,' but here I stand before you, humiliated and destroyed.

"I fully realize and acknowledge that what I have done was wrong, illegal, unfair and hurtful, especially to the many honest college applicant students and parents," Henriquez wrote. "I am ashamed of my actions of putting myself and family over all the children and parents who played by the rules."

In admitting to his wrongdoings, Henriquez also said losing control over his company was "like losing my third child, and I lost that along with my professional reputation and integrity."

In addition to the prison sentence, U.S. District Court Judge Nathaniel Gorton ordered Henriquez to perform 200 hours of

community service while under two years of supervised release and to pay a \$200,000 fine.

Prosecutors had requested Henriquez be sentenced to five months in prison (a reduction from an earlier petition of 18 months); two years of supervised release; 250 hours of community service; and a \$150,000 fine.

In a July 22 sentencing memorandum, prosecutors stated that Henriquez and his wife, Elizabeth Henriquez, conspired with Singer to cheat on the exams five times, the most instances compared to other parents involved in the scam.

On Jan. 27, 2019, less than two months before they were indicted, Singer visited the couple's home, where Manuel Henriquez verified that Singer helped them cheat on the tests and worked to cover up the fraud.

Elizabeth Henriquez was sentenced on March 31 to seven months in prison, two years of supervised release, 300 hours of community service and a \$200,000 fine.

Manuel Henriquez is the 28th parent who pleaded guilty and the 20th parent sentenced in the scandal, according to prosecutors. ▣

Email Jamey Padojino at [jpadojino@paweeekly.com](mailto:jpadojino@paweeekly.com)

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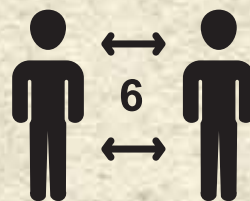


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**MENLO CHURCH***continued from page 1*

search for a new senior pastor, according to the statement, and in the interim, Eugene Lee will continue as executive pastor. The congregation pushed back its annual congregational meeting several weeks to Aug. 30, during which some board seats will be up for election.

The board — known as an Elder Board — has nine members, and with the senior pastor, leads the church community. When the board was alerted last November to concerns about Ortberg's decision to permit his younger son to keep working with children, it promptly hired the law firm Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP to conduct an investigation, which ran from November through early January, after which the pastor was reinstated. Statements from Menlo Church at the time identified him only as a youth volunteer, and not as Ortberg's son.

But in late June, Danny Lavery, the pastor's older son, publicly revealed on Twitter that he had called on the church to conduct the investigation, and that it was his younger brother who had revealed his interest in children, and Lavery who "Given the brevity of the investigation," he said on Twitter, made his initial letter to the church public in order to push for a more robust, thorough inquiry.

To date, the younger Ortberg son has not been accused, arrested or convicted of any misconduct, according to a spokesperson for the family who asked not to be named. The Almanac's own investigation also failed to turn up any police reports or accusations.

The younger son was removed from his volunteer role immediately after the Elder Board learned of Lavery's initial concerns and church staff has put "safeguards in place" to prevent any future volunteer involvement by him, according to Heather Holliday, senior director of marketing and communications at the church.

But the revelation of the son's identity raised questions among some members of the church's faith community about the adequacy of the initial investigation.

To start, the pastor's younger son, who Lavery said was 30 years old in his November 2019 statement to the church, was not asked to be interviewed during the investigation, according to the family's spokesperson.

He "believes that his work with the church has helped the community in many ways, and he has always acted and behaved with the highest levels of responsibility and commitment," the Ortberg's spokesperson said in an email.

Religion News Service, a respected 86-year-old news

service that covers religion throughout the United States, reported that, according to the church's elders, the initial investigator did not interview any parents whose children had contact with the pastor's son, any other volunteers who worked with him, or any outside group where he worked with kids. And in interviews with church staff, the interviewer did not ask specific questions about his conduct. Holliday confirmed this information to be accurate with The Almanac.

The scope of the church's initial investigation was to learn if the pastor had received a confession from his youngest son that he struggled with unwanted thoughts about children, failed to prevent his son from volunteering and failed to inform anyone at the church; and to determine whether his son engaged in any misconduct, and whether there were any specific allegations or information about possible misconduct while he volunteered at the church, according to a July 29 statement from the church responding to questions it had received.

The investigation involved speaking to "relevant student and children's ministry leaders going back to 2008, each of whom was asked to disclose any information about which they were aware involving any allegations of misconduct by any leader or volunteer," according to the statement. Kelly Morehead, who attended the church for many years, whose children participated in youth programs, and who recently volunteered as a leader for young women, told HuffPost that she was not contacted during the initial investigation.

As alleged omissions in the initial investigation became public, the church's Elder Board announced on July 11 that it would launch a supplemental investigation; form a new committee with church elders, staff, parents and volunteers to provide oversight over the investigation; and conduct a full audit of "policies, practices and training related to child and youth safety" that would be led by an expert, independent outside organization. The policies will be audited regularly, the board announced.

The church announced July 29 that the supplemental investigation is moving forward and that it was in the process of creating an "Investigative Advisory Committee" with staff, volunteer, parent, elder and denomination representatives to vet and recommend a new firm with expertise in child safety and sexual abuse to lead the investigation into the pastor's son's involvement in Menlo Church or church-sponsored activities involving minors.

The church's youth program works with more than 1,000

children each Sunday, according to a church document by ministry leader John Garrison.

The church board also said it would, with guidance from experts, conduct a full audit of its child and youth safety practices, which will be regularly audited.

**What happened**

Last November, Menlo Church publicly announced a series of actions in response to what church leaders determined to be "poor judgment" by Ortberg when he permitted "a person serving in the church community" who admitted an "unwanted thought pattern of attraction to minors" to continue to work with children for about 16 months after disclosing that information, according to a Jan. 21 statement from the church's Elder Board.

The pastor did not respond to a request for an interview or comment. In his resignation letter, Ortberg acknowledged his error and his "regret for not having served our church with better judgment. Extensive conversations I had with my youngest son gave no evidence of risk of harm. ... However, for my part, I did not balance my responsibilities as a father with my responsibilities as a leader."

Lavery initially contacted the church's Elder Board on Nov. 21, 2019, to report that his brother had disclosed to him that he had sexual and/or romantic attractions toward children and young teens, according to email correspondence Lavery shared on a website dedicated to the matter.

