

The Almanac

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

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Businesses greet loosened CDC mask rule with elation, consternation

Meanwhile, state health secretary says Californians won't follow new CDC guidance until June 15

By Jocelyn Dong, Lloyd Lee and Eli Walsh

When President Joe Biden hailed new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for fully vaccinated people last Thursday, his words struck a hopeful chord with some owners of businesses large and small — while completely baffling others.

“Today is a great day for America in our long battle with the coronavirus,” Biden said during a press briefing in the Rose Garden. “Just a few hours ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — the CDC — announced that they are no longer recommending that fully vaccinated people need to wear masks. This recommendation holds true whether you are inside or outside.”

As of Monday, Walmart, Trader Joe's and Costco announced they would not require fully

vaccinated customers to wear a mask indoors.

In downtown Palo Alto over the weekend, the staff at Greek restaurant Taverna served their customers maskless for the first time in 15 months. Nearly all 60 employees have been vaccinated, co-owner Thanasis Pashalidis said on Monday morning.

“We're following the instructions of our president,” Pashalidis said. “Our decision for our staff not to wear masks was extremely well-received on Friday.”

Pashalidis was ready to hear concerns from diners, but there were none, he said. Instead, vaccinated patrons happily removed their own masks.

Even a health care worker who ate there felt curious rather than uncomfortable, he added.

“How do you feel?” the health worker asked, according to Pashalidis.



File photo by Magali Gauthier

Taverna restaurant's owner said the decision to let its vaccinated employees stop wearing masks was well-received.

See MASKS, page 19

Alleged serial killer's trial delayed over DNA evidence collection

John Getreu's defense seeks state Supreme Court decision that could be groundbreaking

By Sue Dremann

A potentially groundbreaking case regarding whether an alleged Stanford University serial killer's DNA is protected under the Fourth Amendment has been submitted by his defense attorneys to the California Supreme Court.

Attorneys for John Arthur Getreu, 75, who is accused of killing two young women on Stanford land in the 1970s, filed the request for the hearing before the high court on April 6. The case seeks to toss out DNA evidence collected

from a discarded coffee cup that allegedly links Getreu to the crimes because police didn't obtain a warrant for the DNA evidence.

Under current law upheld in multiple court cases, police have the ability to collect evidence that a suspect throws into the trash or discards in a public place without a warrant — known as the abandonment doctrine. But new DNA technologies require the courts to revisit how the



John Arthur Getreu

Fourth Amendment's right to privacy applies, defense attorney John Halley, who is representing Getreu in San Mateo County, said Tuesday.

DNA evidence obtained by law enforcement can contain thousands of bits of personal information that are either not relevant to the case or that could be held and used in other circumstances — information that the person who tossed the item never intended to have made public, he said.

The practice of law enforcement gathering and preserving DNA evidence could have vast implications for the public, he

said. Although police labs take only a small amount of the collected DNA to identify a suspect, they retain the entirety of an individual's genetic material in perpetuity, he said. Halley is asking the state's high court to consider whether police should obtain a warrant for the DNA and show probable cause; any warrant should spell out what police can and can't use from the voluminous genetic information, he said.

His motion for a writ of mandate to toss the DNA evidence in Getreu's case has the support of the American Civil Liberties Union, which has sent the court

an amicus letter. The national Legal Aid Society Criminal Defense also filed an amicus letter during the state's First Appellate District Court hearing on the case in May 2020.

After rejections from the appellate court and San Mateo County Superior Court, it's now in the state Supreme Court's hands to decide whether it will hear the motion.

Getreu, a Hayward resident, is charged with killing Leslie Marie Perlov and Janet Ann Taylor, both 21, on Stanford land in Santa Clara and San Mateo

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The pandemic has shown us the true power, precision, and innovation of Stanford Medicine in researching and fighting COVID-19. It has also proved that Stanford Medicine—made up of Stanford Children's Health, Stanford School of Medicine, and Stanford Health Care—is at its strongest when backed by a community committed to keeping everyone safe.

Thank you, Bay Area, for fighting alongside Stanford Medicine. For meeting this challenge, and all those to come, together.

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Woodside



SOLD

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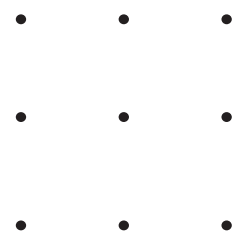


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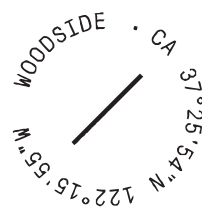
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Daniela Beltran B.

Jonathan Law, 12, gets his first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine from Myrla Putulin, a Stanford Health Care registered nurse, at Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School in East Palo Alto.

County holds vaccine clinics for teens and churchgoers

By Kate Bradshaw

Clinics aimed at making getting COVID-19 vaccines more convenient than ever have popped up in recent weeks in the East Palo Alto community.

To improve access, clinics have been held at local churches in East Palo Alto over the previous two weekends, in addition to one at Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School in East Palo Alto, which offers vaccinations to

anyone 12 and up.

Last weekend, a vaccination event at the St. Francis of Assisi Church resulted in 114 people getting the shots, according to Dr. Anand Chabra, COVID-19 vaccination branch chief with San Mateo County Health.

And a clinic held at the East Palo Alto Apostolic Church at 721 Donohoe St. on Mother's Day resulted in 50 parishioners receiving their first doses of the Pfizer vaccine, according to county health

department spokesperson Preston Merchant.

Chabra told the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday that 5,351 youth in the 12- to 15-year-old age group in San Mateo County had already been vaccinated, out of a total of around 40,000.

The county continues to host drive-thru clinics at the San Mateo County Event Center and in other community

See **VACCINE CLINICS**, page 18

Former Palo Altan sentenced in college admissions scam

William McGlashan Jr. ordered to three months in prison, \$250K fine

By Sue Dremann

Former TPG Capital senior executive William McGlashan Jr., previously of Palo Alto, was sentenced last week to three months in prison and a \$250,000 fine for his involvement in the 2019 college bribery admissions scandal in which 57 people face federal charges, including Hollywood celebrities, college athletics coaches and multimillionaire business executives.

McGlashan, 57, was sentenced by the U.S. District Court Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton to three months in prison, two years of supervised release, a fine of \$250,000 and 250 hours of community service on May 12. After initially trying to fight the charges, McGlashan pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud and honest services wire fraud on Feb. 10. He previously worked as managing partner of global private equity firm TPG Growth and co-founded The Rise Fund.

In 2017, McGlashan agreed to pay co-conspirator William "Rick" Singer to bribe college admissions test administrator Igor Dvorskiy, who had test proctor Mark Riddell secretly correct McGlashan's son's ACT exam answers; the teen's score was fraudulently inflated to 34. McGlashan made a purported donation of \$50,000 from his personal charitable fund to Singer's sham charity, Key Worldwide Foundation. Singer then paid

See **ADMISSIONS SCAM**, page 23

Menlo College breaks ground on housing project

By Angela Swartz

Menlo College broke ground on its new \$20 million 288-bed residence hall with some ceremonial tossing of dirt on the Atherton campus on May 13.

This will be the first new housing built on the campus in more than 30 years, Angela Schmiede, vice president for student success and chair of the pandemic planning team at the four-year private college, told the Atherton City Council last month. Two anonymous donors are funding the college's sixth residence hall, an April 6 blog post states.

Schmiede said the three-story housing project will expand affordable housing for students and reduce traffic congestion to and from the campus.

The T-shaped hall will be home to nearly 300 students in double-occupancy rooms. There will also be six single-occupancy rooms for resident advisers.

The building will also include shared kitchens, game rooms and lounges on each floor, Menlo College President Steve Weiner said.



Steve Weiner

The building does not replace any existing infrastructure at Menlo, which was established in 1927, but takes advantage of available space in the middle of the residence hall area of campus.

"It's a great moment for Menlo College," Weiner said of the groundbreaking.

The building design will echo the facade of Kratt Hall, which it will sit next to, Weiner said.

School officials have yet to determine which students will live in the new housing. Weiner said it's possible that the housing will be set aside for upperclassmen so they can "conclude their journey at Menlo College" living on campus.

The City Council greenlighted the project last summer, which the school aims to complete by April 2022. Site preparation began in February.

The housing will not count toward the state's 2023-31 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) targets for Atherton, Town Planner Lisa Costa Sanders said at an April 28 joint City Council and Planning Commission meeting.

'It's a great moment for Menlo College.'

STEVE WEINER,
MENLO COLLEGE PRESIDENT

"Student housing, specifically dorms, do not count towards the town's RHNA housing production as it is not considered permanent housing," Costa Sanders said in a May 17 email. "To be counted as a housing unit, each unit must contain cooking facilities, a bathroom and a sleeping area. The dorms do not include cooking facilities and a bathroom with each sleeping room."

State legislation would need to change in order for dorms to count toward the town's housing goals, Costa Sanders explained.

Commencement

The college hosted its 93rd commencement ceremony, with about 650 people in attendance, on May 15 for both the classes of 2020 and 2021, since last year's graduates did not have a graduation ceremony because of the pandemic.

"Boy, was it something to celebrate," Weiner said, noting that the ceremony was three hours long versus the typical two-hour ceremony because it honored the two classes. "It was a milestone event in the lives of all these people."

Graduates were able to bring two guests, and families sat in distanced pods on the quad, Schmiede said. The ceremony was also streamed online. Typical post-ceremony gatherings were canceled. Graduates were required to verify a negative COVID-19 test before the ceremony. ■

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

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Notice of Public Hearings

Due to COVID-19 protocols, the Las Lomitas Elementary School District will hold two separate public hearings on the proposed Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), with the Budget Overview for Parents cover page, and the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-22 on June 2, 2021, virtually at 7:00 pm. The link to the virtual meeting can be found at www.llesd.org. A copy of the LCAP, with the Budget Overview for Parents cover page, and the proposed budget will be available for public examination at the Las Lomitas Elementary School District, 1011 Altschul Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025 from May 28, 2021 to June 2, 2021 between the hours of 10:00 am –1:00 pm and on the district website at www.llesd.org. Please contact Steven R. Fuentes, 650 854- 6311, sfuentes@llesd.org to request a printed or electronic copy. Public members or stakeholders may complete a comment card and speak to the LCAP or proposed budget or any item therein.

5/21/21

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Notice of Public Hearings

Due to COVID-19 protocols, the Menlo Park City School District will hold two separate public hearings on the proposed Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), with the Budget Overview for Parents cover page, and the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-22 on Thursday, June 3, 2021, virtually at 5:00 pm. Details of the meeting can be found at <https://district.mpcsd.org/Page/1298>. A copy of the LCAP, with the Budget Overview for Parents cover page, and the proposed budget will be available for public examination at the Menlo Park City School District, 181 Encinal Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027 from May 28, 2021 through June 3, 2021 between the hours of 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm and on the District website, <https://district.mpcsd.org/>. Please contact Marites Fermin at 650-321-7140, mfermin@mpcsd.org to request a printed or electronic copy. Public members or stakeholders may complete a comment card and speak to the LCAP and proposed budget or any item therein.

5/21/21

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 THE ALMANAC

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CRIME BRIEFS

Coroner's Office expected to identify remains found in Woodside area

By the end of the week, the San Mateo County Coroner's Office expects to have DNA analysis completed that could identify the human remains discovered by a resident last month in the Skylonda/Woodside area.

Skeletal remains were found, along with some clothing items, near Kebet Ridge Road around 9 a.m. on April 12, according to the coroner's and sheriff's offices.

Someone contacted investigators with information on whose remains they might be and detectives contacted the person's family members, who live outside of California, according to the Coroner's Office.

The Coroner's Office said there weren't any signs of a struggle and that the person did not appear to have suffered any traumatic injuries. Officials are not sure how long the body was in the area, which is west of La Honda Road and is heavily wooded, with a meadow at the top.

An identification card was found in the vicinity of the remains, according to the Coroner's Office.

—Angela Swartz

Suspect arrested in Woodside grass fire

A 20-year-old transient was arrested May 14 near Woodside for allegedly starting an illegal campfire that spread to nearby grass, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies responded at 11:39 a.m. to a grass fire in the 1100 block of Kings Mountain Road, while firefighters also responding noticed someone leaving the area on a bicycle.

Deputies found a man and learned that he had started a campfire earlier in the day and tried to extinguish it, but it ended up starting the grass fire, sheriff's officials said.

Firefighters were able to extinguish the blaze without incident or injury, and the man was booked into county jail on suspicion of starting an illegal campfire.

—Bay City News Service

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Portola Valley plans for fall festival, poet laureate

The town of Portola Valley will host a fall festival, "PV Live Revive," tentatively set for Oct. 9 to help "renew relationships" and mark a return to some normalcy after the pandemic, said Town Manager Jeremy Dennis.

The event is set to take place at the Town Center, and include a concert from 4 to 7 p.m., food vendors and sports, according to the agenda for the May 13 Cultural Arts Committee meeting.

The arts committee is co-hosting the celebration alongside the Parks and Recreation Committee, Dennis said.

The committee is also discussing creating a new town poet laureate position.

Atherton committees recruiting for new members

There are openings on several town of Atherton committees. Applicants for the openings must be town residents.

The Atherton Audit and Finance Committee has two vacancies. Member appointments are for four-year terms expiring in June 2025.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee has two vacancies. One member appointment will be for a term expiring in June 2023. The other position is for a four-year term expiring in June 2025.

