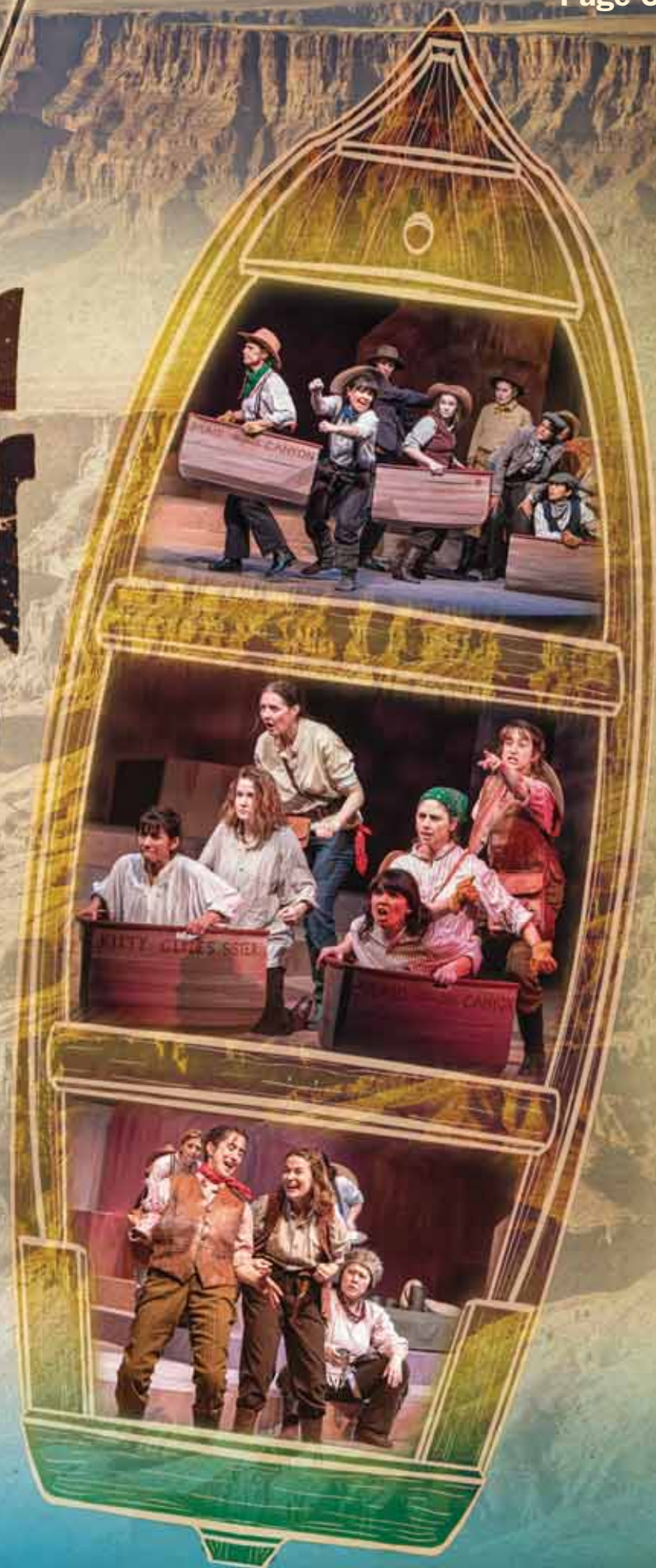


Weekly

Crowds flock to see rare Oriental turtle-dove

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ROCKING THE 'BOAT'



PALO ALTO PLAYERS

TELL OF A HISTORICAL RIVER JOURNEY FROM A

SURPRISING

POINT OF VIEW

★ PAGE 23 ★

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- **Upfront** County mask mandate stays ... for now
- **Upfront** Should cars return to Cal. Ave.?
- **Eating Out** Sweet55 and the art of chocolate

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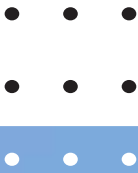
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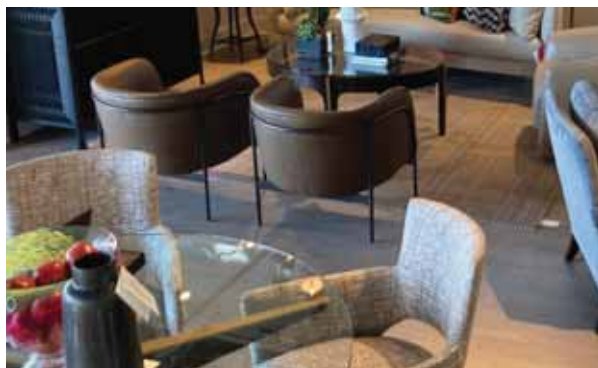
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Housing, economic recovery top city's 2022 priorities

City Council signals it also will focus on climate change, community health and safety

By Gennady Sheyner

Economic recovery will remain a key priority in Palo Alto in 2022, city leaders agreed on Saturday, though they had different ideas about what that means.

Housing and climate change

will also remain on the city's official priority list that was approved by City Council members.

These three priorities, holdovers from 2021, will be joined by a new one: community safety and health. A broad and somewhat

vague category, it includes among its components the issues of crime, mental health, air quality, noise and sense of belonging. As such, it responds to and reflects the written and oral comments that the city had received before and during Saturday's annual retreat.

While the vote was unanimous, members offered different ideas about what they want the city's

focus to be in 2022. The council ultimately agreed to rename the priority "economic recovery and transition" as members debated which of these terms should carry more currency.