Lavery said he told the board that his brother said that he had disclosed the same information 16 months prior, in July 2018, to his parents, John and Nancy Ortberg. Since then, Lavery said, his father had allowed his brother to continue to work, unsupervised, with youth at Menlo Church.

The younger son volunteered with the church for several years, on and off, until mid-2019, according to the spokesperson for the Ortberg family.

Lavery said he also raised concerns that his brother had traveled a number of times on mission trips to Mexico where he may have been with children unsupervised. According to the Ortberg's spokesperson, the travel was supervised.

The day after Lavery went to the Elder Board, on Nov. 22, church elders suspended Pastor Ortberg. And by Nov. 24, the board had retained an independent investigator, Fred W. Alvarez, whose bio says he specializes in employment law, to look into the matter.

The investigator did not find any misconduct in the Menlo Church community, board chair Beth Seabolt reported in a January statement to the church.

But Ortberg was found to have "exhibited poor judgment that was inconsistent with his responsibilities as senior pastor," Seabolt said at the time.

Ortberg, who has served as senior pastor since 2004, according to the church website, acknowledged in a July 6 statement to the church community that it was his younger son who was the volunteer in question and apologized for not taking action to stop him from working with children.

"When my son first spoke to me, I should have immediately asked our church Elders for counsel and I should have exerted my full influence to ensure that he did not volunteer again at any event with kids and youth," he wrote in his statement.

After the son told his parents about his attraction to children, he also continued to work with high school students as an Ultimate Frisbee coach. As of June 2019, he was listed as the coach of Gunn High School in Palo Alto's Ultimate Frisbee team, Gunn Control. He stopped coaching the Gunn Control team in November 2019 after sending a note to team members saying he had stepped down because of a family crisis, Religion News Service reported.

He was also listed as a coach for the Bay Area's Red Dawn team in the 2019 U.S. Open Club Championships Under-20 division.

He was a coach for about five years, according to the Ortberg's spokesperson.

After the investigation, the church announced it had put Ortberg on a "restoration plan," a faith-based process in which he worked with the church's staff and board members to rebuild trust. He was reinstated as senior pastor on Jan. 24, and returned to the pulpit the week of March 7, as previously reported in The Almanac.

During a March 8 sermon, Ortberg said he had had 80 meetings with individuals or small groups to listen to the church community's input.

Then, on June 28, Lavery

publicly identified his brother as the unnamed volunteer on Twitter. Lavery told The Almanac that his primary goal was to make sure there would be a robust investigation.

"I don't believe you can investigate 16 years in a month and a half," Lavery said.

In the aftermath of Lavery's announcement, church members raised questions over the thoroughness of the investigation and what confidence the faith community could have in its findings.

"We understand our initial investigation could have gone further and included specific expertise in child safety and sex abuse issues, and it could have been informed by conversations with a wider group of people," states a July 11 online message to churchgoers from the Menlo Church Elders. "Based on the feedback we've received, we are initiating a supplemental independent investigation into concerns raised about the volunteer."

**Parishioners push for transparency**

The Almanac spoke with several former parishioners who are parents following the son's identity being released. Several said they wanted the church to dig deeper to see if he was responsible for any misconduct while working with children, and others urged the church to be more transparent with how it is conducting its supplemental investigation. Some called for Ortberg to step down.

Ruth Hutchins, a church member and parent who has been chronicling the church's statements to parishioners and writing her opinions about them on her personal blog, gave her own suggestions on how the church should have handled the situation: "If your son attended the Menlo Park middle school or high school youth program over the past 10 years, and if his group leader was someone close to John Ortberg, I think the church owes you

See **MENLO CHURCH**, page 19

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**MENLO CHURCH**

*continued from page 17*

answers. Menlo Church should have given you a copy of their investigation report. In fact, you should have been interviewed," she wrote on her blog.

Morehead, the church parent and volunteer who said she was not contacted during the initial investigation, told The Almanac that church volunteers have rules they are expected to follow while working with youth. Volunteers undergo background checks, provide personal references and attend regular training, she said. They are taught about being a mandated reporter and said there are rules in place for the type of physical contact volunteers are permitted with children — side hugs are OK, front-to-front hugs are not. Volunteers are trained to be supportive and to be involved in children's lives by attending sports games or performances. Many work with the same cohort of students through middle and high school.

Morehead said she wants the church to take responsibility and say, "This was a horrible violation of trust on the part of the church by John. We are going to make sure this absolutely never happens again."

"If you substitute school for church, principal for pastor, and school board for elder board, there would be no room for debate," she said. "I've tried to put myself in John's position, and what I don't understand is how he could continue to put at risk not only the children with whom (his

son) worked, but also (his son)."

Mountain View resident Madeline Lux, who attended the church for about a year and a half in 2017 and 2018, said before the July 29 announcement that she would like to see Ortberg fired and for members of the church's board to turn over. "What they did was neglectful and harmful to the community," she said.

Tiger Bachler, an Atherton resident who was married at the church, volunteered regularly with youth and baptized her children there, but hasn't attended regularly for a number of years, also called for a supplemental investigation and said that Ortberg should resign or be fired. "It seems so clear to me that what he did was wrong," she said. "The children are the most vulnerable of his flock and he failed them."

The Almanac has attempted to reach church community members who may feel differently, but due to the size of the congregation and the constraints of reporting

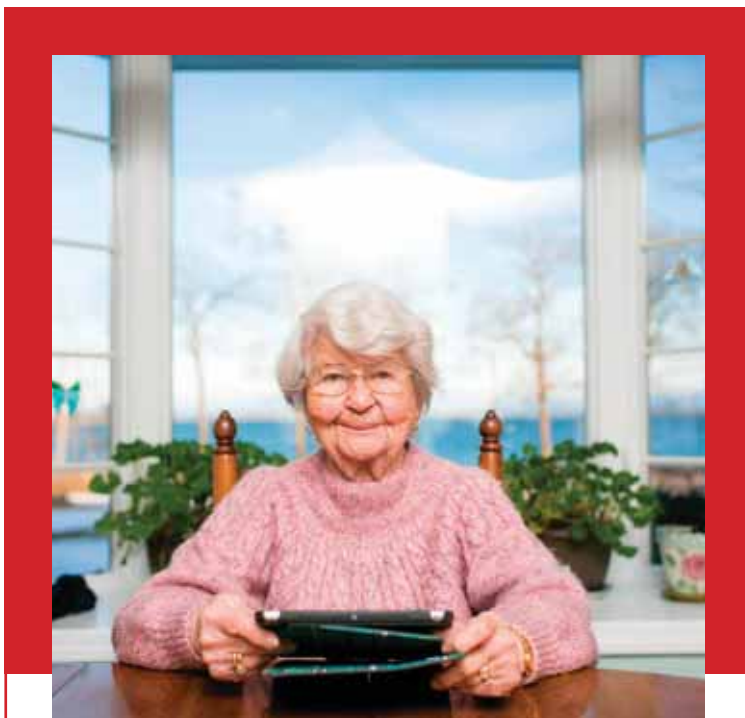
during a pandemic — in-person services are on hold — it has been difficult to interview a larger number of parishioners.