The Environmental Programs Committee has two vacancies. One appointment is for a four-year term expiring in June 2025. The second is a mid-term vacancy expiring in June 2023.

The Parks and Recreation Committee has two vacancies, one for a four-year term expiring in June 2025, for someone who is a member of the Holbrook-Palmer Park Foundation. The second is for a one-year term expiring in June 2022.

The Planning Commission has one vacancy for a four-year term expiring in June 2025.

The Rail Committee has four vacancies. Three are for four-year terms expiring in June 2025. One is for a term expiring in June 2022.

The Transportation Committee has one vacancy for a

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 23

San Mateo County grants \$500K to support nonprofit East Palo Alto housing manufacturer

By Kate Bradshaw

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, May 18, approved a \$500,000 grant to United Hope Builders, a new modular housing manufacturing plant based in East Palo Alto.

United Hope Builders is the latest nonprofit initiative to support unhoused people in East Palo Alto led by Pastor Paul Bains, founder and president of WeHOPE, an East Palo Alto-based nonprofit homelessness services provider.

United Hope Builders, through a partnership with IndieDwell,

an Idaho-based B corporation and modular housing manufacturer, is building a modular housing factory on 7 acres of the former Romic Environmental Technologies site on Bay Road. The grant funds will help pay the salaries and benefits of the plant's manufacturing line employees.

"Not only do we have to preserve and protect, but we also have to produce more affordable housing, particularly extremely low-income housing," Bains told county supervisors.

As of January, the nonprofit had raised \$4 million and needed to raise \$2 million more.

The nonprofit aims to create

about 100 new jobs for East Palo Alto residents. Employees will earn equity by owning 20% of the factory.

"It's a win-win for us, it's a win-win for the community and it's a win for the homeless people who might be able to get some housing as a result of these modular housing units," Supervisor Warren Slocum said.

Go to unitedhopebuilders.org for more information. ■

Staff Writer Lloyd Lee contributed to this report.

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.



Magali Gauthier

Pastor Paul Bains stands on the lot where the modular housing factory will be built in East Palo Alto on Jan. 21.

Facebook announces \$1.5M in grants for accessory units

By Kate Bradshaw

Facebook announced Thursday that it planned to use \$1.5 million from its Innovation Fund to provide grants to five organizations working to build accessory dwelling units (ADUs), or secondary homes.

The Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, in partnership with Facebook and the city of Menlo Park, announced the five grantees set to use the Facebook funds toward the goals of building housing, improving the efficiency of the construction process and ultimately driving down the cost of housing production, according to a Facebook press statement.

"We're committed to listening to our neighbors so we collectively address the housing crisis in our local community through our 'three Ps' approach — producing, protecting and preserving housing," said Facebook Director of Policy Juan Salazar in the statement.

The grants will be made to EPACANDO/PAHALO/YUCA, to build two secondary homes as part of a co-op community land trust with a leadership development program; to United Hope Builders, to build a factory in East Palo Alto to manufacture prefabricated homes and employ local residents; to City Systems, to create a project showcasing secondary home constructions in garages; to SOUP, to promote

a new financing model with low upfront costs for financing secondary homes; and to Symbium, to help homeowners and nonprofits plan ADUs and aid cities in streamlining the approval processes for the secondary homes, sometimes referred to as in-law units or granny cottages.

According to the statement, the grant program is guided by the findings of a University of California at Berkeley study funded by Facebook that explores the specific housing problems facing Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood, North Fair Oaks and the city of East Palo Alto.

That study, called "Investment and Disinvestment as Neighbors," includes a number of

recommendations, one of which is for "cities — and businesses such as Facebook" to "invest in intermediaries familiar with ADU construction and outreach, user-friendly interfaces and innovative ADU financing mechanisms."

"The Housing Innovation Fund is inclusive by design to bring in community member voices," said Evelyn Stivers, executive director of the Housing

Leadership Council of San Mateo County, in the statement. "It is thorough in its outreach into our communities to find good organizations with innovative ideas. The grants all work together, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact on our county." ■

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Alan Sydney Baer**, 67, a Menlo Park resident, on April 8; and **Patricia F. Robertson**, 101, an Atherton resident and longtime volunteer for the Allied Arts Guild, on May 10.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at almanacnews.com/obituaries.

Community college PR head arrested on suspicion of sex with young teens

Richard Rojo turned himself in to police after a warrant was issued for his arrest

Bay City News Service

San Mateo County Community College District's communications head is suspected of engaging in sexual acts with two minors last year, San Jose police said Monday.

Richard Rojo, interim director of public affairs at the district, turned himself in at the San Jose Police Department after an arrest warrant was issued for him, police said.

"The San Mateo County Community College District just learned of the charges against Richard Rojo this morning and is disturbed and shocked by this alleged conduct," said district spokesperson Perla A. Rodriguez in an email. "Mr. Rojo has been placed on administrative

leave — without pay — and the district will be cooperating in San Jose Police Department's investigation."

Rojo, 52, of Stockton, is suspected of engaging in sexual activity with two girls he met via social media in November 2020. The victims were 14 and 15 at the time, police said.

Rojo immediately posted bail after turning himself in and is due back in court on June 15.

Police said they are currently looking for any additional victims who may have had contact with Rojo.

Rojo served as College of San



Richard Rojo

Mateo's director of community relations and marketing from 2017 until he took on the districtwide role in February, according to his LinkedIn profile. Before that, he led strategic communications at California State University at Sacramento. He was the director of marketing and communications for the University of California at Davis' Mondavi Center, according to his LinkedIn.

Rojo did not respond to The Almanac's request for comment.

Anyone with additional information is asked to call SJPD's sexual assault investigations unit at 408-277-4102. Tips can be left at 408-947-7867. ■

Staff Writer Angela Swartz contributed to this report.

Employment

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Sr Research Associate Pacific Biosciences of California, Inc. has an opening in Menlo Park, CA. Sr Research Assoc, Organic Chemistry Job ID 2162: laboratory work + collect & analyze data. Submit resume (principals only) through the Pacific Biosciences of California, Inc. Website at <http://www.pacb.com/company/careers/EOE>

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High school sports roundup

Tennis

Sacred Heart Prep (6-6) saw its season end with a 4-3 loss to host Homestead in the first round of the Central Coast Section team tournament.

The top three singles players each won for the Gators: Conor Burns, Aarav Chandrasekar, and Neal Chopra.

Chandrasekar, at No. 2 singles, earned a 2-6, 6-2, 3-1 win over Homestead's Abraham Lau.

Top-seeded Menlo (9-0) was scheduled to host WBAL rival Harker (6-1) in another second round match Wednesday after The Almanac's press deadline.

Menlo School earned the No. 1 seed for both the CCS boys and girls team tournament.

On the boys side, Sacred Heart Prep (6-5) qualified and will play Monday at Homestead (6-7).

Menlo (9-0) earned a bye into the second round and will host the winner of Harker (3-4) at Lynbrook (7-3) on Wednesday afternoon.

A total of nine SCVAL teams, who only learned May 14 they were eligible to participate, were selected for the tournament,

with Cupertino (9-1) the highest seed at No. 3.

The finals are slated for May 27, likely at the home of the higher seed.

Menlo (8-1) tops the 13-team girls tournament, which plays without the SCVAL, and that put girls tennis in its season one, which was not included in the Board of Managers decision.

Menlo, No. 2 seed St. Francis and No. 3 Westmont earned byes into the quarterfinals, which get underway on Monday, May 24.

The Knights will host the winner of Thursday's match between Leigh (8-0) and No. 8 Notre Dame Belmont (4-3).

The finals are scheduled for May 28.

Girls lacrosse

Emily Leschin scored four goals and Sacred Heart Prep remained unbeaten in West Bay Athletic League play, beating host Menlo-Atherton 16-1 Monday.

Genna Gibbons added three goals and two assists for the Gators. Lauren Hagerty and Ellie Noto each added a pair of goals, while Ava Shenk scored

once and added three assists.

Elsewhere, Menlo dropped an 11-7 decision to host St. Francis.

The Knights (1-6) were led by senior Lindsey Ball, who scored four goals. Senior Alta Knuff contributed a goal and an assist. Junior Laynie Sheehan and sophomore Brooke Stroh each added a goal.

Hailey Dunsby made four saves for Menlo, which hosts Menlo-Atherton on Friday, May 21, in its regular-season finale.

Girls soccer

Stella El-Fishawy scored twice to lead Menlo past host Priory 5-0 in a WBAL contest Monday.

Dorothy Zhang, Sasha Bernthal and Ellie El-Fishawy also scored for the Knights (8-0), who host Notre Dame Belmont on Wednesday in the regular season finale.

Sacred Heart Prep beat Notre Dame Belmont 3-1 in its regular season finale.

Sydney Adas scored twice and assisted on Molly Tinsley's goal for the Gators (7-3), who will find out who and where they play in the CCS playoffs during Thursday's seeding meeting.



Courtesy Pam Tso McKenney/Menlo Athletics

Menlo senior Lindsay Ball recorded four goals against St. Francis.

Boys golf

Menlo freshman Eric Yun had four birdies en route to a 3-under 33, leading the Knights past Sacred Heart Prep 191-220 at Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club on Monday in a WBAL match, clinching at least a tie for the league title.

Senior Troy Demmon holed out for birdie from 30 yards away on the difficult short par-four 7th en route to shooting a 2-over 38. Junior Marcus Ying and senior Jeremy Yun continued their strong play, each with a 2-over 38.

Juniors Ryan Schaefer shot

a 44 and Amay Goel had a hot start and finished with a 47.

The Knights (7-0) host Harker (5-1) at Baylands Golf Links on Thursday in their final regular-season match.

Baseball

Rowen Barnes homered, doubled, and drove in five runs and Menlo-Atherton beat visiting Woodside 15-0 in a non-league baseball game Saturday.

George Zaharias and two relievers combined to toss a two-hitter for the Bears (15-5),

See **SPORTS**, page 18

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Suzanne Levy, PhD is a hearing scientist at Earlens. She holds a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Boston University, where her thesis focused on the effects of pitch, spatial separation, and reverberation on speech understanding.

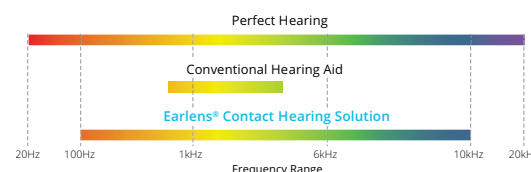
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Coronavirus central: State's mask mandate to continue until June 15

Santa Clara County moves into the yellow tier as COVID-19 cases drop dramatically

By Embarcadero Media staff

San Mateo County as of Tuesday had 41,961 cumulative cases of COVID-19, with 570 deaths. There were 16 people hospitalized. Santa Clara County as of Tuesday had 118,710 cumulative COVID-19 cases and 2,097 deaths. There were 66 people hospitalized, seven of whom were new.

Santa Clara County moves into yellow tier

Santa Clara County officials happily announced Tuesday that on Wednesday, May 18, the county would move to the state's yellow tier, the least-restrictive level for reopening during the pandemic.

The county also rescinded its October Risk Reduction Order, which put additional limits on businesses to protect employees and the public.

"We have a clear path out of this pandemic," county Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said during a press conference in San Jose on May 18. "For the first time, I feel optimistic. For a while, it seemed uncertain to me whether the vaccines or the variants would win. And now it looks like 'Team Vaccine' will come out on top."

The county's graduation to the yellow tier comes after a long-fought battle to get as many people vaccinated as possible. The current COVID-19 case rate is one-third of the rate recorded a month ago, Cody said. The county now has a 0.5% positivity rate, and 75% of residents ages 16 and older have received at least one shot; 60% are fully vaccinated, she said.

Under the yellow tier in the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy, fully vaccinated people can go without face coverings at outdoor gatherings, except at large or crowded events. It allows expanded indoor capacity at restaurants,



Magali Gauthier

Cheryl Pan and daughter **Chloe Leung** pick up a book they ordered outside Kepler's Books on June 2, 2020. Kepler's CEO said mask rules are still firmly in place at the Menlo Park bookstore.

gyms, movie theaters, businesses and many other operations. Bars that don't serve food can reopen indoors with a maximum capacity of 25% or 100 people, whichever is fewer.

The yellow tier guidelines allow for the expansion of outdoor gatherings to 100 people or fewer; indoor gatherings, which are strongly discouraged, but are permitted with modifications and at a maximum of 50% capacity; and private events of up to 200 people outdoors. If all guests have a negative COVID-19 test result or show proof of vaccination, the total rises to 400 people. Indoor gatherings of up to 200 people are allowed if all guests test negative or are fully vaccinated. Sports and live performances may have as much as 67% of capacity. Only California residents are allowed at these events and at amusement parks.

In addition, the new county health order eliminates the need for businesses to maximize the number of staff who are teleworking. Businesses and schools must continue to report positive COVID-19 cases to the county public health department and quarantine workers who have the virus. Within 14 days, employers must determine which staffers are fully vaccinated and which are not. Employees who are fully vaccinated don't need to quarantine if they have close contacts with COVID-19, she said.

Cody said the changes come based on new scientific evidence that found fully vaccinated people don't transmit the disease. The approved COVID-19 vaccines also "offer extraordinary protection against illness and transmission. Fully vaccinated people will not need to follow the same precautions as people who are unvaccinated," Cody said.