Council member Tom DuBois emphasized transition and suggested exploring ways to streamline city operations and reevaluating whether the traditional mix of businesses and service-delivery

models in commercial districts still makes sense, given the changes to working habits and the economic trends that had occurred during the pandemic.

"What can be streamlined? How can we use technology? How can we shift delivery models?" DuBois said. "And I think that can have one of the largest

(continued on page 17)



An Oriental turtle-dove perched in a tree at the corner of Colorado Avenue and Higgins Place in Palo Alto is photographed through a scope on Feb. 7.

WILDLIFE

Rare sighting of Oriental turtle-dove wows birders

Asian bird, previously seen in California only twice, makes appearance in Palo Alto

By Sue Dremann

A bird sighted last week only for the third time in California has hundreds of birders flocking to Palo Alto's Midtown neighborhood.

The Oriental turtle-dove, also known as the rufous turtle-dove, has been hanging out near Greer Road and Maddux Avenue since Feb. 2. The bird was first spotted by wildlife biologist Andrew Bradshaw, who saw it feeding with local mourning doves under his bird feeder, he said by phone on Wednesday. Since

then, the dove has attracted avid aficionados from all over the country.

Armed with birding scopes, binoculars and cameras, gaggles of birders can be seen training their equipment toward the trees. Sometimes, the bird appears in a tall, thin redwood visible from the Matadero Creek overpass on Greer Road; other times, it perches in a high tree on Colorado Avenue at Higgins Place.

The lone Oriental turtle-dove

presides far above its human admirers. A sheen of rusty-golden wing and back feathers and black-and-white feathers on the sides of its neck tipped in silver distinguish it from other local doves.

"It's a little like a Tiffany lamp," neighborhood resident and birder Ed Hillard said, gazing upward on Monday morning.

Matthew Dodder, executive director of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, said he arrived one day and got to see

it for 18 seconds before it flew off its perch.

"The Oriental turtle-dove is exceedingly rare. This is only the third time it has been seen in California. It is considered a 'mega-rarity' with only a handful of reports from anywhere in North America," he said on Wednesday.

"The discovery of this bird was extremely exciting to birders. For most people, it was what

(continued on page 16)

PUBLIC HEALTH

Santa Clara County bucks de-masking trend

Health officials could lift the requirement in weeks

By Sue Dremann

Santa Clara County's indoor mask mandate will stay in place when the state lifts its indoor masking requirement next week, county public health officials announced on Wednesday.

Local health officials expect they will be able to lift indoor masking in a matter of weeks, as COVID-19 case rates continue to decline, they said.

County officials are basing their decisions on the risks posed by COVID-19, using defined metrics related to vaccination, hospitalizations and COVID-19 case rates, they said. The county isn't alone in its decision. Los Angeles County has also announced it will not immediately lift its local masking requirement. Most Bay Area counties, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, and the city of Berkeley, plan to follow the state's mask-lifting plan starting Feb. 16.

"We must continue to base our decisions on the risks COVID-19 presents to our community, and we look forward to lifting the indoor mask requirement as soon as we can do so without putting vulnerable people at undue risk," county Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody said.

"Universal indoor masking is critical to protect our community,

(continued on page 16)

Answers to this week's puzzles, which can be found on page 27.

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6	4	1	5	9	8	7	3	2
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The Palo Alto Weekly (ISSN 0199-1159) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306. (650) 326-8210. Periodicals postage paid at Palo Alto, CA and additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for Santa Clara County. The Palo Alto Weekly is delivered to homes in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley, East Palo Alto, to faculty and staff households on the Stanford campus and to portions of Los Altos Hills. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to PaloAltoOnline.com/subscribe to start supporting the Palo Alto Weekly today.
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK



These things aren't just annoying ... they're true health risks.



— Greer Stone, Palo Alto City Council member, about the city's new health and safety priority. See story on page 5.

Around Town



Courtesy Jay Adelfius, Figure Skating

UPDATES FROM BEIJING ...

Olympians with ties to Palo Alto have made their mark on the Winter Games a week into the international competition. One of the most notable pieces of news so far came from 21-year-old skater Vincent Zhou, who dropped out from the men's individual competition after testing positive for COVID-19. "It seems pretty unreal that of all the people it would happen to myself," Zhou said on Monday in a five-minute Instagram video. Zhou will still leave Beijing with a silver medal that the U.S. earned in the team free skate, where he performed selections from the film "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" prior to receiving the positive test result. He plans to return to the ice at the world championships next month in France. Over at the Big Air Shougang stadium, incoming Stanford freshman Eileen Gu had people holding their breath as she competed in the women's freestyle skiing freeski big air finals. Gu, 18, won the gold for China in a tight race with France's Tess Ledeux. Gunn graduate Joanne Reid, the daughter of Olympic bronze medalist Beth (Heiden) Reid and the niece of five-time Olympic gold medalist Eric Heiden, finished in 57th place in the biathlon 15-kilometer individual event on Monday.

MAKING BIG IMPRESSIONS ...

The rise and fall of Palo Alto-based Theranos will soon be available to watch from a streaming screen near you thanks to Hulu, which released a trailer for "The Dropout" this week. The trailer opens with a closeup of actress Amanda Seyfried, who plays company founder and former CEO Elizabeth Holmes. "The world works in certain ways until a new great idea comes along and changes everything," Seyfried says in

the trailer's opening, outfitted in a black blazer and black turtleneck that was Holmes' signature look. It goes on to show a portrayal of Holmes' days at Stanford University, her decision to withdraw from the university and her early days of promoting the company's finger-prick blood test technology. Over the course of two minutes and 25 seconds, the viewer is transported from Stanford University's picturesque campus to Theranos' Page Mill Road headquarters to an auditorium filled with an applauding audience (not to mention a mix of exhilarating and frustrating scenes in labs, cars, a plane and a yacht). The upcoming limited series, based on the ABC News podcast of the same name, is set to premiere on March 3.