Anyone in the Menlo Church community who wishes to report abuse or misconduct can contact the church's Elder Board by email at [elders@menlo.church](mailto:elders@menlo.church) or contact a campus pastor. People should also contact law enforcement if appropriate, said Holliday, the church spokesperson.

The church board released a document providing additional answers to parishioner questions on July 29, which is available online at [is.gd/menloquestions](http://is.gd/menloquestions). ■

*Email Kate Bradshaw at [kbradshaw@almanacnews.com](mailto:kbradshaw@almanacnews.com)*

*Editor's note: The Almanac has chosen not to name Pastor John Ortberg's son in this story because our reporting has not uncovered any accusation of improper or criminal behavior.*



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**SPRING DOWN**

*continued from page 8*

to ride on the A circuit, or had a family of their own who are now back riding at the barn. ... Spring Down has been a safe haven for riders young and not so young."

It's not clear what the equestrian center parcel would be used for if the town acquired it.

A council-formed committee convened last year to research using town-owned property for affordable housing — including a small plot at the south end of the Town Center property. It narrowed down the choices to four sites out of more than 30 that the town owns and found that those properties had drawbacks that would inhibit development of a significant number of units or would draw community opposition, committee Vice Chairman Steve Toben said last November.

The state passed new laws that will affect the Regional Housing Needs Assessment beginning in 2022 and could require the town to plan for 100 to 200 units of housing over the next decade, with some percentage of below-market-rate units. ■

# Public Notices

**995 Fictitious Name Statement**

VANADA ROAD COACHING & CONSULTING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 284679

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Vanada Road Coaching & Consulting, located at 75 El Vanada Road, Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County. Registered owner(s): MARY M. SCHMIDT 75 El Vanada Road Redwood City, CA 94062 This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on July 1, 2020 (N/A). This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 14, 2020. (ALM July 31; Aug. 7, 14, 21, 2020)

THE ALMANAC ALMANACNEWS.COM FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 284753

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) The Almanac, 2.) Almanacnews.com, located at 3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County. Registered owner(s): EMBARCADERO MEDIA 450 Cambridge Ave. Palo Alto, CA 94306 California This business is conducted by: A Corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/15/2009. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 22, 2020. (ALM July 31; Aug. 7, 14, 21, 2020)

**997 All Other Legals**

APN: 061-382-270-3467 TS No: CA01000329-19-1 TO No: 95312671 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED March 17, 2008. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On August 21, 2020 at 01:00 PM, At the Marshall Street entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City CA 94063, Special Default Services, Inc., as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on March 26, 2008 as Instrument No. 2008-032502 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, executed by Alexander Gabovich and Natalie Gabovich, husband and wife, as Community Property with rights of survivorship, as Trustor(s), in favor of David R. Hall and Dorianne M. Fleury, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1070 Pine St., Menlo Park, CA 94025. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations

secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$195,156.79 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call In Source Logic AT 702-659-7766 for information regarding the Special Default Services, Inc. or visit the Internet Web site address listed below for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA01000329-19. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Date: July 14, 2020 Special Default Services, Inc. TS No. CA01000329-19 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 (949) 225-5945 TDD: 866-660-4288 Susan Earnest, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT [www.insourcelogic.com](http://www.insourcelogic.com) FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: In Source Logic AT 702-659-7766 SPECIAL DEFAULT SERVICES, INC. MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE Order Number 72250, Pub Dates: 07/24/2020, 07/31/2020, 08/07/2020, THE ALMANAC

Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email [asantillan@pawekly.com](mailto:asantillan@pawekly.com) for assistance with your legal advertising needs. The deadline is Monday at noon.

# Camp Connection

Please check directly with camps for updates and remote offerings.

For more information about these camps visit [paloaltoonline.com/camp\\_connection](http://paloaltoonline.com/camp_connection). To advertise in this weekly directory, call (650) 326-8210.

## ACADEMICS

### Early Learning Institute Palo Alto Pleasanton

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[headsup.org](http://headsup.org) Emerson: (650) 424-1267  
Hacienda: (925) 485-5750

### Harker Summer Programs San Jose

The Harker School's summer programs for children K - grade 12 offer the perfect balance of learning and fun! Programs are led by dedicated faculty and staff who are experts at combining summer fun and learning. Strong academics and inspiring enrichment programs are offered in full day, partial and morning only sessions.

[harker.org/summer](http://harker.org/summer) (408) 553-5737

### i2 Camp at Castilleja School Palo Alto

i2 Camp offers week-long immersion programs that engage middle school girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The fun and intimate hands-on activities of the courses strive to excite and inspire participants about STEM, creating enthusiasm that will hopefully spill over to their schoolwork and school choices in future years.

[castilleja.org/i2camp](http://castilleja.org/i2camp) (650) 470-7833

### STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research Stanford

EXPLORE biomedical science at Stanford. Stanford EXPLORE offers high school students the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neurobiology, immunology and many others.

[explore.stanford.edu](http://explore.stanford.edu) [explore-series@stanford.edu](mailto:explore-series@stanford.edu)

### Summer@Stratford Palo Alto/Bay Area

Stratford infuses its STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) curriculum into an innovative and enriching summer camp experience. Younger campers learn, explore, and engage in hands-on learning projects, while Elementary-age students collaborate to tackle real-world problems by utilizing academic principles and concepts in a fun and engaging way. At the Middle School level, individual subject-based enrichment classes are offered and tailored for each grade level.