County health officials provide COVID updates

In response to a question at Tuesday's San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meeting about when the county could reach herd immunity, Dr. Anand Chabra, the county's COVID-19 mass vaccination section chief, said there is no definitive number for when that is achieved.

Chief of San Mateo County Health Louise Rogers added that health experts are aiming to get more than 80% of the population vaccinated.

But even as more people in the county and the nation get vaccinated, Rogers said that many people around the world have not had the same vaccine access.

"The reality is that until everyone on the planet is able to access the vaccine, it's going to be difficult with such a mobile society, especially in urban areas, really to fully get there," Rogers said. "The good news is that the vaccines have been so effective at absolutely stopping the spread of the disease and the hospitalizations and so on."

Rogers said that the county is tracking coronavirus variants, particularly the one known as B117.

The county has also had breakthrough cases, which occur when a fully vaccinated person gets COVID-19 two weeks or longer after full vaccination. Rogers said the number of breakthrough cases has been "consistent with what has been expected from the beginning" and not any more than anticipated.

Rogers said San Mateo County will continue to align with the state's mask guidance — available at cdph.ca.gov.

Currently, Californians are required to wear masks indoors. Fully vaccinated people can go without a mask outdoors, except in crowded settings.

The state expects to update its guidance on June 15 to align with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"But there's many weeks between now and June 15," Rogers said. "And as you all know, many things can change as we've seen."

A list of vaccine clinics in San Mateo County is available at smchealth.org/vaccine-clinic-calendar. People do not have to schedule an appointment but can do so at MyTurn.ca.gov.

State's mask mandate to continue until June 15

California will wait until next month to implement recent masking guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for fully vaccinated people, state officials said Monday, May 17.

State Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said the state will begin enforcing the new CDC guidance, which permits fully vaccinated people to forego wearing a mask both indoors and outdoors in most situations, on June 15.

June 15 is also when the state plans to lift its arcane tiered reopening system, formally called the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, allowing businesses to expand back to their full indoor capacities.

"This four-week period will give Californians time to prepare for this change while we continue the relentless focus on delivering vaccines, particularly to underserved communities and those that were hard hit throughout the pandemic," Ghaly said Monday during a media teleconference briefing.

The CDC issued its updated guidance May 13, stating that it was safe for people who are at least two weeks past their last vaccination date to not wear a mask or practice social distancing.

California's mask mandate requires people to wear a face covering at all times indoors or on public transit, regardless of vaccination status, unless actively eating or drinking.

Outside, state residents are not required to wear a mask or other face covering as long as they can maintain proper distance between themselves and others, regardless of vaccination status.

Ghaly argued that the state was not questioning the safety or timing of the CDC's guidance by waiting until June 15 to lift California's mask mandate.

Rather, state health officials plan to use the next month to determine to what extent the state will enforce some masking rules and how it will do so.

"It's in no way saying the science or the direction by the CDC is

wrong or there's a challenge to it," Ghaly said. "It's really just giving ourselves across the state some additional time to have it implemented with a high degree of integrity with a continued focus on protecting the public health in mind."

The state keeping its masking guidance in place for the next month will also apply to businesses, even if some have already announced they will adhere to the CDC's guidance.

Between the CDC's announcement on Thursday and Monday's announcement by state officials, Walmart, Trader Joe's and Costco announced they would not require fully vaccinated customers to wear a mask indoors.

"The CDC has given states a chance to guide how (the new guidelines) get implemented," Ghaly said. "So we expect businesses in California to adhere to where the state is, and move to implement these standards and prepare for them on June 15 as opposed to now."

After June 15, Ghaly said the state may still deem it necessary to restart the mask mandate if coronavirus cases flare up.

Local jurisdictions and businesses will also have carte blanche, more or less, to require face masks indoors or in certain situations.

More than 34.5 million doses have been administered across the state since the coronavirus vaccines first became available.

Roughly 15.6 million state residents — 49% of the state's population — are fully vaccinated, according to state vaccination data. Another 4.7 million — 15% of the population — have received the first dose of either of the two-dose vaccines developed by Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech.

"We continue to urge from the mountaintops, if you will, all Californians to get vaccinated to ensure that infections and hospitalization rates remain low across the state and that we can all return to those activities we love and have been missing for so long," Ghaly said.

Comprehensive COVID-19 coverage

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

CalMatters and Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

Your COVID-19 vaccine questions — answered

We've compiled a list of who can currently get vaccinated in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, plus answers to common questions and links to resources. Access the page at tinyurl.com/COVIDvaccinequestions. Have a question? Send it to editor@pawekly.com and we'll do our best to answer it.

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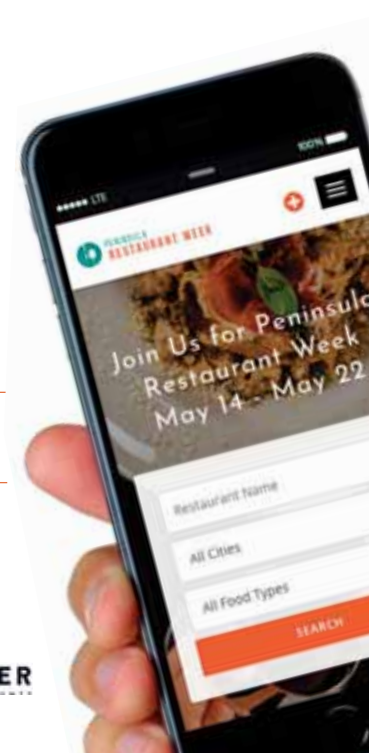
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The Peninsula's most protected trail is delightful. And it's growing.

By Kate Bradshaw

Hidden off a dirt road in the Skylawn Memorial Cemetery in the hills between San Mateo and Half Moon Bay is a pristine trail that runs 10 miles through the Peninsula's most protected open space.

You can't go there alone — you have to sign up to go with a trained docent — and you need a reservation. But the views from Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail are worth the hassle.

The trail runs for 10 miles, starting at the Skyline Quarry off of Highway 92, between Half Moon Bay and San Mateo, and ending at the Portola Gate at Sweeney Ridge, an open space preserve between Pacifica and San Bruno. The forested ridge the trail runs through is owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). The area is part of a 23,000-acre property the utility owns and manages as part of the watershed it controls.

All of the protections that surround the trail are there for good reason: It's near four Peninsula watershed reservoirs that provide the drinking water for San Francisco and other communities, and

there are a number of protected species found there, such as the California red-legged frog, San Francisco garter snake, Bay checkerspot butterfly, steelhead and the marbled murrelet. According to Tim Ramirez, land and resources management manager at the SFPUC, around 2002, the trail was opened up to the public using the docent-led approach. Docents are trained volunteers, and through their efforts, the trail can be accessed three days a week for up to three trips per day, on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail

On a recent Saturday morning, I joined a guided hike to explore a segment of the trail, meeting my trail docent, Peninsula ultrarunner Suki Martin, on the highway pull-out near the entrance of the Skylawn Memorial Cemetery. From my car, I followed Martin through the winding roads of the cemetery to a roughly-paved road, then a dirt road through a gate with a modestly sized parking area.

With the rest of our hiking group, three men from the



Courtesy SFPUC/Robin Scheswohl

The Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail, located entirely on property owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, offers stunning views of nearby reservoirs that provide drinking water to Peninsula residents.

East Bay who were experienced hikers and in training for a summer backpacking trip, we set off down the trail, a well-maintained dirt fire road.

Another group on bikes, led by a cyclist docent, quickly passed us.

The hike developed into a roughly 7-mile out-and-back journey, with views of the Crystal Springs Reservoir on one side and the Pilarcitos Reservoir on the other, plus tidy pit toilets every couple of miles. Though the forecast called for rain — likely deterring a larger group from joining our trip — we only caught some light mist at the tail end of the hike.

The plant life along the way was lush and verdant, and it was exciting to get a pedestrian perspective on the green hills I find so soothing when driving along Highway 280. I left the trail after several hours happy to have explored a new trail and seen the Peninsula from a new perspective, eager to share the experience with others. I had no idea about the plans, decades in the works, to expand the trail and make it more accessible set to move forward in the coming weeks.

New trails to come

Those expansion plans were about 20 years in the making, and passed a key milestone on May 11, when the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

voted unanimously to approve plans to build a new trail on its Peninsula property, the Southern Skyline Ridge Trail.

The trail will stretch 6 miles along Skyline Boulevard, from the south side of Highway 92 to the Phleger Estate Property, just across Skyline Boulevard to the Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. And, rather than limit access to guided expeditions as on the Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail, this trail will be accessible simply by securing a permit in advance.

The commission also approved a new half-mile loop trail connected to the Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail to make the trail more accessible for everyone, particularly field trip visitors.

As the owner of the Peninsula Watershed property, the SFPUC's first priority is to protect the water supply, not to provide recreation services, although expanding access is a goal for the agency, Ramirez explained.

"We're a water agency, not a public park entity," he said. "We thought this was an area we could make a little more accessible."

The vision for the Southern Skyline Boulevard Trail has been around at least since 2001, since a management plan for the property was approved that features the trail, said project manager Mary Tienken to SFPUC commissioners

in a hearing over the project's approval.

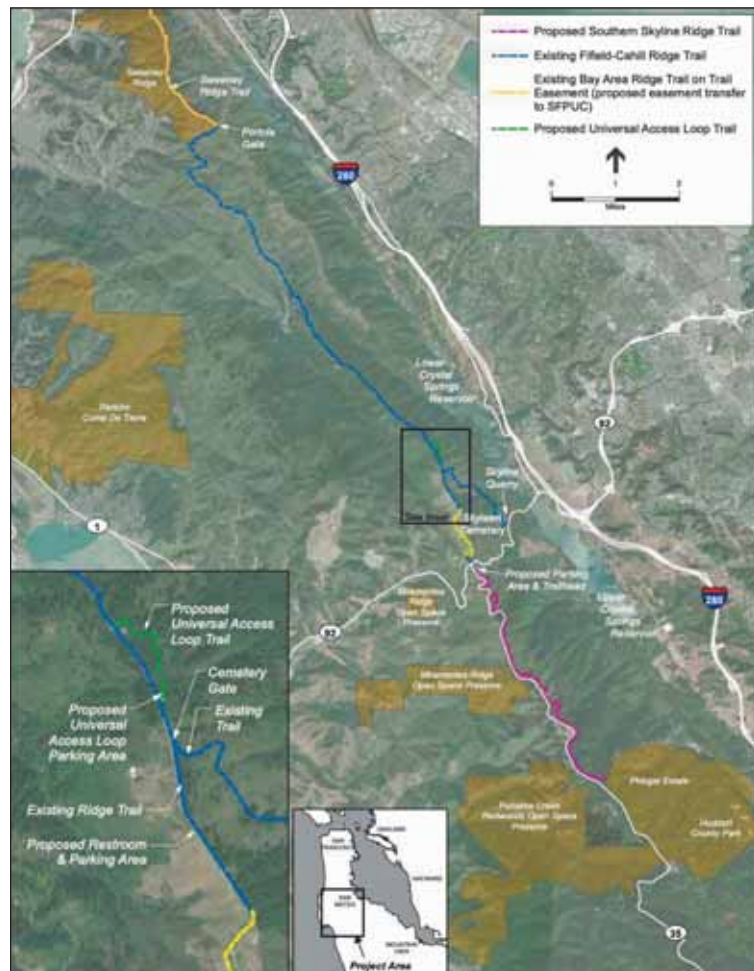
As approved, the new trail will run along Skyline Boulevard, also known as Highway 35, and will include a new 20-car parking lot and two new restrooms.

To access this new trail, visitors will need to get a permit from the SFPUC. To receive a permit, applicants will be asked to complete some form of educational program to learn about the watershed's purpose and function, the sensitive resources that surround it, and the visitor rules and restrictions. Permits are expected to be accessible through the SFPUC website or by contacting a community liaison for the SFPUC if the applicant doesn't have internet access.

The project, expected to cost \$21.8 million, has received a \$1 million grant in federal funds from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, according to SFPUC documents.

Key behind the effort to expand public access to the area is the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, Ramirez said.

"The ridge trail extension is one of our largest projects and will open a stunning 6 new miles of trails to the public to enjoy, getting us close to our 550 continuous trail vision," said Liz Westbrook, trail director at the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council.



Courtesy San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

This map shows the planned updates to the trails on SFPUC property through the Peninsula. The new Southern Skyline Ridge Trail route is in pink, while the green line shows the new Universal Access Loop Trail along the Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail.