BATTLE OF THE BRAINS ...

Stanford's very own Isaac Applebaum outsmarted his competition this week on the Jeopardy! National College Championship, airing in prime time on ABC. The junior is one of 36 undergraduate students vying for the title and \$250,000 grand prize. He appeared on Tuesday's opening episode, which was the first of 12 quarterfinal matchups, with students from Cornell and Dartmouth universities. In the opening round category of "These words are younger than you are," he garnered some laughs from the audience when presented with this question: "This gendered word for condescendingly expounding has only been around since 2008." The answer? "Mansplaining." Applebaum was in second place with \$13,800 heading into Final Jeopardy, where the contestants were met with the following American history question: "One theory says Charles T. Torrey, a worker on this, coined its name, which appeared in the liberator on Oct. 14, 1842." He was the only student with the correct answer, "The Underground Railroad," and advanced to the semifinals, which are scheduled for Feb. 17-18. The championships are set for Feb. 22. "The secret weapon that I have in terms of knowledge is actually I'm a humanities person," Applebaum, a computational biology major, told The Stanford Daily in an article this week. ■



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ENVIRONMENT

Illegally dumped construction debris is piling up along highway exits

Caltrans is spending \$1 million annually to clean up the trash

By Sue Dremann

Hundreds of mounds of leaves, dirt, tree stumps and construction debris are being illegally dumped on Caltrans property in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

The problem, which has grown considerably in the past few years statewide, cost the state transportation agency approximately \$1 million to clean up in 2021 alone.

In San Mateo County, piles of debris litter the grassy areas adjacent to freeway exits and entrances along Interstate 280. At Sand Hill Road off the southbound side of 280, dozens of mounds of chipped wood, dirt piles and other landscaping detritus form hills. Along the entrance and exit to 280 at Alpine Road, it's much the same, with the addition of several large piles of gnarled tree stumps.

The problem increased dramatically more than a year ago when Caltrans was repairing the guardrails along 280 and repaving some of the exit ramps, some residents have reported. The sites most affected locally include the stretch along 280 from Woodside to Los Altos, spanning the two counties.

Other hot spots include Interstate 680 at Montague Expressway, U.S. Highway 101 at Montague, California State Route 237 at the "Golf Course" exit, Highway 101 at State Route 85, Highway 101 at Coyote Creek, Interstate 280 at Foothill Expressway, and 101 at State Route 25 in Gilroy, according to Alejandro Lopez, spokesman for Caltrans District 4, which oversees the nine Bay Area counties.

"We do see illegal dumping as a prevalent issue throughout the district," Lopez said.

At Alpine Road and 280, he said, the district estimated there are 75 piles, equaling approximately 150 tons, or roughly 210 cubic yards.

Caltrans is seeking the public's help to report the problem.

If the illegal dumping creates hazardous lane conditions or impedes sight-distance requirements, Caltrans responds immediately to clean up the site. But sometimes it's too large an area to have to clean up in its entirety.

"The crew that oversees the Sand Hill/Alpine area maintains

roughly 1,100 lane miles including roadside vegetation, vista points and a Park & Ride. We have directed our crew to focus on this area and will request a heightened CHP presence when possible," Lopez said.

Illegal dumping has been prevalent for many years but has increased dramatically over the last two to three years, Lopez said. Caltrans doesn't know who is doing the dumping but the items are construction, demolition and landscape debris, he noted.

The price tag for properly disposing of these materials can be high, which likely explains the proliferation of dumping. The South Bay Recycling Center charges \$49 per cubic yard for construction debris; \$50 per cubic yard for yard trimmings; \$119 per ton for dirt and concrete; \$131 per ton for asphalt roofing and \$50 per load for green waste and lumber, according to its online fee schedule.

The 210 cubic yards dumped at Alpine Road at minimum would cost upwards of \$10,500 at the recycling center, if depositing just yard trimmings. Dumping the



A printed Caltrans sign alongside trash and debris on the shoulder of Interstate 280 on the southbound Sand Hill Road on-ramp reads "No dumping state property! It is against the law. Caltrans."

8,500 cubic yards of materials that Caltrans had to clean up in 2021 on its properties "saved" the businesses at minimum \$416,500, while the price tag to the agency was close to \$1 million.

The costs for this illegal dumping are far higher when considering environmental factors, however.

In one recent notable case, the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office Consumer and Environmental Unit on Feb. 2 announced it obtained a judgment in a civil law enforcement action against a Livermore-based commercial contracting company. On-Site Commercial Services Inc. was illegally dumping harmful material in an area where it could pass into the state waterways.

On-Site Commercial Services performs contracting jobs throughout the Bay Area.

In January 2021, after dark, company employees drove a truck with an attached vacuum trailer of liquid slurry waste to a trail in the area of Whiskey Hill Road and Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park, according to a DA's office press release.

The dumping occurred up slope from Bear Creek, a habitat for steelhead trout, a federally threatened central California coast species. A representative of Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, adjacent to where it occurred, spotted the dumped materials and notified authorities. Investigators collected mud

(continued on page 12)

BUSINESS

Will Cal. Ave. become a permanent promenade?