[stratfordschools.com/summer](http://stratfordschools.com/summer)  
[pa@stratfordschools.com](mailto:pa@stratfordschools.com) (650) 493-1141

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### Art and Soul Camp Palo Alto

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[artandsoulpa.com](http://artandsoulpa.com) (650) 269-0423

## ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

### Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto Palo Alto

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[castilleja.org/summercamp](http://castilleja.org/summercamp) (650) 470-7833

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[arts4all.org](http://arts4all.org) (650) 917-6800 ext. 0

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[lets gocrafting.org](http://lets gocrafting.org) (650) 814-4183

### Oshman Family JCC Camps Palo Alto

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

[paloaltojcc.org/Camps](http://paloaltojcc.org/Camps) (650) 223-8622

### Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC) Palo Alto

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

[paccc.org](http://paccc.org) (650) 493-2361

## ATHLETICS

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

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[KimGrantTennis.com](http://KimGrantTennis.com) Text: (650) 690-0678  
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[ussportscamps.com](http://ussportscamps.com) (800) NIKE-CAMP  
(800) 645-3226

### Run for Fun Camps Bay Area

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

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

### Spartans Sports Camp Mountain View

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[spartanssportscomp.com](http://spartanssportscomp.com) (650) 479-5906

### YMCA of Silicon Valley Summer Camps Silicon Valley

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

[ymcasv.org/summercamp](http://ymcasv.org/summercamp) (408) 351-6473

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PVI is now onsite and online with new ways to serve seniors who rely on us for their well-being. PVI's Meals on Wheels onsite program continues to deliver more daily meals and care packages than ever due to the skyrocketing needs of those who cannot shop or cook for themselves -and microwaves for those who need them. New virtual online health and wellness programming and client check-ins now serve seniors at home while our onsite Rosener House adult day care services for those with Alzheimer's and their caregivers, and Little House senior activity center remain closed to the public due to official directives. You or a loved one can book personal training, sign up for Pilates and other exercise classes, a book club series, or participate in a variety of vital stimulating activities for those with dementia, and get support for caregivers. Enhanced on demand transportation services provide rides to seniors for medical appointments and grocery store visits with protective protocols in place, supporting healthcare and food access and for other daily supplies.

Our dedication to our mission is enduring - provide daily, nutritious meals, adult day care for those with Alzheimer's and dementias, and vital health and wellness activities to seniors living on the Peninsula. We are grateful for the remarkable support of our communities. PVI's COVID-19 Critical Care Fund continues so that we can support seniors during this extended site closure period. Your gift will help us sustain our vital programs in the new environment.

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The Almanac

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## Stepping back from the brink

Five steps that the U.S. can take to reduce the risk of nuclear war

By Judy Adams and Richard Duda

### GUEST OPINION

On May 26, Menlo Park Mayor Cecilia Taylor joined Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and 44 other U.S. cities and signed a proclamation endorsing a call to reduce the risk of nuclear war. Entitled the “Back From The Brink Call to Prevent Nuclear War,” the proclamation asks our nation’s federal government to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by taking five concrete steps:

1. Renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first.
2. End the president’s unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack.
3. Take U.S. intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) off hair-trigger alert.
4. Cancel the plan to replace our entire nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons.
5. Actively pursue a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

To people concerned about nuclear war, most of these steps seem to be just common sense — perhaps even insufficiently ambitious. To others, they seem

idealistic and unrealistic — perhaps even dangerously naive. But, these proposed steps could dramatically reduce the chances of blundering into a catastrophe. How problematic are they?

1. **No first use:** Our nation’s official nuclear policy is that the highest priority is to deter potential adversaries from mounting an attack of any kind — nuclear or non-nuclear. But the United States has unmatched conventional military power, and can defend against any non-nuclear attack. A simple “no-first-use” policy would maintain deterrence capability while significantly reducing the danger that a conflict could rapidly escalate out of control, or that a false alarm could trigger a nuclear war.
2. **Limiting the president:** Currently, no one can lawfully prevent the president from ordering a nuclear attack. This outdated Cold War era policy is extraordinarily dangerous and unnecessary. During the Obama administration, Congressman Ted Lieu and Sen. Ed Markey proposed legislation for much less dangerous command-and-control policy. No single individual

should have the power to start a nuclear war.

3. **Take ICBMs off hair-trigger alert:** This is a legacy of a bygone day and fears of a devastating first strike. With more than 1,000 nuclear warheads hidden on submarine-based missiles,

### No single individual should have the power to start a nuclear war.

we now have ample time to respond to an attack, or to warnings of an attack. The risk of false alarms can be greatly reduced simply by taking our land-based ICBMs off hair-trigger alert. Or better yet — as advocated by former Secretary of Defense William Perry — by completely eliminating them.

4. **Cancel nuclear modernization:** The current plans call for developing new warheads and new delivery systems at a staggering cost — at least \$2 trillion over the next 30 years. In their new book “The Button,” Perry and his co-author Tom Collina argue that spending on this vast scale would not only be a colossal waste of money but would

actually make us less safe. Neither we nor our adversaries can afford to engage in an arms race when we have to confront the challenges of pandemics, economic upheaval, climate change, health care and huge budget deficits.

5. **Actively pursue a verifiable agreement to eliminate nuclear arsenals:** This is admittedly the hardest of the five steps — but there are reasons for hope. One is the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), under which the total number of nuclear weapons came down from more than 70,000 to around 14,000 today. Another is the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which, though not signed by the U.S., was passed by the UN General Assembly in 2017.

We will not get to a world free of nuclear weapons overnight. But an arms race has no winners, only losers. Taylor has taken a step toward reducing the nuclear danger by endorsing The Call, and deserves our thanks. Add your voice by writing a letter or sending an email to Taylor, your representative in Congress, and to our senators saying that you too recognize and support the Back From The Brink Call. Every step counts.

Judy Adams and Richard Duda are Menlo Park residents.

### LETTERS

Our readers write

#### Now is the time to act

At Saturday’s Wall of Moms rally in Palo Alto, I considered what it means when an American president gloats to see the mayor of an American city tear-gassed. It means that these stormtroops are not coming to protect us but to threaten us. Wasting resources in the time of a pandemic in order

to send militarized troops into American cities over the objections of the mayor and the governor means something. It is a dress rehearsal for keeping Trump in power no matter what.