See **TRAIL**, page 22



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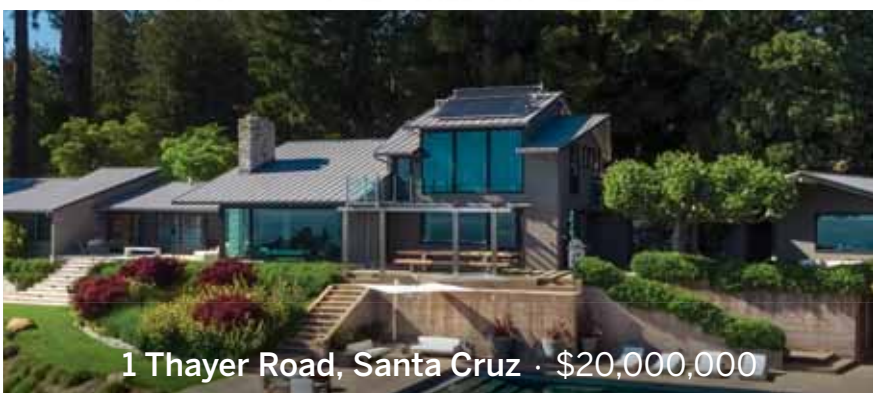
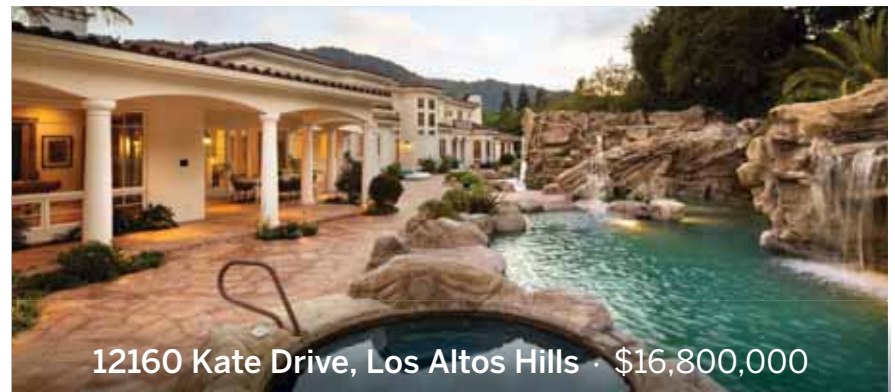
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Spanish-Style Retreat in Allied Arts

Nestled within the vibrant neighborhood of Allied Arts lies this brilliant Spanish revival that wraps you in luxury and style from the moment you step inside. Preceded by a pathway through a flourishing garden entrance, the inviting front porch welcomes you with Spanish-style architectural details that continue throughout the home. Expansive gathering areas unfold with beautifully refinished hardwood floors and high-end appointments at every turn, including the living room with an enchanting Spanish-style fireplace, the family room with a built-in entertainment center, and the incredible kitchen with an oversized island and appliances from Miele, Sub-Zero, and Fisher-Paykel. Five spacious bedrooms include the incredible master with a walk-in closet and massage tub, plus two guest suites, the guest home, and a bedroom that easily converts into office space to work from home in style. The grounds offer outstanding space to both entertain and unwind, and include a covered outdoor kitchen with a grill and refrigerator, plus a delightful in-ground trampoline sure to entertain kids of all ages. A well-equipped guest home completes the grounds and includes a wine cellar, studio area, and full bathroom. Just moments to downtown Menlo Park, downtown Palo Alto, and Stanford University, and blocks to Nealon Park and Lyle Park, this home also enjoys access to the acclaimed Menlo Park City Elementary school district (buyer to verify eligibility).

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27827 Via Feliz, Los Altos Hills



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This spectacular Los Altos Hills estate presents the epitome of modern luxury and sophistication set on 2.26 peaceful acres. Completely renovated in 2020, this home enjoys 3,550 square feet of living space with contemporary European design elements, bespoke fixtures and finishes, and a floorplan conceived for the Silicon Valley lifestyle of today, while still emanating a warm, inviting ambiance. Truly no expense was spared in crafting this estate that boasts top-of-the-line materials and furnishings from brands and designers including Porcelanosa, Hansgrohe, Sonos, Eurofase, and Tom Raffield. Rich walnut floors extend throughout expansive spaces that are both scaled for entertaining and fit for everyday living, including the living room centered by a remarkable fireplace with an Ann Sacks tile surround, the family room with a custom walnut mini bar and desk, and the gourmet kitchen with a suite of Thermador appliances. The brilliant, self-contained master suite highlights the home's four bedrooms and includes a study area, two-way fireplace, an outdoor balcony, and a spa-like bathroom with a rounded tub and rainfall shower. Enjoy quintessential California indoor/outdoor living as multiple rooms open completely to the magnificent grounds with a pool, two Ipe wood decks, and patio space. Plus, this home enjoys amenities including heated bathroom floors, embedded speakers, smart features including WiFi-enabled pool heating and irrigation, and full-power generator backup. Though you will feel far removed from the hustle and bustle of Silicon Valley, you will only be a short drive to the Los Altos Village, downtown Palo Alto, Stanford University, and Sand Hill Road, while also enjoying access to acclaimed Palo Alto schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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

Alan Sydney Baer

April 14, 1953 – April 8, 2021

Alan Sydney Baer passed away suddenly on April 8th at the age of 67.

Born in San Francisco, raised in Piedmont as a child and Menlo Park as a teen, Alan graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School, class of '71. He recently moved to Folsom to be with family. Alan was known for his good nature, kind heart and his love for his animals.

Alan was predeceased by his parents, Richard and Louise Baer, grandparents Isabel and Sydney Silverstein, uncle Alfred and aunt Jeanne Baer, and uncle Philip Newman. He is survived by his brothers Michael and Bruce, sister-in-law Heidi, sister-in-law Michelle, nieces Ashley (Michael) and Amy (Chris), great niece Ella Rose, aunt Martha and many other family members and friends whom he loved.

A service will be held at the Home of Peace in Colma on Sunday, May 23rd at noon. In lieu of flowers, a contribution may be made to Animal Outreach of The Mother Lode, Diamond Springs, CA — an animal shelter where Alan got the cats he so loved.



PAID OBITUARY

Patricia F. Robertson

Patricia F. Robertson passed away peacefully on Monday, May 10, 2021 after several months of declining health. She was 101 years old.

Pat was born on April 24, 1920 in Seattle, Washington. She attended the University of California at Berkeley but went to work full-time after her first university school year.

She met her husband-to-be at a fraternity party where he was president. The party was held at a Pleasanton, CA country club in 1942. The U.S soon entered World War II after the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941.

They got married on Jan. 29, 1943 with a honeymoon in Palm Springs, CA. Thereafter, she served as a housewife along with her Army Captain husband. After the war ended, she waited for him while he remained with other U.S. troops in Tokyo for nine months.

He returned home becoming an insurance broker. After a short stint living in Menlo Park, she and her husband moved to Atherton in 1952. Later, she had three children Linda, Scott and Brad.

She was an enthusiastic traveler. Along with her husband, she traveled most of the world having gone on to 6 different cruises.

She is survived by her two sons, Scott and Brad.

The family will have a small family gathering for her Inurnment at Skylawn Memorial Park in San Mateo, CA on May 19, 2021 at 2 pm.



PAID OBITUARY



Courtesy Noah Eisner

Rowen Barnes homered, doubled and drove in five runs for the Bears.

SPORTS

continued from page 8

who have won 12 in a row and thrown seven shutouts during that span.

Barnes doubled home three runs during a four-run third inning and hit a two-run home run in the fifth.

Sean Quinton singled home Reno DiBono in the bottom of the second to start the scoring.

Owen Keep and James Roberts each drove in two runs and Jackson Williams, Ben Cohen, Tommy Eisenstat and John Quinlan also drove in runs.

Max Coupe, Ethan Bergan and Keep each added a pair of hits for M-A.

Barnes became the third different Bear in as many games to drive in five runs or more. Eisenstat drove in six in a win over Sequoia on May 13, and Griffin Williams had five RBIs in the May 11 win over the Ravens.

Zaharias allowed two hits in his four innings. He struck out six and did not walk a batter. Quinton pitched two shutout innings, and Jackson Vontz finished with a perfect inning.

Swimming

Both Sacred Heart Prep boys and girls swim teams earned their 11th consecutive West Bay

Athletic League titles Saturday in their home pool.

Gavin West and Hugo Thomas each won two individual events and were on two winning relays for the boys, who accumulated 579 points. Menlo School finished fourth with 206 points.

Margot Gibbons and Kaia Li did the same for the girls, who won with 517 points. Castilleja was second with 316 points, followed by Menlo with 193 1/2. Pinewood earned 25 points, good for 10th overall.

The Central Coast Section championships will be held May 28-29.

SHP won eight of the 11 events, including all three relays. Thomas won the 500 yard free with a time of 4:47.22 and then took first in the 100 back with a time of 52.95.

West took top honors in the 50 free with a 21.55 and swam 46.47 to win the 100 free. Conrad Ma won the 100 breast in 1:03.07.

Thomas, Ma, Will McGaughey and Bear Weigle joined forces to open the meet with a victory in the 200 medley relay. The foursome was timed in 1:40.18. Menlo placed second in 1:47.12.

McGaughey, West, Harrison Rohlen and Will Swart made up the winning 200 free relay that was timed in 1:27.73.

Swart, Weigle, Thomas and

West finished the meet with a flourish, going 3:13.22 to win the 400 free relay.

The SHP girls won 10 of the 11 events. Brienz Lang won the 50 free in 24.51, .05 faster than the second-place finisher. Lang came back to finish second in the 100 free by .41 seconds. She also led off the winning 200 free relay and 400 free relay.

Gibbons raced to wins in the 200 free (1:54.35) and 500 free (5:01.35), while Li won the 200 IM (2:06.33) and 100 back (56.71).

Audrey J-Cheng won the 100 breast in 1:03.65 and was second to Li in the 200 IM in 2:06.43. Annaliese Chen swam 57.78 in winning the 100 fly.

Ella Woodhead joined Li, J-Cheng and Chen in winning the 200 medley relay in 1:47.08; Kate Brandin joined Lang, Gibbons and Li in winning the 200 free relay in 1:39.29; and the team of Lang, Gibbons, Woodhead and J-Cheng finished the meet with a victory in the 400 free relay (3:37.42).

—Rick Eymer

Read more online

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

VACCINE CLINICS

continued from page 5

locations, and plans to bring vaccine clinics to other places of worship, according to Merchant.

As of Tuesday, May 18, 81% of all county residents ages 16 and older had been at least partially vaccinated, and about 78% had

been fully vaccinated county-wide, according to a county data dashboard. However, in East Palo Alto, only 51% of residents ages 16 and older had been at least partially vaccinated, the lowest vaccination rate among communities countywide, a separate dashboard indicated.

Access the full schedule of

county-sponsored clinics at smchealth.org/vaccinecalendar or learn about other vaccine opportunities at myturn.ca.gov. **■** *The Bay City News Foundation contributed to this report.*

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.

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Go to: AlmanacNews.com/obituaries

MASKS*continued from page 1*

“How do *you* feel?” he asked in return.

“I’m vaccinated, so (I’m fine),” the diner replied.

“Exactly!” Pashalidis said.

But the CDC’s announcement, while welcomed by those who are exhausted by mask mandates, also immediately created confusion for others.

On the evening of the CDC announcement, Praveen Madan, CEO of Kepler’s Books in Menlo Park, sent an email to his staff. The subject line: “Has the CDC lost its mind?”

Madan was baffled and critical of the new announcement, linking in the staffwide email an article from the New York Times, which interviewed hundreds of epidemiologists who said in an informal survey they expected Americans to keep wearing masks for at least another year.

“So here’s a group of scientists saying one thing and the CDC coming out saying it’s different,” Madan said. “Frankly, it doesn’t make any sense whatsoever.”

Galip Vural, owner of Olympus Caffe & Bakery and Ephesus in Mountain View, likewise views the CDC change in guidance as premature.

“We are kind of confused,” Vural said. “We don’t know what we’re going to do really.”

When Vural heard the CDC announcement, he wasn’t sure whether or not businesses would be required to follow the new directive and allow staff to take off their masks.

Throughout the pandemic, Vural said he has been cautious and vigilant, paying attention to ICU-admittance numbers to keep track of the coronavirus’s impact in his area. Currently, all 24 employees across his two stores must wear masks.

Vural said he’s most likely going to continue the practice even if there’s an update to the mask guidelines within the county.

“I’m thinking it’s too soon,” he said. “I don’t believe (the pandemic) is finished.”

California will delay until June 15

Regardless of one’s views of the current state of the pandemic, the CDC included a major exception to its guidance that contributed to the confusion about acceptable rules: “Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.”

California state guidelines have allowed all residents regardless of

vaccination status to go without a mask or other face covering outdoors since May 3, as long as they can maintain proper distance between themselves and others.

In a May 12 memo, the California Department of Public Health specified that vaccinated people can “spend time with other fully vaccinated people, including indoors, without wearing masks or physical distancing (outside a workplace setting).” They also can “spend time with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.”

On Monday, state Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly responded unequivocally to the conflicting regulations: The state will begin following the new CDC guidance on June 15.

According to Gov. Gavin Newsom, June 15 is also the day the state plans to “reopen” the economy by allowing businesses to expand back to their full indoor capacities.

“This four-week period will give Californians time to prepare for this change while we continue the relentless focus on delivering vaccines,” Ghaly said Monday during a media teleconference briefing.

Ghaly argued that the state is not questioning the safety or timing of the CDC’s guidance by waiting until June 15 to lift California’s mask mandate.

Rather, state health officials plan to use the next month to determine to what extent the state will enforce some masking rules and how it will do so.

“It’s in no way saying the science or the direction by the CDC is wrong or there’s a challenge to it,” Ghaly said. “It’s really just giving ourselves across the state some additional time to have it implemented with a high degree of integrity with a continued focus on protecting the public health in mind.”

Whose responsibility to enforce?