While most residents support keeping cars off the street, some retailers say road closure hurts business

By Gennady Sheyner

When Palo Alto closed a portion of California Avenue to cars in the early stage of the pandemic, visitors, restaurant owners and retailers in the city's "second downtown" instantly felt a profound, if uneven, shift.

For Zareen Khan, who opened her Pakistani-Indian restaurant Zareen's in 2016, the closure has been a welcome boon, increasing pedestrian traffic and boosting business during a precarious time when many restaurants are failing.

"The closure has just helped encourage outdoor dining," Khan said Monday. "It has given new identity to California Avenue."

For Jessica Roth, whose family business, The Cobblery, is across the street from Zareen's, the experience has been markedly different. The closure has harmed her business, Roth said. The signs and barriers that populate the street are unattractive, and while visitors come to California Avenue in the evening and for the Sunday farmers market, the number of

people diminishes greatly during other times.

"Our street is in trouble," Roth said. "We have more vacancies than ever. ... Cal Avenue doesn't function like a proper downtown, nor does it look like a proper downtown."

Khan and Roth offered their contrasting views on Monday night, as the City Council was considering its options for California Avenue's future. With the meeting running late, the council opted to defer its own discussion of the street's future, as well as any potential decision, until Feb. 28.

Compared to University Avenue, which was similarly closed to cars for the better part of the pandemic, the debate around California Avenue has been rather muted. Unlike University, a prominent thoroughfare that stretches between Stanford University and East Palo Alto and features a wider array of retailers, California Avenue seemed at the beginning of the pandemic to be perfectly suited to closure. The commercial



Diners eat lunch on California Avenue in Palo Alto on Nov. 11, 2020.

strip east of El Camino Real dead-ends at the Caltrain tracks and, as such, the closure does not impact commuters like it did in downtown. The preponderance of restaurants on California Avenue also made it an ideal candidate for Palo Alto's experiment with car-free promenades.

Even as University reopened to cars last October, the council agreed last year to keep California Avenue a pedestrian-only zone at least until June 30.

Now, city officials are thinking beyond that date. On Feb. 28, the council will consider hiring a consultant to study the traffic, parking and economic impacts of permanently closing California Avenue to cars. The city is also preparing to update its policies on permanent parklets and consider whether to charge businesses that

set up dining spaces on the public right-of-way.

In considering a permanent closure of California Avenue to cars, Palo Alto is following in the footsteps of several other cities that have created pedestrian promenades during the pandemic. In Mountain View, the council last year completed a study on keeping Castro Street permanently closed to cars, an idea that was under consideration well before COVID-19's spread around the world and that is now poised to outlive the pandemic. San Mateo similarly moved last year to create a pedestrian mall on B Street.

Much like in those cities, the creation of a car-free zone on California Avenue has been met with widespread, if not universal, acclaim. Most of the comments that the council had received on

Monday and in the days leading up to the public hearing supported keeping the street car-free. Todd Burke, president of the homeowners' association at Palo Alto Central, a condominium complex on California Avenue, was among the proponents of the closure. Most residents want the street to remain in its current form, he told the council.

"The reduction of car traffic has really opened up our eyes to rethinking how Cal. Ave. can better serve the residents and the community," Burke said.

Alfred Pace agreed. Pace, whose office is located west of California Avenue's commercial strip, said he has frequented the area for years and has been struck by the large number of businesses that were closing even before the pandemic. The city's decision to close the street to cars in 2020 was a "silver lining" that greatly enhanced the street, he said.

"Your vision and vision of local restaurant owners in the last two years has brought a most welcome change to California Avenue," Pace told the council. "Closure of the street has permitted Cal. Ave. to take on a new and much more positive identity, a vibrancy it hasn't seen in decades."

While some businesses, particularly retailers, have not seen the kind of uptick in business that Zareen's and other eateries have reported, planning staff note in

(continued on page 17)

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Review finds flaws in officer's actions after 2020 police dog attack

Report from independent auditor takes issue with victim interview after incident

By Gennady Sheyner

When a Palo Alto police officer directed his dog to repeatedly bite Joel Alejo as he slept in a backyard shed in June 2020, the incident triggered anger from police watchdogs, a claim against the city by Alejo and, ultimately, a \$135,000 settlement.

But for Officer Nick Enberg, the dog handler, the repercussions appear to have been mild. The Palo Alto Police Department's internal review had concluded that Enberg's deployment of the dog on Alejo was "consistent with current training and policy."

This despite the fact that neither

Enberg nor any of the other officers at the scene had identified themselves before they entered the shed to apprehend Alejo. Or the fact that Enberg commanded the dog to bite about 35 times in roughly 40 seconds. Or the fact that well after the biting, when Enberg and the other Palo Alto and Mountain View officers confirmed that Alejo was not the man they were looking for, Enberg proceeded to question Alejo in a way that the city's investigator characterized as an attempt to "shift blame."

The department's response to the Alejo arrest as well as other

incidents involving police use of force are summarized in a new report from the city's independent police auditor, OIR Group.

Even though the Police Department internal investigation identified some areas of concern, it concluded that Enberg's conduct did not, strictly speaking, break the rules.

According to OIR Group, which does not name any officers or victims in its reports, Palo Alto investigators concluded that Enberg's repeated commands for the dog to bite were permitted because he "perceived that the man's attempts to fend off the dog was

violent resistance," making the commands appropriate under the circumstances.