Thousands of duly registered voters have been purged from the rolls, polling places have been removed to make it nearly impossible to vote, unfounded fears about the legitimacy of a mail-in vote are being inflamed. Now the equivalent of a private army shows how to stay in power

even when you lose. If you have ever thought of participating in action, now is the time. All that is needed for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.

Gail Sredanovic

Ashton Avenue, Menlo Park

#### High-speed rail isn’t high priority

According to a letter in The Almanac from two state senators (“Guest opinion: Recognize the progress of high-speed rail project,” July 17), there is “progress” on the high-speed rail infrastructure project from Modesto to Bakersfield. They characterize the \$20 billion spending as a test of the high-speed rail.

There is simply no need to spend hundreds of billions on a high-speed rail system when one can fly to Los Angeles in an hour for far less than a high-speed rail train ticket. No one knows if a tunnel can even be built through the fault-riddled Tehachapi Mountains, let alone what it would cost. Finally, high-speed rail would require huge annual subsidies due to low ridership.

Other higher priority projects include spending on underperforming schools, increasing

wildland fire protection, repairing our highways, resolving our water crisis, building high speed mass transit to get people to affordable housing, and addressing runaway public pension fund costs.

Ed Kahl

Woodside Road, Woodside

#### Close corporate tax loopholes

Although we’re fortunate to have Gov. Newsom and all those on the frontlines leading us through the COVID crisis, we must continue to face other important issues as well.

The Schools & Communities First initiative, now Proposition 15 on the November ballot, garnered a record 1.7 million signatures of support. It would close corporate property tax loopholes to bring back \$12 billion locally for our schools, essential workers, and critical local services while protecting homeowners and renters, small businesses, and agriculture. What’s more, research has shown that only 10% of the biggest, wealthiest commercial and industrial properties would generate 92% of the new revenue — meaning a fraction

of top corporations would finally pay their fair share.

Simply put, we can’t afford corporate tax loopholes at the expense of our schools and local services anymore. As a longtime resident of Mountain View, this change is vital to our schools and the health and development of our community. Please vote in November for this very reasonable and just proposition.

Margaret Davidson  
Mountain View

#### What’s on your mind?

From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the Almanac aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you.

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

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

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

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# Food & Drink

## Coming, going and newly open

A new gelato shop, plans for a Thai restaurant and the departure of a Palo Alto favorite

By Elena Kadvany

**D**espite the hardships of the pandemic, plans are in the works to open Farmhouse Kitchen, a Thai restaurant, in a big Menlo Park location, and a new outpost of Sweet Orchid gelato shop just opened its doors on El Camino Real. At Palo Alto's Town & Country shopping center, Mayfield Bakery & Cafe has closed down for good. Read more about the latest news from the Midpeninsula dining scene.

### Farmhouse Kitchen

Farmhouse Kitchen, a San Francisco-born string of Thai restaurants, is opening its newest location at 1165 Merrill St. in Menlo Park this fall.

The 4,000-square-foot space across from the Caltrain station has been vacant since 2017, when chef Bradley Ogden closed his eponymous Bradley's Fine Diner. A new restaurant called Starfish was slated to open there but never did.

Kasem Saengsawang, a native of Thailand, opened his first Farmhouse Kitchen in San Francisco in 2015. The restaurant was created in the image of the food he ate growing up in Loei, a rural province in northeast Thailand. He learned to cook from his grandparents, who made nearly

**Farmhouse Kitchen**, a San Francisco-born string of Thai restaurants, is opening its newest location in Menlo Park.



Courtesy Farmhouse Kitchen

everything — including curry paste and oyster sauce — from scratch. He recalled taking early morning motorcycle trips with them to local produce markets.

After moving to the United States to attend City College of San Francisco in his early 20s, Saengsawang started working in restaurants to make ends meet. He rose up from dishwasher to line cook and eventually opened a Japanese restaurant in San Mateo, which he later sold before opening Farmhouse Kitchen.

Saengsawang now runs five restaurants, including one in Portland, Oregon.

The Menlo Park Farmhouse Kitchen will serve the same menu as the San Francisco original but with more “formal” service, including a wine program and cocktails, he said. The restaurant will be open for takeout and outdoor dining only. Given the dining room's massive size, Saengsawang isn't worried about creating a socially distanced layout when indoor dining is allowed.

Saengsawang described his style of cooking as contemporary. The Farmhouse Kitchen menu includes dishes such as Bangkok-style herb rice in a tamarind dressing; grilled Wagyu flank steak with broccolini and sticky rice; and slow-braised, bone-in short rib served with panang curry, a dish the menu says is “reminiscent” of the large childhood

meals Saengsawang would cook in Thailand for the entire family.

Saengsawang said his restaurant sales dropped to 40% the first two weeks of the pandemic shutdown. With the shift toward takeout, he told his team that they had to think of it as opening a brand new business geared toward to-go. They created new menu items, including a D.I.Y. pad thai kit and the “mini Lao table,” a chef's choice meal set for two to three people that includes numerous dishes and drinks.

Farmhouse Kitchen also now sells a kit with the ingredients to make the restaurant's blue rice, which gets its color from anchan, or butterfly pea flower. Saengsawang recorded home cooking videos, posted to the Farmhouse Kitchen Instagram.

Saengsawang said he's requiring his employees to get tested for the coronavirus every two weeks. New precautions for outdoor dining at Farmhouse Kitchen in San Francisco include checking customers' temperatures and limiting their time at the restaurant to 90 minutes.

“It's a lot of pain,” Saengsawang said. But, “it turns out that people understand and are appreciating us.”

The Menlo Park location is also personal for Saengsawang: He's moving to the city with his wife and young child.

“It's going to be a real chapter (for) Farmhouse Kitchen,” he said. “I'm going to be there all the time.”

He said he hopes to open the restaurant in early September.

### Sweet Orchid

Sweet Orchid, a Fremont gelato and pastry shop, is now scooping dozens of flavors of gelato from a new location in Menlo Park.

Sweet Orchid opened on Saturday, July 25, at 403 El Camino Real, according to a Facebook post. The space was last the long-time home of Yogurt Stop, which closed in 2018 after more than 30 years of business.