Whether the guidance is implemented now or later, some businesses along the Midpeninsula are concerned about the implications of loosened rules, which might require store employees to determine who among their customers are vaccinated — and thus able to go maskless — and who are not.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told CNN’s Jake Tapper on May 13 that he didn’t think putting businesses in that position makes sense.

“People feel very put upon if you’re essentially judging them

on the basis of whether they have been vaccinated,” Fauci said. “I think there’s going to be a pushback against questioning somebody when they walk in because you can never validate or prove that they’re telling you the truth.”

For Madan of Kepler’s, vetting customers would be an undue burden. Just this past weekend, Madan said, a handful of customers came into the store without masks because of the CDC announcement, and employees had to remind them that the store policy still requires it.

“We’re working so hard to keep businesses (afloat). ... The last thing we need is a potential customer-service nightmare where we have to remind customers why we’re following guidelines that are opposed to the CDC’s.”

And while he understood the federal agency’s rationale behind allowing fully vaccinated people to take off masks, Madan wondered how businesses are supposed to know which customers are vaccinated.

“Are we supposed to have someone stationed at the entrance and check vaccination cards or are we supposed to take people’s words for it? ... There’s no way for us to know. It just seems premature to be given this wide-open broad license to people to stop wearing masks.”

Back at Taverna, Pashalidis said that, while protecting the health of staff and patrons has been important during the pandemic, he feels the responsibility for wearing a mask in the future lies with those who haven’t gotten the shots.

“It’s a social responsibility to keep wearing a mask if you are unvaccinated,” he said. But he isn’t too worried. “We’ll get through this,” he said.

Cautious business owners found an ally over the weekend in their opposition to the CDC guidance. The California Nurses Association called the mask advice “a huge blow to our collective efforts at confronting COVID-19 and the pandemic.”

“We join with our national affiliate, National Nurses United, in condemning the CDC” guidance, the group stated in a press release on Monday. The new rule “is based upon faulty science.”

National Nurses United President Deborah Burger stated: “Nurses follow the precautionary principle, which means that until we know for sure something is safe, we use the highest level of protections, not the lowest. The CDC is putting lives at risk with this latest guidance.”

Amid the changing regulations, there are also those who are happy to follow whatever mandates that local public

health experts deem to be best and say they’ll do as instructed.

“We’re still doing the same thing,” Luis Gonzalez, store manager of Mama Coco Cocina in Menlo Park, said on Monday afternoon.

Despite the new updates from the CDC and Biden, the restaurant will maintain the same mask rules and wait until there are updates from San Mateo County.

Gonzalez said that he’ll be among the first to take off his mask once the county changes its guidelines and more people are vaccinated.

“I hate masks,” Gonzalez said. “I can’t breathe.”

Across California, more than 34.5 million vaccine doses have been administered since the coronavirus vaccines first became available in mid-December.

Roughly 15.6 million state residents — 49% of the state’s population — are fully vaccinated, according to state vaccination data. Another 4.7 million — 15% of the population — have received the first dose of either of the two-dose vaccines developed by Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech. ■

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN AND HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED PLANS

CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE – BEAR GULCH DISTRICT

California Water Code (CWC) sections 10610 through 10656, known as the “Urban Water Management Planning Act” (Act), require all urban water suppliers that provide water for municipal purposes either directly or indirectly to more than 3,000 customers or supply more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually to prepare an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) at least once every five years.

UWMPs support a water supplier’s long-term resource planning to ensure that adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future water demands under defined conditions. The UWMP must describe and evaluate sources of supply, reasonable and practical efficient uses, reclamation, and demand management activities. The components of the plan may vary according to an individual community or area’s characteristics and its capabilities to efficiently use and conserve water. The UWMP must also address measures for residential, commercial, governmental, and industrial water demand management.

Further, Section 10632 of the CWC requires that every urban water supplier shall prepare and adopt a

Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) as part of its plan (UWMP). Section 10632.2 provides that,

“An urban water supplier shall follow, where feasible and appropriate, the prescribed procedures and implement determined shortage response actions in its water shortage contingency plan...or reasonable alternative actions, provided that descriptions of the alternative actions are submitted with the annual water shortage assessment report pursuant to Section 10632.1.” The WSCP will be incorporated as an appendix of the UWMP.

One of Cal Water’s service areas is the Bear Gulch District, which serves Portola Valley, Woodside, Atherton, and portions of Menlo Park and Redwood City, in San Mateo County. As a defined urban water supplier, Cal Water is preparing an update to its UWMP that will address the water service conditions in the Bear Gulch District. It is Cal Water’s intent to adopt that UWMP, and the incorporated WSCP, and file that plan as required with the Department of Water Resources, the California State Library, and any city or county within which Cal Water provides service no later than 30 days after adoption.

Schedule of upcoming actions:

On or about May 10, 2021, an electronic copy of the Draft 2020 UWMP and WSCP will be available for review. After a public review period, a public meeting to receive comments on the Draft UWMP and WSCP Plan for the Bear Gulch District will be held online on June 9, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. The electronic copy of the UWMP, WSCP, and additional information on the public meeting, including a link to participate, is available at the following internet address:

<https://www.calwater.com/conservation/uwmp-review/>

If you are unable to attend the scheduled public meeting but want to provide comments regarding the proposed UWMP or WSCP, you may send your comments via email to PlanningInfo@calwater.com. Cal Water will receive comments on the Draft 2021 UWMP and WSCP from May 10 through June 9, 2021.

Please share this notice with others that may have interest in this matter.

**5/21, 5/28/21
CNS-3470053#
THE ALMANAC**

GETREU*continued from page 1*

counties in the 1970s while he lived in Palo Alto. Perlov's body was found under an oak tree in the area of what is now the Stanford Dish in February 1973 and Taylor was found in a ditch off Sand Hill Road and Manzanita Way in March 1974. Both women were strangled.

The cases remained unsolved for more than four decades until 2018. Using new DNA technology and databases, such as those used to convict the notorious Golden State Killer, Santa Clara County sheriff's investigators accessed a commercial familial DNA database and obtained a DNA hit off evidence from the crime scene. Getreu was identified as a potential suspect.

Detectives followed Getreu during surveillance into a Kaiser Permanente pharmacy and watched him pick up a prescription, according to court filings. He discarded a coffee cup in the trash in the waiting area. Investigators collected the cup after he left the pharmacy. Laboratory staff extracted his DNA profile but used only a small segment that contained his identification information. It matched evidence found under Perlov's fingernails.

Investigators obtained warrants to arrest Getreu for Perlov's murder and to collect a DNA cheek swab, also known as a buccal sample. He was charged with her murder in November 2018 in Santa Clara County. San Mateo County investigators also used the buccal sample to match Getreu to DNA found on Taylor's clothing. He was charged with her murder in May 2019.

He awaits trial in both counties.

Jury selection in the San Mateo County trial was to begin on May 10. The trial has now been put on hold. If Getreu's attorneys are successful in getting the state Supreme Court to hear the case — and if the court rules in their favor — the ruling would also impact the case against Getreu in Santa Clara County, San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said. It's also likely the case would go to the U.S. Supreme Court regardless of who loses, he added.

"They are trying to plow new ground," Wagstaffe said by phone on May 12.

The quest for a precedent

Prosecutors have argued that DNA extraction is not considered to be a "search," since the portion of DNA that is isolated and amplified to identify a suspect does not carry any information other than identification and doesn't infringe on a reasonable expectation of privacy. It's much like collecting fingerprints from a windowsill, which would not infringe on a privacy expectation, they have said.

But Halley argues that newer technology, including extraction of cellphone data and DNA evidence, requires a reexamination of Fourth Amendment protections. He likened the situation to a landmark 2018 case related to cellphone data, Carpenter vs. United States. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled the government's seizure of historical cellphone records — 127 days of phone-location data to identify a defendant's whereabouts — exceeded

the amount of information needed to pinpoint his whereabouts on certain dates and times.

The government argued the Fourth Amendment inquiry should not focus on the entire seizure, but only on the subset of data actually used by the government. The state Supreme Court found the cellphone-data seizure was unlawful, however, because the entire set of data originally seized was so large that it violated a reasonable expectation of privacy, Halley noted.

'This genetic information is deeply private. It can reveal intensely sensitive information about us, including our propensities for certain medical conditions, our ancestry, and our biological familial relationships.'

DEFENSE ATTORNEY JOHN HALLEY

"Just as the seizure of a full set of cell phone location data could not be defended on grounds that the government was selective in using only the portions relating to particular times and locations, so too here, the government's seizure and extraction of defendant's entire genome cannot be defended on grounds that the government was selective in amplifying and profiling only those portions that show identity. Since extracting the genome was actually done, and was necessary in order to do the subsequent identification analysis, that extraction of the genome must be justified," Halley wrote in his brief to the state Supreme Court.

"This genetic information is deeply private. It can reveal intensely sensitive information about us, including our propensities for certain medical conditions, our ancestry, and our biological familial relationships. Some researchers have also claimed that human behaviors such as aggression and addiction can be explained, at least in part, by genetics. ... Our genetic blueprint must also be entitled to Fourth Amendment protection," he wrote.

This genetic material, which is shed constantly everywhere by everyone, is ripe for collection and abuse by law enforcement without a warrant, Halley said during a May 18 phone interview. Any argument that privacy protections were lost on the theory of "abandonment" is

untenable in light of the unique nature of DNA, he said.

"The key notion of abandonment is that a defendant somehow took some action that made previously private information available to the government. But the government's access to a sample of anyone's DNA is not dependent on the person having done any act, other than simply moving through the world. People cannot avoid leaving their genetic data behind," he wrote to the court.

"People constantly shed staggering numbers of skin cells. The average person loses between 40 and 100 hairs per day. And a single sneeze can spew about 3,000 cell-containing droplets into the world. The simple act of touching an object leaves behind DNA. With every discarded coffee cup, crumpled tissue, plastic straw, cigarette butt, soda can, piece of gum and drifting flake of dandruff, people unavoidably and involuntarily leave a copy of their genetic blueprint," he said.

New technology requires new rules

The ACLU agreed with Halley. In its May 3 amicus letter to the state Supreme Court, its lawyers said, "If this Petition is denied, not only will California courts continue to ignore U.S. Supreme Court precedent requiring reevaluation of old Fourth Amendment rules in new technological contexts, but every Californian's entire genetic code — and all the private and sensitive information it reveals — will be vulnerable to collection search, and exploitation at the government's whim."

The question of a Fourth Amendment violation arises "because new technology has given the government a fundamentally new and unprecedentedly invasive surveillance power," they wrote.

The California Attorney General's Office, which is representing the county in its appeals, said there is a significant difference between the cellphone data and DNA, however.

DNA extract "is nothing like the product of 'tireless and absolute surveillance' performed when investigators tracked the cellular data," they wrote in their April 23 response to the state Supreme Court.

For the DNA identification, the laboratory performed "standard" short tandem repeat (STR) analysis using the polymerase chain reaction method, a "process that's used in pretty much every government lab that does DNA analysis," the prosecution's expert witness said during the lower court's hearing on the motion.

"While the testing process

involved extracting the entire DNA molecule from cells in the DNA sample, the testing kit targeted 'junk DNA' and revealed less than one percent of the entire genome. The DNA expert drew an analogy to having 'an entire book from a library' but reading only 'one sentence,'" the Attorney General's Office quoted the expert in their response.

Getreu is asking the court to consider "a purely theoretical claim," the Attorney General's Office noted, which is not grounded in the facts of the case.

"The mere act of extracting DNA from cells deposited on an abandoned item, and maintaining possession of the resulting 'extract,' implicates no privacy interest whatsoever. For that reason, the extraction of DNA from cellular material lawfully possessed by the government was not a search or seizure for Fourth Amendment purposes," they wrote.

A government crime laboratory does not extract from a seized item a copy of the individual's genome, state prosecutors said. According to the National Institute of Health's National Human Genome Research Institute, a "genome" is the entire set of genetic instructions found in a cell.

'They are trying to plow new ground.'

SAN MATEO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY STEVE WAGSTAFFE

Multiple state higher court cases have determined that extraction and amplification — the multiplication of the tiny segment of material used to identify a subject — "carry negligible weight on the privacy side of the equation in a Fourth Amendment balancing test," the Attorney General's Office wrote.

Wagstaffe said if the defense prevails, it could affect every case coming forward. If the state Supreme Court decides not to hear the motion, he's hopeful San Mateo County could try Getreu's case this summer. If the state Supreme Court decides to hear the case, there could be at least a two-year delay. Whoever loses will likely seek a ruling in the U.S. Supreme Court, which is likely to take the case given that it is a Fourth Amendment issue and is so novel, he said. The appeal could also go before the U.S. Supreme Court after Getreu's trial if the defense chooses to take it up after rather than before he is tried. ■

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

The Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees**...is seeking applicants to serve on the District's Construction Bond Oversight Committee**

This committee will meet twice a year to monitor expenditures for the building projects of the approved Measure 'A' school construction bond. Periodically, the committee will report bond expenditures to the community.

The District is currently seeking to fill two positions.

The District is seeking a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District, or a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District and who is active in a parent-teacher organization, such as the PTA or school site council.

The District is seeking a community member that is active in a business organization representing the business community located within the District.