Nor did Enberg apparently violate department policy for failing to identify himself before entering the shed. The agency's guidelines at the time stated: "Unless it would increase the risk of injury or escape, a clearly audible warning announcing that a canine will be used if the suspect does not surrender should be made prior to releasing a canine." But in this case, the dog handler told investigators that by waiting to make the announcements, the officers avoided getting "ambushed" or having the suspect escape.

The Police Department reviewer also confirmed Enberg's assertion that this approach to deploying a K-9 unit without identification has been "regularly approved and trained as a technique by PAPD's K-9 program."

"The internal investigator recognized that this tactic is problematic if the person sought is within a few feet of the entry point, as in this case, and could

lend itself to the unfortunate result that occurred here," states the OIR Group report by auditors Michael Gennaco and Stephen Connolly. "However, based on the plain language of the policy and the training provided at the time of the incident, he found that the handler's actions were consistent with policy."

Despite siding with Enberg, department supervisors adopted the reviewer's recommendation to revise the policy so that officers are allowed not to announce themselves "only when specific and articulable facts exist to indicate that making the announcement would increase the risk of injury to officers or the public," according to OIR Group. The department also eliminated language that excused the absence of an announcement when there is an increased risk of escape, according to the report.

The one area in which the Police Department's reviewer took issue with Enberg's conduct was his interview with Alejo after the incident. He reportedly asked Alejo why he didn't come out, why he didn't show his hands, why he "choked the dog" and why he "tried to run," despite body camera footage clearly showing Alejo on the floor, moaning in pain and trying to wiggle out of the dog's bite. Alejo responded that he "did not know what was happening to him and was trying to get the dog off of him," according to the OIR Group report.

The department investigator reviewing the case concluded that "the victim had no intention of harming the dog but was merely defending himself from an unprovoked attack."

"The investigator concluded that the K-9 handler's attempt to shift blame to the victim was not appropriate," the OIR Group report states. "As the investigator aptly summed up: 'We should not try to blame the innocent person, or their response, because of very unfortunate circumstances that fell upon them.'"

The OIR Group found some faults with Palo Alto's internal investigation, including the failure of investigators to interview Alejo. The reason for that, the auditor's found, was because Alejo had hired an attorney and filed a claim with the city. The auditor did not buy that justification.

"In such situations a police agency should still make all reasonable efforts to obtain an account of the event from the victim of a K-9 deployment. While an attorney may decide that it is in the best interests of his client not to sit for an administrative interview, we also have experience to the contrary."

The Police Department has changed numerous policies since the incident, the report notes, including a stricter policy on issuing warnings before deploying a police dog.

The auditors also took issue with the fact that none of the

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(continued on page 10)



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Talia Citron Knapp
650.400.8424 | talia@taliacitron.com | DRE 01987761

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COMPASS

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Report: Dispatcher's 'freelance' question to 911 caller slowed medical help

Police auditor's review of a 2019 medical emergency criticizes missing body camera but calls officers' other decisions 'reasonable'

By Sue Dremann

A new analysis by Palo Alto's independent police auditor, Office of Independent Review (OIR) Group, of an investigation into how a 911 call in June 2019 was handled has found that first responders made mistakes but that their decisions were for the most part "reasonable" for the situation.

The Palo Alto woman who was the subject of the 911 call, however — whom police kept from receiving urgently needed medical attention for 14 minutes — is calling the findings a "whitewash."

The analysis was one of 17 in a larger auditor's report on complaint investigations that were

completed between July 2020 and November 2021. OIR, a contractor of the city, provides secondary reviews of department investigations of police operations and personnel.

In this case, the OIR reviewed the findings of a contracted investigator who had been hired by the Palo Alto Police Department. The outside investigator was called in due to the number of entities involved in the case, the report noted.

While OIR agreed overall with the investigator's conclusions that the officers involved had been "reasonable" in their decisions and actions, the OIR report

disagreed with some of the findings, including that there was "insufficient evidence" to establish that an officer violated policy by not wearing her body camera. The report also stated that the department should consider a more detailed policy when it comes to officers sharing with their spouses the details of a person's medical condition.

The incident caused policy changes that seek to make the response to medical events more timely, the report noted.

Errors at the dispatch level

The OIR report agreed that



Officer Yolanda Franco-Clausen's body camera shows her waiting for five minutes during a 911 call.

a Palo Alto police dispatcher had made procedural errors that caused a slowdown of the response to the woman during the June 3, 2019 emergency.

The biggest error concerned dispatcher Brina Elmore, who deviated from protocol by asking the 911 caller a "freelance" question about the woman's condition. Elmore had asked the 14-year-old neighbor who had called 911 for his opinion about whether he thought the woman could be having a mental health crisis.

In the 911 transcript released by police, Elmore had asked, "Do you think it's a medical issue or is she having some type of psychological issue?"

Taken aback, the boy said, "I don't — it seems psychological to me, but I am not the one to make a decision on that."

The woman was repeatedly asking for medical assistance and

saying that she was going to die, he noted.

At Elmore's prompting, he confirmed that the woman was not behaving as she normally did. He also said the woman had no weapons, nor did she give any indication she was about to harm herself or others.

Elmore failed to return to the standardized checklist of questions she was supposed to ask, which might have better clarified the situation, the OIR report found.

A second police dispatcher initiated the lowest possible non-emergency police response, stating that it "sounds like it's going to be more 5150 than medical," giving the code for a psychiatric problem.

Elmore's decision to "stage" the medical response team at a distance until police arrived to assess the scene's safety was based on



Palo Alto Unified School District

Notice is hereby Given that proposals will be received by the Palo Alto Unified School District for bid package:

Contract Name: ADDISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIRE ALARM UPGRADE PROJECT
Contract No. AFA-22

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK: The work includes, but is not limited to: Remove and replace existing campus fire alarm systems and devices and replace with new Gamewell FCI system, including conduit and pathway repairs, misc. access panels. Bidding documents contain the full description of the work.