Sweet Orchid did not respond to several interview requests. According to the website, owner



Elena Kadvany

**Sweet Orchid**, a gelato and pastry shop, opened recently in Menlo Park's Allied Arts neighborhood.

Leslie Wong opened the Fremont shop in 2009, inspired by gelato she had tried in Rome, Italy.

The Fremont location serves more than 60 flavors of gelato that change daily, from almond and lavender to durian, lychee and chocolate-cayenne. There are also gelato buns (a scoop of gelato inside a flat, warm bun), gelato sandwiches, gelato cakes and gelato milkshakes.

Sweet Orchid also makes sorbet and a variety of baked goods, including taro-vanilla sponge cake, tiramisu, German chocolate cake, hand-piped macarons and mochi, plus coffee and tea. Customers can add boba pearls to any iced drink.

### Mayfield Bakery & Cafe

The owners of Mayfield Bakery & Cafe in Palo Alto, unable to sustain the business due to the coronavirus shutdown, have closed the Town & Country Village restaurant for good.

“Like many restaurants throughout the area and across

the country, the impact of the COVID-19 virus and the subsequent shelter-in-place orders have reduced revenues to an unsustainable level,” Tim Stannard, founding partner of Bacchus Management Group, which owns Mayfield, said in a statement. “I would like to share a heartfelt thank you to all of our team members, as well as our loyal guests, for 11 wonderful years.”

Signs announcing the closure appeared in the restaurant's windows this week. On Tuesday afternoon, Mayfield's dining room sat empty while a man filled a moving truck with carts of baking trays and other items from the next-door bakery.

Bacchus Management Group, which also owns The Village Pub and The Village Bakery in Woodside and Selby's in Redwood City, opened Mayfield in 2009.

Mayfield temporarily closed after the Bay Area's shelter-in-place order took effect but soon became a pickup location for

See **DINING SCENE**, page 24



Magali Gauthier

**Mayfield Bakery & Cafe** in Palo Alto's Town & Country Village has closed for good.

# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## WHEN JAZZ ROYALTY CAME TO PALO ALTO

Release of live album from Thelonious Monk's 1968  
Palo Alto High School concert, set for July 31, now on hold

By Yoshi Kato

San Francisco and Hackensack, New Jersey, are two locations immortalized by the late jazz pianist/composer/innovator Thelonious Monk. Palo Alto could have joined that elite list with the release of Monk's live "Palo Alto" album, which was originally supposed to come out Friday, July 31, on Impulse! Records. Unfortunately for jazz fans, a dispute between Monk's previous label and his estate has left the release indefinitely delayed as of this week.

The source of the recording is a concert produced by Palo Alto native Danny Scher back in 1968. The music, performed by the working quartet of Monk, tenor saxophonist Charlie Rouse, double bassist Larry Gales and drummer Ben Riley, is magical.

"They were on the road for years, and they were just a great band," said Zev Feldman, a co-producer of the album.

The backstory for both the live event — and the subsequent album — is both charming and inspirational.

Now a music industry veteran of renown, at the time of the Monk concert, Scher was 16 and an ambitious Palo Alto High School student who had already presented performances at his school by pianist/composer Vince Guaraldi ("Linus & Lucy") and vocalist Jon Hendricks (formerly of Lambert, Hendricks & Ross) as well as vibraphonist/bandleader Cal Tjader.

Scher already had two de-

facto mentors at the time: the late Herb Wong, jazz scholar/educator/producer and a long-time Menlo Park resident, and Darlene Chan, founder and inaugural director of the Berkeley Jazz Festival.

"And I said to one of them, 'You know, my two idols are Monk and Duke (Ellington),' Scher recalled, by phone from his home in the East Bay. "And they said, 'Why don't you call Monk? He's coming to town.'" (Scher would present Ellington in concert in collaboration with the California Youth Symphony, in which he was the principal timpanist and percussionist, soon after.)

Scher contacted Jules Colomby, Monk's manager, and secured a contract for an afternoon concert at Palo Alto High School while the bandleader was in San Francisco for a run at the Jazz Workshop club in North Beach. He enlisted the services of his older brother Les, whose love of jazz was his own gateway to the American art form, to serve as the band's driver.

"The ticket price was \$2 for general admission and \$1.50 for students. And even then, that was really cheap," Scher said. Worried about having an empty house — or, in his case, school auditorium — he knew he had to diversify his offerings.

He created a concert program and sold advertising slots to local businesses such as Dana Morgan's Music Store, the local travel agency his parents patronized, and the florist from whom he'd buy flowers for his mother's birthday.

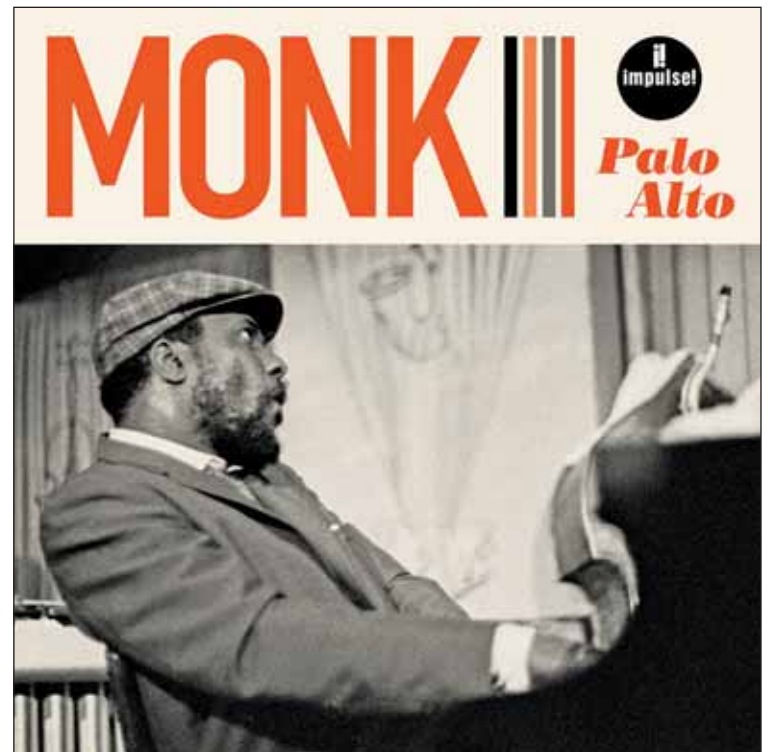
"So if no one shows up, at least there's enough money to pay Monk," he explained. A physical copy of the program was set to be included in the CD and vinyl versions of the release, and its cover was also featured on a mug in the online Monk Store.