Applications

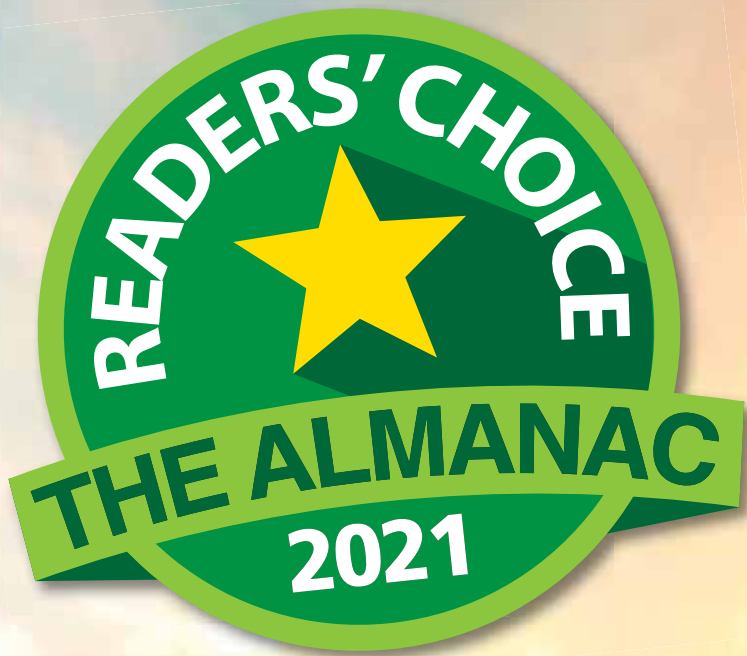
Applications may be downloaded from the Sequoia District website at www.seq.org or may be requested from the District Office by contacting

Matthew Zito, Chief Facilities Officer
mzito@seq.org, 650-369-1411, ext. 22357

Send completed applications to: Matthew Zito, mzito@seq.org
Sequoia Union High School District,
480 James Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94062

Timeline

Application filing period – May 14, 2021 to June 11, 2021



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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

AUTO - VINO A PRESERVE FOR FINE CARS AND WINE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 287368

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: AutoVino - A Preserve For Fine Cars and Wine, located at 205 Constitution Dr., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
ATHERTON ASSOCIATES, INC.
205 Constitution

Menlo Park, CA 94025
California

This business is conducted by: A Corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1-16-08.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 15, 2021.

(ALM Apr. 30; May 7, 14, 21, 2021)

BAY AREA MOBILE NOTARY & SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 287381

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

Bay Area Mobile Notary & Services, located at 1103 Carlton Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
DEADRA LAMPKIN
1103 Carlton Ave.

Menlo Park, CA 94025

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 16, 2021.

(ALM Apr. 30; May 7, 14, 21, 2021)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. M-270737

The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.

The following registered owner(s) abandoning the use of the fictitious business name(s):

VIVIENNE KELVIN
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):
VIVIENNE KELVIN
251 Winding Way

San Carlos, CA 94070

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):
VIVIENNE KELVIN DESIGNS

251 Winding Way
San Carlos, CA 94070

FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:
09/14/16

THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY:
Individual.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on April 27, 2021.

(ALM May 14, 21, 28; Jun. 4, 2021)

INNOVATIVE PIPING SYSTEMS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 287206

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

Innovative Piping Systems, located at 608 Douglas Drive, Mill Valley, CA 94941, Marin County.

Registered owner(s):
VINCENT EDWARD PUCCETTI

608 Douglas Drive
Mill Valley, CA 94941

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1996.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 1, 2021.

(ALM May 14, 21, 28; June 4, 2021)

THE MANDARIN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 287619

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

The Mandarin, located at 1029 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
CHINA WOK CHINESE CUISINE LLC
1500 W. El Camino Ave., Suite 8
Sacramento, CA 95833
CA

This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 10, 2021.

(ALM May 21, 28; June 4, 11, 2021)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
MARYANN SMETZER

Case No.: 21-PRO-00632

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of MARYANN SMETZER.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: ROBERT J. KIDWELL in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.

The Petition for Probate requests that: ROBERT J. KIDWELL be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on July 21, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: 11 of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:

Alexandra Gadzo, Esq.
Gadzo Law, P.C.
220 State Street, Suite E
Los Altos, CA 94022
(650) 397-9300

(ALM May 21, 28; June 4, 2021)

Stanford reverses course, saves 11 sports that were set for chopping block

By Lloyd Lee

After a controversial decision to cut nearly a third of its varsity sports teams last year, Stanford University has walked back its decision. On Tuesday, May 18, the university announced in a press release that it will not be cutting 11 sports programs, citing improved financial footing and more fundraising opportunities to support the athletics department.

"We have new optimism based on new circumstances, including vigorous and broad-based philanthropic interest in Stanford Athletics on the part of our alumni, which have convinced us that raising the increased funds necessary to support all 36 of our varsity teams is an approach that can succeed," Stanford President Marc Tessier-Lavigne said in the statement.

The university didn't disclose the specifics of its improved financial outlook, but said in the release that Stanford officials have been talking with groups of alumni, including 36 Sports Strong, that have been trying to raise private funds to prevent the elimination of the university's athletic teams. The 36 Sports Strong advocacy

group, which received the backing of U.S. Sen. Cory Booker and Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Mike Mussina, among others, was created last year in response to the university's decision.

The teams that will be restored are men's and women's fencing, field hockey, lightweight rowing, men's rowing, co-ed and women's sailing, squash, synchronized swimming, men's volleyball and wrestling.

Last July, university leaders announced in an open letter the "heartbreaking" decision to cut the programs after the end of the 2020-21 season due to a growing deficit in the athletics budget and other financial strains brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We felt it was imperative to confront the financial challenge before it worsened, to undertake a deliberate and collaborative decision-making process with our Board of Trustees and campus leadership, and to exhaust all alternatives before making profound changes in our programs, especially during this difficult time," university leaders wrote at the time.

On May 12, Stanford athletes filed two lawsuits against

the university in an effort to keep the 11 sports. One suit filed by eight athletes alleges the university was in breach of contract for misleading them into the sports program as recruits without disclosing plans to make the cuts. Another lawsuit filed by athletes on five of the women's teams alleges that the cuts violate federal anti-discrimination law Title IX.

The university noted in Tuesday's statement that the decision to reinstate the 11 sports teams was "independent" of the two lawsuits, and that discussions with 36 Sports Strong and others were already "far along."

"I am thrilled that we have found a way to continue sponsoring these varsity sports, which are an important part of the fabric of this university," Stanford Athletics Director Bernard Muir said. "I believe the future is extremely bright for Stanford Athletics and am eager to begin the important work of galvanizing our community and cementing Stanford's position of leadership and excellence in intercollegiate sports." ■

Email Staff Writer Lloyd Lee at lee@paweekly.com.

TRAIL

continued from page 13

"There is no question that there is need for broader public (trail) access in the Peninsula and we are so pleased that the new ridge trail extension will be available to the public via permit system," she told the SFPUC commissioners before they approved the plan.

The next steps are to put the project out to bid, find a contractor, and begin work on building the trail as soon as 2022. It's expected to take about a year and a half to complete after construction starts, Tienken said.

However, the project comes with some other next steps that have yet to be fully worked through.

One challenge with the project — and one that the environmental study found would leave a "significant and unavoidable" impact — is on the dangerous conditions that will emerge from pedestrians on the trails having to navigate the busy vehicle intersection at state routes 92 and 35, according to the project's environmental report, which was approved

by the San Francisco Planning Commission April 29.

To reduce that impact, the SFPUC plans to work with Caltrans to design, fund and build one of two possible options: a grade-separated bridge for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians over Highway 92 at the east leg of the intersection with Highway 35, or a roundabout to direct vehicles through the Highway 92, Highway 35 and Lifemark Road intersections, which would have highly visible crosswalks to accommodate those traveling by bike, foot or horse.

Such an agreement would also include the addition of some sidewalks to connect the trail segments. That part of the project will have to be completed before people will be allowed unsupervised on the Southern Skyline Ridge Trail, according to environmental documents.

Another part of the project outside of the SFPUC's control is how quickly other neighboring properties will build trails to connect with their new one. The Phleger Estate, which is part of the federal Golden Gate National Recreation Area but accessible only through San

Mateo County's Huddart Park, has future plans to build a trail to connect with the new Southern Skyline Trail on its public trail map, but it is not clear yet when that will be built.

"When they're ready, our trail will connect with theirs," Ramirez said.

The expanded Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail will offer a half-mile trail loop, a new 50-car parking lot and a new restroom along an existing part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail through Skylawn Memorial Park.

As with other segments of the Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail, visitors in groups of up to 20 people will only have access while under the supervision of a trained volunteer docent to hike, bike or ride horses along the trail.

To sign up to access the Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail with a docent, visit sfwater.org/trails. Upcoming docent-led events include hikes, bikes and trail runs of various lengths and from various starting points along the trail. ■

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.

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Deadline is Monday at noon.

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ADMISSIONS SCAM

continued from page 5

Dvorskiy and Riddell, according to federal prosecutors. Singer, Dvorskiy and Riddell have pleaded guilty for their roles in the scheme.

McGlashan was initially accused of participating in both the college entrance exam cheating scheme and an athlete recruitment scheme, which paid some coaches to admit students through athletic recruitment for sports they had never played, according to federal prosecutors. He was accused of conspiracy to bribe Donna Heinel, a senior associate athletic director at the University of Southern California at the time. Prosecutors alleged that he wanted to ensure that his older son was accepted to the university as a recruited athlete, according to a Department of Justice court filing. In 2019, a federal grand jury added a money laundering charge against him.

McGlashan is the ninth Bay Area resident to be sentenced in the nationwide scam. Other residents, who have taken plea deals and were sentenced to punishments ranging from fines with no jail time to a few months in prison with hefty fines, include former Stanford University sailing coach John Vandemoer; Menlo Park residents Marjorie Klapper and Peter Jan Sartorio; Atherton residents Manuel Henriquez and Elizabeth Henriquez; and Napa vintner Agustin Huneeus Jr.

Hillsborough residents Bruce and Davina Isackson have pleaded guilty but have not yet been sentenced.

Three people have pleaded not guilty and await trials: Palo Alto residents Amy and Gregory Colburn and Hillsborough resident Marci Palatella. ■

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 6

four-year term expiring in June 2025.

All applications are due Monday, June 7, at 5 p.m. and can be accessed online at ci.atherton.ca.us or at Town Hall and submitted to the Office of the City Clerk at 150 Watkins Ave., Atherton, CA 94027.

Atherton soliciting feedback on traffic calming measures

The town of Atherton is seeking resident feedback on potential traffic calming mitigation measures and priorities.

Visit athertontrafficmanagement.com to share your thoughts.

—Angela Swartz



RESOLUTION NO. 2239 - (2021)

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

Lands of Turnquist

District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR"), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.

B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the "Parcel") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the "Zone"). The Parcel is described in Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit "B" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.

C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:

X. All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit "B" and are incorporated by reference.

D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.
2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: June 9, 2021
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices
 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025 & via Zoom

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i).
4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.
5. The District Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

Exhibit A

Exhibit A

ANNEXATION TO WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT
GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION

All that certain real property situate in the Town of Portola Valley, County of San Mateo, State of California, being all of Lot 29 in Block 1, as shown on that certain map entitled "TRACT NO. 774 ARROWHEAD MEADOWS UNIT NO. 4, BEING A PORTION OF THE RANCHO EL CORTE MADERA" filed on March 17, 1959 in Volume 50 of Maps at Pages 45-48, Records of the County of San Mateo, State of California, and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the centerline intersection of Meadowood Drive and Navajo Place;

Thence (1) South 73°45'00" E 25.00 feet to the intersection of the centerline of Navajo Place and the easterly line of Meadowood Drive, Thence (2) along said easterly line of Meadowood Drive South 16°15'00" West 45.00 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING of this description;

Thence leaving said easterly line, (3) northeasterly on the arc of a curve concave southeasterly, the center of which bears South 73°45'00" East, having a radius of 20.00 feet, a chord length of 28.28 feet, a central angle of 90°00'00" and length of 31.42 feet;

Thence (4) along the southerly line of Navajo Place (50' wide right of way) South 73°45'00" East 305.31 feet;

Thence (5) leaving said southerly line, South 24°47'01" West 150.00 feet;

Thence (6) North 71°36'25" West 303.26 feet to said easterly line of Meadowood Drive (50' wide right of way);

Thence (7) along said easterly line of Meadowood Drive North 16°15'00" East 117.00 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Containing 1.03 acres, more or less.

For assessment purposes only. This description of land is not a legal property description as defined in the Subdivision Map Act and may not be used as the basis for an offer for sale of the land described.

APPROVED
 SAN MATEO LOCAL AGENCY
 FORMATION COMMISSION
 455 COUNTY CENTER
 REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

EXHIBIT A PAGE 1 OF 2

Exhibit B

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT
EXHIBIT "B"
SITE LOCATION
4 NAVAJO PLACE
PORTOLA VALLEY, CA
GRINDER SYSTEM

(1) Grinder Pump System
 200 Gallons Per Day (GPD)
 APN: 077-300-130
 Lands of Turnquist
 4 Navajo Place
 Portola Valley, CA
 Location of System: Front of property

© OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA

Reducing wildfire risk to homes and communities

By Don Bullard

GUEST OPINION

Wildfire risks in California are increasing. While climate change and decades of fuel buildup have exacerbated wildfires, ongoing home development in wildfire-prone lands is also driving wildfire risks to communities. Experts warn that the destruction seen in the past three years — including well over 100 fatalities, 40,000 structures destroyed, and nearly \$40 billion in insured losses — is not an anomaly, but a look into our near future. The alarm bells are clamoring for action.