There will be a **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference and site visit at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at Addison Elementary School, 650 Addison Ave., Palo Alto, California 94301.

Bid Submission: Proposals must be e-mailed to VMELERO@PAUSD.ORG of the District Facilities Office, by **10:00 a.m. on March 15, 2022**

To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California contractors' license(s): **B, C-7, C-10, C16**; The Bidder must be pre-qualified with PAUSD (<https://www.qualitybidders.com/bids>) and is required to be registered as a public works contractor with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to the Labor Code. A current list of the PAUSD Pre-qualified contractors is available at:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/cnetwork-prod-ct/reports/Palo%20Alto%20Unified%20School%20District-Approved%20Contractors.pdf>

Bonding required for this project is as follows: Bid Bond 10% of the total bid.

PREVAILING WAGE LAWS: The successful Bidder and all subcontractors shall pay all workers for all Work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to section 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are also available on the Internet at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov>. This Project is subject to labor compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1771.4 and subject to the requirements of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall furnish electronic certified payroll records directly to the Labor Commissioner weekly and within ten (10) days of any request by the District or the Labor Commissioner. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, Articles 1-5 of the Labor Code.

Bidders may examine and download the Bidding Documents online at:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1uLi7xDQDrS9TL9oXnDeN0wmmCXz4JgGL?usp=sharing>

Bidders may also purchase copies of the plans and specifications at **ARC Document Solutions 829 Cherry Lane San Carlos, CA 94070, Phone Number (650) 631-2310**

The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive responsible bidder based on the base bid amount only.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. If the District awards the Contract, the security of unsuccessful bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.

All questions can be addressed to:
 Palo Alto Unified School District
 25 Churchill Avenue, Building D
 Palo Alto, CA 94306-1099
 Attn: Joe DaSilva
 Fax: (650) 327-3588
 Phone: (650) 329-3700 x5024
joe@fs3h.com

OIR

(continued from page 8)

three officers who entered the shed to arrest Alejo had identified themselves as police officers. The investigators concluded that because the officers believed they were apprehending a suspect who knew that he was the subject of a police response, they "would not have the mindset to advise him that they were police." The auditors felt otherwise and recommended counseling for officers on the importance of identification.

"While it may have not been necessary under policy and law to identify themselves as police officers, law enforcement is universally trained on the advantage of doing so to eliminate any potential confusion as to their status," the OIR Group report states. "This provided a learning opportunity to the responding officers that was not apparently pursued."

The long-awaited report covers incidents involving police use of force, Taser deployments, public complaints and internal investigations within the Police Department between July 2020 and November 2021. It is OIR Group's first audit since the City Council's move last June to expand the group's scope so that it includes a greater range of use-of-force incidents and internal complaints.

It includes reviews of two cases of Taser deployments. In one

case, an officer fired a Taser at a carjacking suspect who reportedly refused to get on the ground and told the officers to "back the f--- up."

OIR Group took issue with the department's investigation and pointed at various inconsistencies in how different officers and the police supervisor described the incident. While they claimed that the man was moving his arms "wildly" and appearing as if he was about to assault officers, the auditors reviewed the footage and noted that the man was neither motioning "wildly" nor taking an aggressive stance, as officers maintained. Rather, he appeared to have been backing away when the Taser deployed without warning.

"The potential discrepancy between what the video shows and the arguably varying accounts from the involved supervisor and witness officer suggests that this matter should have been elevated to a formal internal affairs investigation," the auditors wrote. "That process provides for formal interviews of witness officers and the involved supervisor who deployed the Taser. A more formal investigation would provide an opportunity to fully flesh out any discrepancies from PAPD personnel and the potential variances from what the video appears to portray." ■

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gshyner@paweekly.com.

an ambiguous response from the 14-year-old regarding the woman's mental health. It led to a slow-down in the medical response, the OIR report noted.

"At the same time, the choice to involve the police and initially 'stage' the Fire Department for safety reasons was found to be reasonable based on the dispatcher's developing sense of the call — even though the foundation for that sense was at least partially flawed," the OIR wrote.

Mixed findings regarding officers' actions

The actions of Officer Yolanda Franco-Clausen and Sgt. Adrienne Moore were largely found to have been "reasonable" and not in violation of department policies, the OIR report concluded, with caveats.

Franco-Clausen stopped three blocks away from the address and waited five minutes before meeting up with and proceeding to the scene with Moore. That was in keeping with Moore's direction, which is based on standard officer safety protocols within certain contexts, the report noted.

Body camera footage from Franco-Clausen, upon arrival at the address, showed the woman was unarmed, sitting on the ground and had her neighbor sitting beside her. His two boys stood nearby.

Although it was clear she wasn't

a danger, Franco-Clausen and Moore kept the paramedics away for another five minutes while they peppered the woman with questions to try to determine what she needed. The woman, who exhibited symptoms of aphasia, a neurological condition in which a person uses partial and nonsensical words, could only respond that she needed help. The city's own protocols describe aphasia as an indication of a possible stroke.

The woman pleaded with the officers to take her to the hospital. Instead, Franco-Clausen continued a line of questioning about whether the woman felt like hurting herself, if she needed a psychiatrist or if she had been drinking.

The OIR agreed with the city's contracted investigator that Franco-Clausen's interactions with the woman seemed well-intentioned, appropriate to the circumstances, and of limited duration.