The forward-thinking upper-classman also reckoned it would be wise to expand his potential audience beyond the city limits.

"I get posters made by the high-school graphics arts department, and I'm putting them up in East Palo Alto. And the police are telling me, 'Hey, kid! You better get out of here. It's not safe for you,'" he recalled. "This is a few months after Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy got shot, and there was a lot of tension between Palo Alto and East Palo Alto," he said. "And I told them, 'You know what? I'm going to be in bigger trouble if the show doesn't do well.'"

Some potential audience members were skeptical that Monk would actually show up to play at a high school not known for its diverse student body. So Scher told them to just come to campus and buy a ticket when they saw Monk enter the venue. As Les Scher drove into the Paly parking lot with the top of Larry Gales' contrabass sticking out of a rear window, "everyone who was waiting lines up and buys their ticket, and the show is great," Scher said.

One of the school's janitors offered to record the concert in exchange for the honor of tuning the piano Monk would be playing. Scher has held onto the cassette tape, which he got



Courtesy Impulse! Records

The cover art for Thelonious Monk's "Palo Alto" album, recorded live at Palo Alto High School in 1968.

digitized at the now-closed Fantasy Studios in Berkeley, and had been negotiating with T.S. Monk, Thelonious' son and the manager of his father's estate, about its release. They came to an agreement on Monk's Centenary in 2017 — 10 days before the 49th anniversary of the concert.

With his concert-promoting instincts already honed in his mid-teens, Scher would go on to rise to the rank of vice president at Bill Graham Presents. In addition to developing and launching the Shoreline Amphitheatre, he also created and produced the New Orleans by the Bay festival at that Mountain View venue before retiring in 1999 after 24 years with BGP and would go on to co-found DanSun Productions (go to AlmanacNews.com/arts for more on Scher's local ties).

"I've produced thousands of concerts," Scher mused. "Who would've thought something I did 52 years ago, when I was in

high school, would get this much publicity? ... But I suppose it's nice to have a feel-good story, especially given the times."

But the fairytale ending has been suspended — for now, at least.

"I received word that there was a dispute between the estate and Monk's previous label," Scher said during a phone conversation on Monday, July 27. So the release has been taken off of the schedule indefinitely "due to circumstances beyond the label's control," according to a statement by Impulse! Records. Co-producer Feldman was unable to provide any further information at this time.

"They're not saying it's delayed. They're saying we'll let you know if it's being released, not when," Scher said. "I've held onto this recording for 50 years. So I can hold onto it for another two or three decades." ▣

Email Yoshi Kato at [yoshiyoungblood@icloud.com](mailto:yoshiyoungblood@icloud.com)

### DINING SCENE

continued from page 23

Bacchus Management's "family meals" program, ready-to-eat takeout meals with proceeds going to support the restaurant group's employees. Mayfield later offered its own menu for takeout and delivery and reopened for outdoor dining in June.

Jim Ellis of Ellis Partners, which owns Town & Country,

said Bacchus Management communicated to him that the cost of doing business in Palo Alto — including utility rates, minimum wage and labor requirements — compounded by the shutdown and ongoing lack of indoor dining made it impossible for the full-service restaurant to stay open. He said they were not currently paying rent on the 5,300-square-foot space and were in discussions to

extend rent abatement.

"We were informed that that just wouldn't solve the problem for them. Not having to pay rent basically didn't close the gap enough for them to justify continuing the operation," Ellis said.

He described the closure as a "huge loss" for the shopping center.

Ellis said Town & Country has provided rent relief to the

majority of its tenants, including coming to dozens of rent abatement or deferral agreements. The shopping center also helped Town & Country Village restaurants build parklets "at our own cost," Ellis said, to expand outdoor dining areas.

Ellis said he hopes the space will be occupied by another restaurant and bakery but is "fearful" about how long it will take to find an operator able to afford

the prominent corner space with a large indoor dining room.

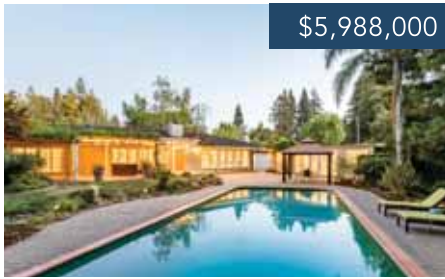
"To be completely honest, I think that the communities all over the Bay Area are really going to have to make a conscious effort to give their local businesses business," he said. "They need the community support and the customer support to survive this period." ▣

Email Elena Kadvanly at [ekadvanly@paweekly.com](mailto:ekadvanly@paweekly.com)



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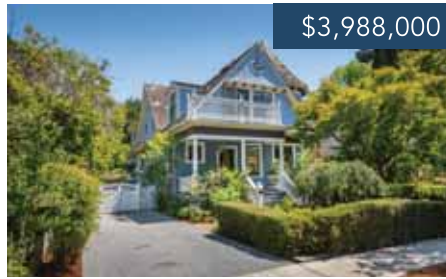
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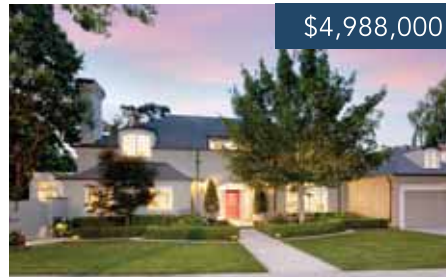
[www.196Patricia.com](http://www.196Patricia.com)



\$3,988,000

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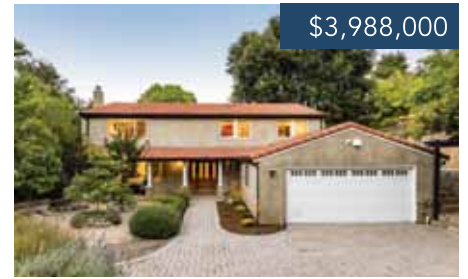
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\$4,988,000