Understanding the risk to homes

Media narratives often portray wildfire as a disastrous inferno, a 100-foot wall of flames raging toward our homes. But the real culprits of home loss and community devastation are much less dramatic: embers flying well in advance of a wildfire front.

Embers are responsible for up to 90% of home destruction during a wildfire. Landing on flammable materials — such as dry shrubs, wood roofs, decks, firewood piles and even vehicles — the small ignition points quickly spread and become larger individual spot fires. In turn, as the multitude of spot fires grow, they amass and intensify. Then, together with

quick-moving surface fires, they can engulf and destroy homes.

Recognizing that many homes burn down from fires ignited by embers and not an all-consuming wildfire front simplifies the challenge of creating fire-adapted communities. By directing mitigation measures to the 100-foot zone surrounding a home — known commonly as the home ignition zone — as well as the home itself, chances of improving survivability during a wildfire greatly increase.

Enhancing the defensible space and wildfire resistance of individual homes not only reduces the risk of that home's ignition, but also home-to-home ignitions, and equips the larger neighborhood to better withstand wildfire spread. As a result, firefighters can focus on individual home ignitions and not become overwhelmed by multiple homes burning simultaneously, which can lead to larger and more disastrous neighborhood conflagrations.

Planning for inevitable wildfires

Wildland fire is a natural and inevitable part of our Bay Area ecosystem. As extreme and large wildfires become more common, wildfire suppression will become less

effective. Communities such as Portola Valley and Woodside must consider how, where, and under what conditions development in high wildfire hazard areas should occur.

Creating homes and communities better adapted to wildfires requires a judicious and proactive approach to prudent land use planning. Through sound land use, development and building regulation, we can achieve wildfire mitigation as well as the community's larger goals for growth, sustainability, and resilience.

Community plans and policies

In California, each community's vision for its future development is guided by its general plan and municipal ordinances regulating its future development and building. By incorporating a comprehensive assessment of wildfire hazards and risks into the general plan's policies and municipal regulations for future development and growth, communities can provide a workable framework to protect the community's population, values, and resources from wildfire impacts.

Wildfire risks are only increasing. Wildfires are going to happen, and we cannot suppress them all. Now is the time to plan and prepare before the next wildfire disaster occurs.

What we should do now

Individuals: Fire-harden and maintain your residence, home ignition zone (HIZ), defensible space and property's vegetation. Every homeowner must do their part.

Neighborhoods: Maintain neighborhood open space, ravines and evacuation routes; CERT training; organize and practice neighborhood evacuation drills, emergency preparedness and mutual assistance. WPV-Ready is the emergency response volunteer program within the Woodside Fire Protection District.

Communities: Wildfires entail risks that can only be mitigated through communitywide action. Effective reduction of wildfire risks requires coordinated planning and execution, fire safety development and building standards, regular forest management, prescribed burns, outreach, Firewise communities (which meet a set of voluntary criteria from the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association), education, and communitywide preparation.

Don Bullard is battalion chief and fire marshal for the Woodside Fire Protection District.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Mental health resources are available

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. By urging my public officials to prioritize suicide prevention, mental health and crisis care, I am hoping to influence collective change to support #MentalHealth4All.

Right now, individuals in crisis are able to call 1-800-273-8255 to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress and those that care for them. Soon, it will be much easier to remember how to reach the lifeline as the number will be changing to "988" nationwide by July 2022.

Knowing this, it is critically important that states pass legislation now to reliably fund 988 and their state's crisis response system, just as we fund 911 and emergency services — through small fees on our phone bills. Reliable funding will help to ensure all 988 callers can reach a counselor in their own state who is familiar with, and can connect them to, local resources. Culturally competent support

and local connections can better help all callers through their crisis and in their recovery.

My daughter passed away to suicide in January 2021. She suffered from depression which was only supported outside of the school. School did not offer mental health support when she was a middle school student and is not offering any support to her sister, the suicide survivor, other than referring her to support organizations.

It is very important to increase budgets for school wellness centers, which will provide mental assistance for all students and to bring mental illness awareness to all. This is not something people should feel ashamed of. They should be able to discuss it openly and get the support they need!

Join me this month in urging your public officials to fund 988. We all play a role in changing the culture around mental health. Together, we can ensure #MentalHealth4All.

*Michelle Reuven
Sunnyvale*

The gift of Menlo Park gymnastics

I'm heading off to college in the fall, but I want to take a moment to thank Menlo Park

for the Menlo Park gymnastics program and the Arrillaga family for giving us the gift of Burgess Gym. I spent 12 years in the program, first learning somersaults and handstands and slowly moving up, year by year, to five state championships and three regional competitions, eventually becoming a Region 1 Bars and All-Around champion. As a junior in high school, I switched to springboard diving as my primary sport, but the community forged in the gymnastics program drew me back into coaching the younger girls a couple of days a week until COVID-19 closed everything down.

I love competing, I love the gift of the Burgess Gym, but even more I love the sense of community that the gym gave me. Not only was I able to find friends and balance my studies by working out nearly every day, I grew up in that beautiful and safe space. People used to tell me that the gymnastics program was a big moneymaker for the city. I know that classes filled not only with local residents but with young athletes from nearby towns that did not have a gymnastics program like ours. But I'm not sure that our city leaders have heard much from young people like me and the families we represent

or given much thought to how important programs like this are to building a strong community. Menlo Park gymnastics represents more than the usual recreation program. It has been an example of the heart and soul of what I want a community to be, and I will carry that experience with me into the future.

For many years, I've heard rumors about the city shutting down the gymnastics program or outsourcing it. I would ask everyone in Menlo Park to deeply consider the kind of community we want to be and how friendly, unique, and rigorous programs like this make our families healthier and happier. I'll be on the East Coast in the fall, but I hope you will work together to get Menlo Park children back in the gym as soon as possible. It will help them recover from this long pandemic. And I hope that when I return, I will find many young gymnasts learning and growing in our beautiful community gym with our dedicated community teachers. Menlo Park families and city leaders, I know that budgets are tight now, but please protect and nurture this and similar programs for the kids coming after me.

*Sophia Simon
College Avenue, Menlo Park*

Leaders spreading lies

Michael Mullane flew a fighter bomber in Vietnam and followed up as a crew member on three NASA shuttle missions.

His life depended on scrupulous attention to safety regulations, and he gave our group at work an impassioned presentation stressing the need to maintain adherence to protocols designed to save lives and avoid disasters.

His most impactful point was (in referring to the Challenger disaster in 1987) that "normalizing deviance produces the predictable result (disaster)."

Some of our leaders have normalized deviance in their callous disregard for truth and democracy. By spreading lies (election was stolen; vaccines are for wimps; masks are impositions on our freedoms) and rousing insurrection, they have violated their oaths and made disasters more likely. We must never normalize their breaches but reject them and those who would use them to topple our democratic republic.

*Ed Taub
Mountain View*

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Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Mountain View horn ensemble

gets jazzed up

with new member

Quartet's new lineup will take the stage in a series of June performances

By Heather Zimmerman

French hornist Adam Unsworth has long nurtured two seemingly opposed musical loves: the French horn and jazz.

"I just happened to pick an instrument that's not a common jazz instrument. French horns are not included in jazz ensembles very often," Unsworth said in an interview with *The Almanac*.

And that's why, as the newest member of Quadre, Unsworth may jazz things up a bit when it comes to the Mountain View-based horn ensemble's repertoire. Unsworth is also a composer who primarily writes jazz works, though it's a genre that typically doesn't offer much for French horn.

He officially joined Quadre in February. The group's three other members, Amy Jo Rhine, Lydia Van Dreel and Daniel Wood, invited him to join them last summer, following the retirement of longtime member Nathan Pawelek.

Local audiences will be able to hear the ensemble's new lineup in person next month, during Quadre's California tour. The group is planning a series of performances June 21-27 of its "What Is Home?" program, which "speaks to the incredibly uplifting work that is being done every day by organizations that serve the unhoused community," according to the ensemble's newsletter.

The group's upcoming tour will include a June 26 concert outdoors at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. For those hoping for a sneak peek, the group will also livestream a rehearsal

next month, with details to come on Quadre's Facebook page, facebook.com/quadre4horns.

A musical upbringing

Unsworth was raised around music. His father was on the faculty of the Crane School of Music in upstate New York, where, as a child, he was able to attend concerts and began studying the horn with a professor at the college.

"I definitely had advantages in that way. And I loved playing the horn, from the first day I took it home from school in fourth grade," he said.

His family also helped instill a love of jazz. With his father playing jazz piano, and his older brother a jazz bassist, it was the music he grew up listening to.

From middle school through college, in addition to French horn, Unsworth played the electric bass, an instrument more at home in a jazz ensemble. In grad school at University of Wisconsin, Madison, he eventually sold his bass in order to have the money to start taking auditions.

"I started playing jazz on the horn in my master's degree and then kept going," he said.

Unsworth is now a professor of horn at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he lives with his family.

Working together from afar

With Quadre's members based in different parts of the country, well before the pandemic the group was already doing a lot of work remotely. The group talks for a



Courtesy Quadre

Quadre focuses on social justice issues as part of its mission and has partnered with community agencies that support the unhoused. The quartet plays concerts for these agencies' clients and aims to raise awareness.

couple of hours each month, making decisions about repertoire and planning for future seasons, and then comes together throughout the year for performances.

The model seems well-suited for the work-from-home world, with one significant exception: Virtual rehearsals aren't possible.

"There's what they call latency, where there's a delay. And so to actually play together is quite difficult," Unsworth said.

Due to the pandemic, until recently, in-person performances have been limited. Since accepting the invitation to join the ensemble last summer, Unsworth has had a chance to play with Quadre only a couple of times, including during a trip to the Bay Area last fall, when the group had their first real chance to rehearse together. The ensemble also performed at several local food pantries during the visit.

Focusing on social justice

Quadre emphasizes social justice in its programming, with themes for each season that highlight key issues facing society. For its 2020-21 season, "Homelessness: Hope, Humanity and Heart," Quadre is exploring the meaning of "home" in our community and has commissioned composers Nina Shekhar and Ben Shirley to create works on the theme.

As part of its June tour, Quadre is also partnering with South Bay organizations that support the unhoused community, such as the Bill Wilson Center, Martha's Kitchen and WeHOPE, to present performances for those agencies' clients.

The ensemble's June 26 performance in Mountain View will feature multimedia artist Kristopher Grant; percussionist James Kassis; and new works by composers Shekhar, Shirley, Michael Kaulkin and Zachary McDonald and by artistic director and composer Wood.

Kaulkin and McDonald were the first- and second-place winners, respectively, of Quadre's 2020 International Composition Contest. "What Is Home?" will feature their winning works: Kaulkin's "By Hook

or By Crook" and McDonald's "Locked Up."

Quadre launched its 2021 composition contest last month and is seeking entries until June 1, with first place receiving a prize of \$1,000 and second place receiving \$500. The winning works will be performed in the 2021-2022 season.

Leaving room to improvise

Unsworth is working on a piece for Quadre's 2021-22 season, which will explore the theme of environmental issues and climate change. In writing this new work, he said, he's trying to evoke a sense of clean air and clean water in the music.

With his compositions focusing on jazz, Unsworth said "composing for a horn quartet is something that will be different for me. (Jazz) is just a very different musical world where there's a lot of improvisation. The structure is a lot more sparse by design, because you want to leave room for the improvisation."

While he might leave a bit of space for improv in the piece, Unsworth said he's also looking at bringing in a jazz influence in other ways, possibly through a collaboration with a percussionist, noting that the group often collaborates with other musicians.

In discussing the ensemble's social justice mission, Unsworth pointed out that French horns, in the time long before phones, were used as "calling instruments" — a way to send signals across long distances, or more metaphorically in this case, sending a call to action.

While the idea of signaling by horn may have a particularly quaint appeal in this era of Zoom, Quadre is using its instruments to send some calls that its musicians hope listeners will want to answer.

For more information about Quadre's upcoming performances, visit quadre.org. ▀

Email Assistant Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@almanacnews.com.



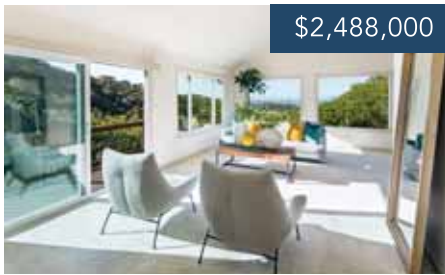
Courtesy Quadre

Quadre features, from left, Adam Unsworth, Amy Jo Rhine, Lydia Van Dreel and Daniel Wood.