Franco-Clausen also acted reasonably when she searched part of the woman's home and her belongings without a warrant, the investigator and the OIR concluded.

"Similarly, her search of the woman's home (which was recorded in full on the officer's body-worn camera and which was authorized on a phone call with the woman's husband) seems to have been undertaken in a good faith effort to gain insight into the woman's condition," the report said.

"Overall, these outcomes

seemed reasonable from our assessment of the investigation," they wrote.

OIR disagrees with some of the investigator's conclusions

The OIR report, however, strongly disagreed with the investigator's conclusions about Moore's failure to wear and activate her body-worn camera. Moore had "inadvertently" left her body-worn camera in its charging cradle within the police car, according to the report. By the time she realized her error, she thought it was a higher priority to get to the woman than returning to her car for the camera, she told the investigator.

Because Franco-Clausen was wearing and had activated her camera, the contracted investigator determined that key events of the incident were being recorded and that Moore's return to the car to retrieve her camera would not have been "reasonable."

Palo Alto police policy requires officers to make all "reasonable" efforts to activate their camera system when responding to calls for service, the investigator had stated.

"This is perhaps the least convincing of the investigator's conclusions," the OIR report noted. "The supervisor's mistake in forgetting the camera initially may

well have been an innocent one, and the decision to forego retrieval of it made sense as well. But it was a mistake, and it compromised the totality of the available evidence in a call that became the subject of some controversy.

"Moreover, (Moore's) identity as a supervisor raises expectations and makes accountability even more appropriate. In our view, a better approach would have been to acknowledge the lapse as a violation and consider mitigating factors as needed with regard to any consequence."

Moore retired from the department after 24 years as a dispatcher and an officer in October 2021.

Weighing in on another controversial aspect of the case, OIR also looked at the department's policy about personnel sharing a patient's medical information. Franco-Clausen acknowledged talking about the service call with her wife — "specifically and limited to the identity of the woman and the fact she had been transported to the hospital," the investigation found.

The Police Department's contracted investigator found that these details were not of a type or nature that Palo Alto police confidentiality restrictions forbid, but the OIR report didn't entirely agree with the investigator's conclusions.

"Though the investigator's analysis makes sense in the context of the case and existing policy, the

situation and its aftermath raise the question of whether further consideration (or guidance) regarding disclosure of sensitive information is warranted," the OIR report noted.

Criticisms of the OIR report

The woman, who was eventually taken to the hospital and found to have a brain tumor, has sharp words about the OIR report. She said that OIR never contacted her, her husband or other witnesses for any interviews before reaching its conclusions, which largely absolved the officers of wrongdoing.

In an email this week, she said she and her husband had spoken with Michael Gennaco, head of the OIR, in the weeks after the incident. She wasn't made aware of the investigation and had not been contacted regarding its findings. She only learned of its contents after receiving a copy from a reporter.

After reading the report, she offered the following statement: "I was subjected to a shocking lack of professional care by our police and fire departments and could easily have died as a result. I didn't even know about this 'investigation' and was not interviewed, nor were other witnesses. The result is a whitewash.

"No one has been held accountable for what happened to

(continued on page 17)



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Trash

(continued from page 7)

samples in the area, which contained organic chemicals found in diesel and motor oil.

On-Site Commercial Services Inc. cooperated fully with the investigation, the DA's office said.

The company agreed to resolve the court complaint immediately, with no findings or admissions of liability. The judgment prohibits the company from polluting waterways and illegal dumping and requires a \$28,927 payment in civil penalties and reimbursement of investigative and response costs.

To try to catch illicit dumpers, Caltrans is working with the Redwood City California Highway Patrol. Caltrans has also erected temporary no-dumping signage on barricades that ring the areas around Alpine Road and other locations as they remove the debris.

In a letter obtained by the Palo Alto Weekly, Caltrans maintenance program manager Parviz Lashai said the agency is evaluating the installation of permanent signage to deter illegal dumping. They are considering adding earthen berms around areas of concern but there are obstacles they must consider.

Caltrans also supplemented its routine litter and debris pickup efforts with a new program referred to as "litter blitz," with crews systematically working to clean from one major freeway corridor to the next. Workers began focusing on the Interstate 280 stretch from Woodside to Los Altos in mid-December.

The public can help. Lopez said illegal dumping or activities can be reported to the CHP or to the Caltrans Customer Service Request webpage at <http://csr.dot.ca.gov/>. ■

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

News Digest

Palo Alto moves to bolster police staffing

After making deep cuts in the Police Department over the past two years in response to dwindling revenues, Palo Alto on Monday accelerated its push to hire more officers as part of a major adjustment to the city's approved budget.

By a 5-1 vote, with council member Greg Tanaka dissenting and council member Tom DuBois absent, the council voted to adjust the budget and add 11 full-time positions across City Hall, including a new deputy director for the Police Department's Technical Services Division. In addition, the council authorized Police Chief Robert Jonsen to recruit five additional officers, with the understanding that the city will approve funding for these positions in the upcoming budget cycle.

All six council members supported bolstering police staffing, though Tanaka voted against the motion because of concerns about other expenditures in the adjusted budget. These include a reduction in the city's planned contributions for pensions for the coming year and funding relating to a ballot measure to create a business tax.