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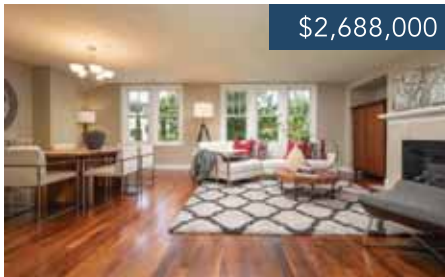
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\$3,988,000

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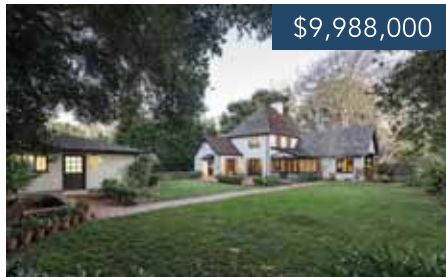
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[www.435SantaRita.com](http://www.435SantaRita.com)



\$4,645,000

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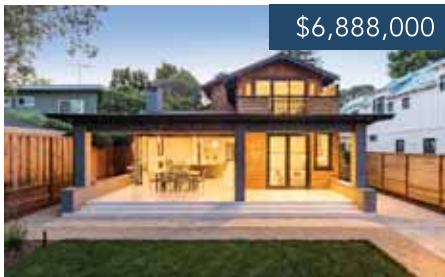
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\$5,988,000

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5 Bd | 6 Bth (4 full, 2 half)

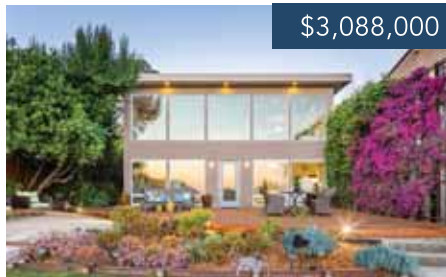
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\$6,888,000

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6 Bd | 5 Bth

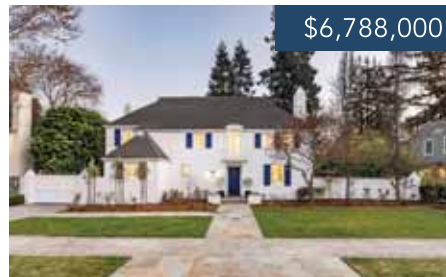
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\$6,788,000

1290 Pitman, Palo Alto  
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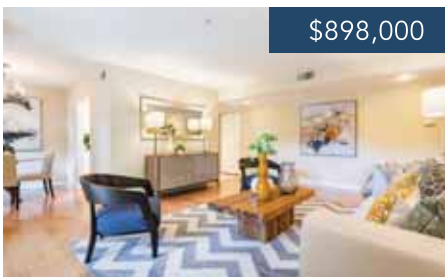
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\$6,988,000

11491 Old Ranch Rd, Los Altos Hills  
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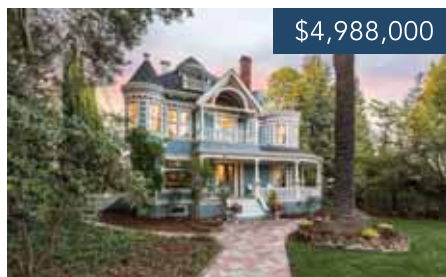
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\$898,000

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1 Bd | 1 Bth

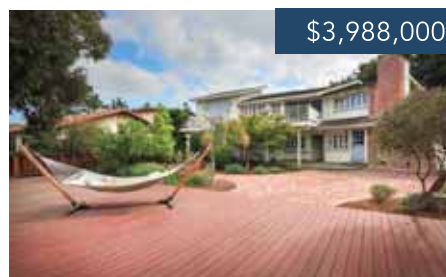
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\$4,988,000

1023 Forest Ave, Palo Alto  
4 Bd | 3.5 Bth

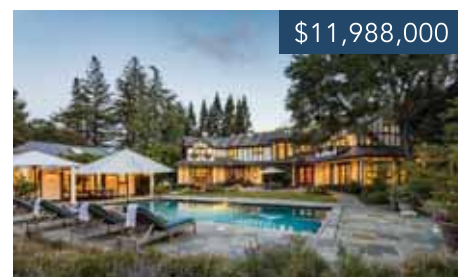
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\$3,988,000

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[www.5887Arboretum.com](http://www.5887Arboretum.com)



\$11,988,000

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## 601 Menlo Oaks Drive, Menlo Park

### Sophisticated Luxury in Menlo Oaks

Luxury, elegance, and sophistication – this stunning estate embodies all of these qualities and more, nestled on a lot of nearly one-half acre in the coveted neighborhood of Menlo Oaks. Fine craftsmanship, high-tech accoutrements, and spectacular build quality are hallmarks of this incredible residence. Offering 5 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms, and almost 6,800 sq ft of refined living space, this home presents high-end finishes at every turn. Expansive formal rooms invite entertaining on a grand scale, including the living room that doubles as a world-class music room, the kitchen is fit for a Top Chef, and a fitness center provides added convenience. The self-contained master suite presents a private retreat with its own office, and three of the home's additional bedrooms are en suite, perfect for family or overnight guests. The backyard offers amazing space for outdoor enjoyment, with a covered patio, fireplace, and drought-friendly synthetic grass. Topping it all off is a location close to Facebook, less than a mile to Flood Park, convenient to US 101, and with access to acclaimed Menlo Park schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

For virtual open houses & more photos, please visit:

[www.601MenloOaks.com](http://www.601MenloOaks.com)

Offered at \$7,999,000

**Easy access for potential buyers and Realtors® only.**

**Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Menlo Park.**

Data from BrokerMetrics® based on MLS sales from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019, in Menlo Park, residential properties, with no off-MLS sales included in the rankings.

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FOR SALE | [www.255GoldenHillsDrive.com](http://www.255GoldenHillsDrive.com)  
Offered at \$17,995,000



Artist's Rendering

FOR SALE | [www.327HillsideDrive.com](http://www.327HillsideDrive.com)  
Offered at \$1,295,000



SOLD | 155 Prospect Street, Woodside  
Listed at \$17,895,000



SOLD | 116 Romero Road, Woodside  
Listed at \$7,495,000



SOLD | 655 Glencrag Way, Woodside  
Listed at \$3,695,000



SOLD | 103 Toyon Court, Woodside  
Listed at \$3,775,000

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