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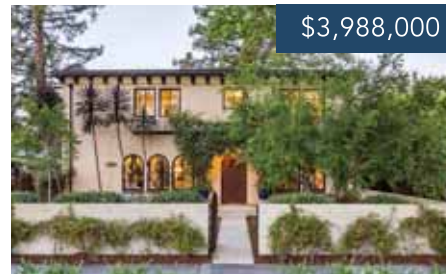
\$2,488,000

632 Palomar Drive, Redwood City
3 Bd | 2.5 Bth
www.632Palomar.com



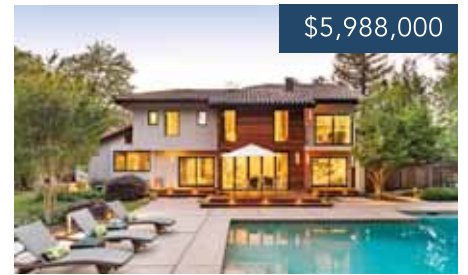
\$4,388,000

301 Yale Road, Menlo Park
5 Bd | 4.5 Bth
www.301Yale.com



\$3,988,000

2101 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
5 Bd | 4 Bth
www.2101Middlefield.com



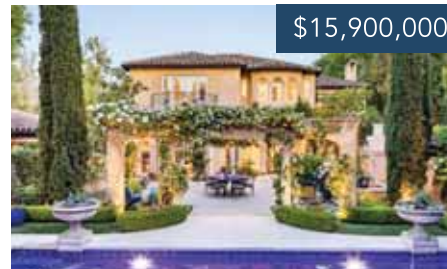
\$5,988,000

27827 Via Feliz, Los Altos Hills
4 Bd | 3 Bth
www.27827ViaFeliz.com



\$3,288,000

645 Distel Drive, Los Altos
4 Bd | 2.5 Bth
www.645Distel.com



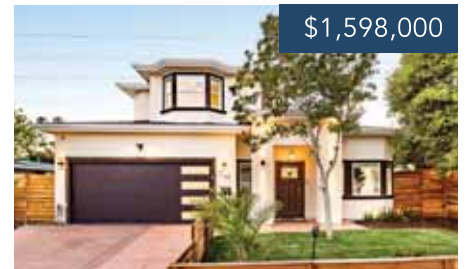
\$15,900,000

51 Crescent Drive, Palo Alto
5 Bd | 8 Bth (5 Full, 3 Half)
www.51Crescent.com



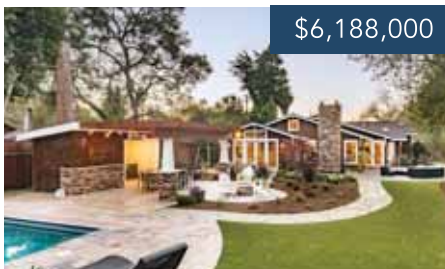
\$2,988,000

541 Maybell Avenue, Palo Alto
4 Bd | 3 Bth
www.541Maybell.com



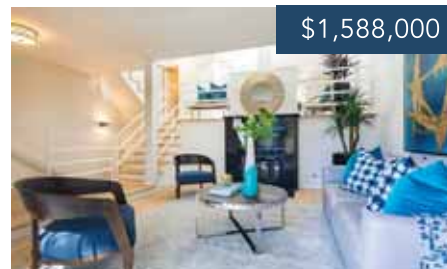
\$1,598,000

329 Greenlake Drive, Sunnyvale
5 Bd | 4 Bth
www.329Greenlake.com



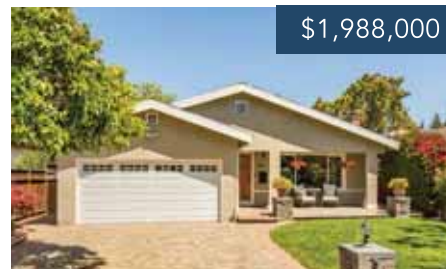
\$6,188,000

1780 Morton Avenue, Los Altos
4 Bd | 6 Bth (4 Full, 2 Half)
www.1780Morton.com



\$1,588,000

747 Loma Verde Ave.#B, Palo Alto
2 Bd | 2.5 Bth
www.747LomaVerde.com



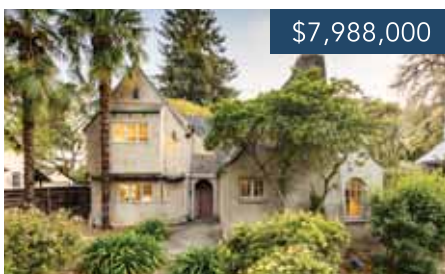
\$1,988,000

266 Walker Drive, Mountain View
3 Bd | 3 Bth
www.266Walker.com



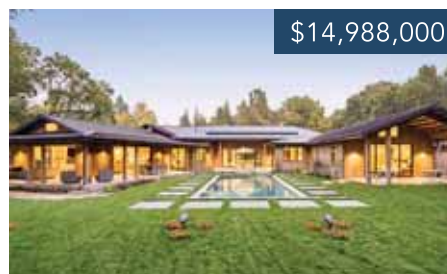
\$4,988,000

307 Walsh Road, Atherton
5 Bd | 4.5 Bth
www.307WalshRd.com



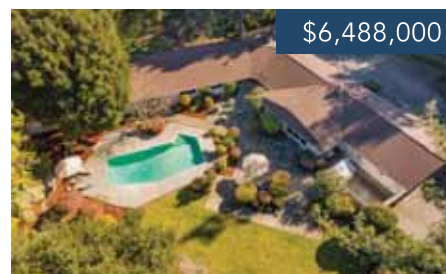
\$7,988,000

1550 Cowper Street, Palo Alto
9 Bd | 7 Bth
www.1550Cowper.com



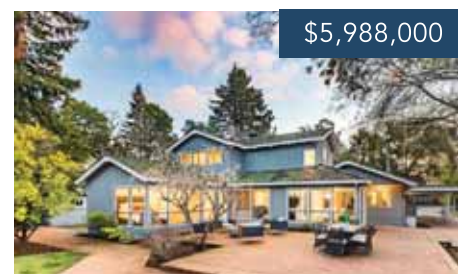
\$14,988,000

199 Mapache Dr, Portola Valley
5 Bd | 6.5 Bth
www.199Mapache.com



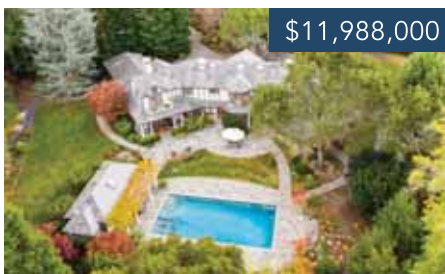
\$6,488,000

35 Edge Road, Atherton
6 Bd | 4 Bth
www.35Edge.com



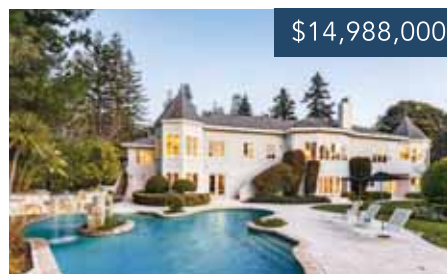
\$5,988,000

1170 May Brown Ave., Menlo Park
3 Bd | 3 Bth
www.1170MayBrown.com



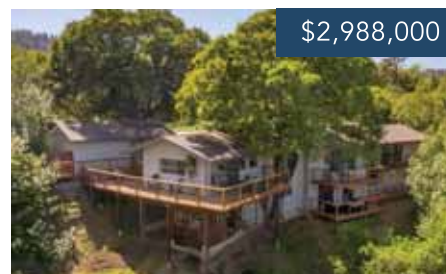
\$11,988,000

3787 Woodside Rd, Woodside
6 Bd | 5.5 Bth
www.3787Woodside.com



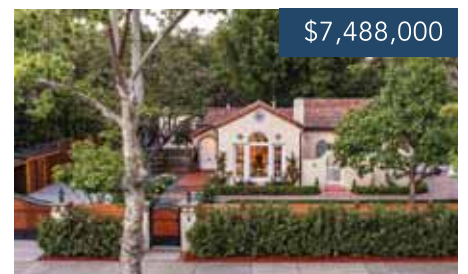
\$14,988,000

97 Ridge View Drive, Atherton
6 Bd | 7.5 Bth
www.97RidgeViewDr.com



\$2,988,000

255 Old Spanish Trail, Portola Valley
4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
www.255OldSpanishTrail.com



\$7,488,000

1535 Cowper Street, Palo Alto
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www.1535Cowper.com

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www.307WalshRd.com

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Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Atherton

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Food & Drink

Al fresco forever?

Peninsula cities debate keeping street closures and outdoor dining after the pandemic ends



By Sarah Klearman
Photos by Magali Gauthier

In June of 2020, as it became clear how significantly California's restaurants were going to be impacted by the pandemic even after the initial shutdowns were lifted, the Peninsula's municipalities began exploring how they could help restaurants in their communities survive. Across the Peninsula and the state, the solution to a ban on indoor dining took similar shape: bringing dining rooms outside.

That meant giving those restaurants adequate space. In San Carlos, the first city in San Mateo County to permit outdoor dining, City Council members voted to close Laurel Street to cars, allowing restaurants a carefully controlled expansion into the road itself, according to Mayor Laura Parmer-Lohan. Some businesses built neat, roofed parklets; others simply set up tables and chairs al fresco directly in front of their storefronts, giving Laurel Street something of a European feel.

"I go for walks frequently through the neighborhood and downtown to see how things are going, and ... any given evening, families, friends and business people are gathering and enjoying a meal together (outside)," Parmer-Lohan said.

As in many communities, the closure has proven popular among both patrons and merchants, according to Parmer-Lohan. Among restaurateurs, it's perhaps more than popular: Many see the flexibility they've been granted around outdoor

dining as having essentially saved their businesses, according to Derek Schuette, general manager of Taurus Steakhouse, which sits along the 700 block of Laurel Street. Outdoor seating will remain a crucial part of Taurus's business for the foreseeable future, he thinks.

"I just think it's going to be the new normal for a while," Schuette said. "Even come June 15 when it's all set to open at 100%, there will be so many restaurateurs who simply cannot adhere to that, because we don't have the staff (to serve customers both indoors and out)."

Beyond that, Schuette said, a substantive portion of Taurus's clientele say they do not feel safe eating inside, and he does not believe that a general lifting of capacity restrictions will change their minds. And it's not just Taurus's clientele base: Restaurateurs along Castro Street in Mountain View, also currently closed to vehicle traffic, are currently voicing the same concern, according to Mountain View Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Peter Katz. He said many restaurants view their outdoor seating as something of an insurance policy against future shutdowns.

"The biggest fear that these businesses have is that they're going to gear up for something and then get told the rules are different," he said. "They've done that several times already, it's so extremely costly for them to pivot in that direction. It's not just ... turn the lights off, turn the lights on."

In Mountain View as San Carlos, the street closure has been popular with community members, Katz said — many of them have voiced their approval for a more permanent closure. The chamber is in continual dialogue with its membership as well as city leaders regarding the closure of Castro Street, according to Katz.

"The closing of Castro — or keeping it closed, if you will — is not a yes-no decision, either," he said. "In fact, if we are going to keep Castro closed, we have

to invest in Castro."

That might mean additional lighting fixtures, seating or other infrastructure, Katz said. He named a roster of other variables the city and chamber membership are considering, including how a permanent or quasi-permanent closure of Castro Street might impact traffic patterns, parking supply and business for nearby retailers who are not in the restaurant business.

California Avenue in Palo Alto, also currently closed to cars, might benefit from a similar kind of assessment, according to La Bodeguita del Medio owner Michael Ekwall, who said the closure had been "a lifesaver" for his restaurant.

"I would like to see Cal Ave. really advance its aesthetic ... if it was more attractive, it might be more of a draw, and a permanent closure might help that," Ekwall said, adding he knew the city was working under budget constraints and had other agenda items to address. "Cal Ave. is only three blocks long. Imagine if you had a really beautiful median with trees — almost a park-like

setting — that it could really set off the neighborhood. It's not inexpensive, but I think that would be beneficial to the area and the community."

Still, like Katz, he knows city leaders will need to assess variables like traffic patterns and parking. And he knows not every business owner shares his opinion: Some have said they believe the closures have had an adverse impact on their businesses, including Peninsula Creamery's Rob Fischer and Mike Stone of Mollie Stone's Market.

"When you close the street and let one or two restaurants have the entire street, everyone else is kind of hung out to dry," Fischer said of the closure of University Avenue in downtown Palo Alto.

The fate of street closures like California Avenue, Castro Street and Laurel Street is something that must be considered through a long-term lens, San Carlos's Parmer-Lohan said.

Laurel Street will remain closed to traffic through September. The San Carlos City Council is in the middle of

discussing its budget, which will likely include some funding for Laurel Street and the rest of downtown, according to Parmer-Lohan.

"This is a long-term endeavor, not a short-term thing," she said.

In Mountain View, the "first steps" toward assessing Castro Street's future are already being taken, according to Katz, in the form of surveys; community conversations and public hearings will soon follow. Given the "complexity of the issue, love for downtown and strong opinions" in Mountain View, there likely won't be a singular solution that makes "100% of people happy," he said. Still, the city "knows the gravity of these issues," Katz added.

"There are so many stakeholders and variables (involved) that we all are going to have to make some adjustments. That's one thing the pandemic showed us — that we can adjust," he said. ▣

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Above: A blocked-off section of Santa Cruz Avenue allows for Roma restaurant's tables to be set up in the street. **Top:** Diners eat lunch at Left Bank restaurant's outdoor tables on Santa Cruz Avenue in downtown Menlo Park last June.



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