The council's move is a response to two recent trends: a healthy uptick in sales and hotel tax revenues and growing concerns about a recent rise in thefts in business districts and residential neighborhoods. It also follows the council's decision last year to begin restoring some of the positions and services that it had cut in 2020 as part of an effort to reduce the budget by \$40 million. ■

— Gennady Sheyner

Woodside drops mountain lion habitat defense

Facing a lawsuit, national attention and a warning from California Attorney General Rob Bonta, the Woodside Town Council on Sunday, Feb. 6, backpedaled on its recent move to ban all projects submitted under a new state housing law, Senate Bill 9.

Starting on Feb. 7, applications to develop housing under California's controversial new split-lot law were to be accepted in Woodside, Deputy Town Attorney Kai Ruess said.

The town had frozen applications two weeks ago, citing a loophole that exempts mountain lion habitats. While the council did not declare the town a habitat, it asked staff to study the possibility and return with a determination.

The council's decision garnered national, and even international, attention, with The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times and Guardian jumping on the story after The Almanac, the Weekly's sister paper, published it.

Matthew Gelfand, legal counsel for Californians for Homeownership — a nonprofit that focuses on local governments that limit the development of housing — emailed the town on Feb. 2, threatening a lawsuit. He called staff's finding that every single residential parcel in the town qualifies as mountain lion habitat "absurd." He wrote that it also violated SB 330, which prohibits local governments from putting up new barriers to housing production.

Bonta warned town officials on Feb. 6 that the effort to declare the town a mountain lion habitat was an attempt to avoid complying with state law.

"There is no valid basis to claim that the entirety of Woodside is a habitat for mountain lions," his office wrote to the town. ■

— Angela Swartz

Crisis response team to serve Palo Alto

Santa Clara County is adding its Mobile Crisis Response Team program to the Palo Alto area, where it will pair specialized clinicians with law enforcement on calls for people who are having a mental health crisis, the county announced on Tuesday.

The new staffing will serve the north county and west foothills areas, which include Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Cupertino, Saratoga and portions of San Jose. The Board of Supervisors approved the program on Tuesday, Feb. 8.

The program, which started in 2018, previously served the central part of the county with one team dedicated to the southern end of the county. The program seeks to de-escalate crisis situations and divert individuals away from hospital emergency rooms or jail, and toward alternative means such as counseling, a sobering center, a respite program or mediation through a crisis stabilization unit.

The new program would add four additional staff members to specifically cover the District 5 geographic area. The mobile teams provide an immediate response for crisis intervention services at locations throughout the county. The dedicated north county/west valley team will improve the ability to respond to calls quickly with a field visit, the county said. ■

— Sue Dremann



LET'S DISCUSS: Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at PaloAltoOnline.com/square

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

HY LEVENS ART
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN681540
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Hy Levens Art, located at 666 Glenbrook Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94306430, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
COREY A LEVENS
666 Glenbrook Drive
Palo Alto CA 94306430
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/22/2021.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on January 6, 2022.
(PAW Jan. 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 2022)

RHONE AND THAMES TRAVEL CO.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN681746
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Rhône and Thames Travel Co., located at 529 Driscoll Place, Palo Alto, CA 94306, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: A Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
RHONE AND THAMES LLC
529 Driscoll Place
Palo Alto, CA 94306
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/18/2021.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on January 14, 2022.
(PAW Jan. 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11 2022)

GLOW SKIN CLINIC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN681452
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Glow Skin Clinic, located at 25 N. 14th St. #630, San Jose, CA 95112, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by:
An Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
KALY TRAN
76 Amherst Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/03/2022.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on January 03, 2022.
(PAW Jan 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 2022)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. FBN681451
The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):
GLOW FACE BAR
2114 Senter Rd.#18
San Jose, CA
FILED IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY ON:
10/1/2019
UNDER FILE NO. FBN659445
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):

KALY TRAN
76 Amher St.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY An Individual.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on January 3, 2022.
(PAW Jan. 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 2022)

MARCO POLO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN681710
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Marco Polo, located at 449 Hawthorne Ave. #2, Palo Alto, CA 94301, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: A Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
JOYA COMMUNICATIONS INC.
2443 Fillmore St. #380-5790
San Francisco, CA 94115
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/01/2014.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on January 13, 2022.
(PAW Jan. 28; Feb. 4, 11, 18, 2022)

JLO PAINTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN681917
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
JLO Painting, located at 2260 W. El Camino Real Apt. #1125, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by:
An Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
JUAN LUIS ORTEGA FITZ
2260 W. El Camino Real #1125
Mountain View, CA 94040
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/12/2021.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on January 24, 2022.
(PAW Jan. 28; Feb. 4, 11, 18, 2022)

997 All Other Legals

"Marianne Ault-Riche, LCSW and couples/family therapist in Menlo Park, passed away on January 10, 2022. Concerns and questions from clients may be directed to Jennifer Lezin, LCSW at 650-325-2315"
(PAW Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
DEBRA ANNE LEWIS
Case No.: 21PR190263
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DEBRA ANNE LEWIS.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: ATIRA R. LEWIS in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA.
The Petition for Probate requests that: ATIRA R. LEWIS 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 March 17, 2022 at 9:01 a.m. in Dept.: 5 of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, located at 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA, 95113.
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:
Daniel L. DuRee
1535 N. Main Street, Suite 240
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
(925) 210-1400
(PAW Feb. 4, 11, 18, 2022)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
Case No.: 22CV393680
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: LAURA LEE ALVAREZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: LAURA LEE ALVAREZ to YO-LANDI LEE ALVAREZ.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 04/26/2022, 8:45 a.m., Room: Probate of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
PALO ALTO WEEKLY
Date: 1/18/2022
/s/
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(PAW Feb. 11, 18, 25; Mar. 4, 2022)

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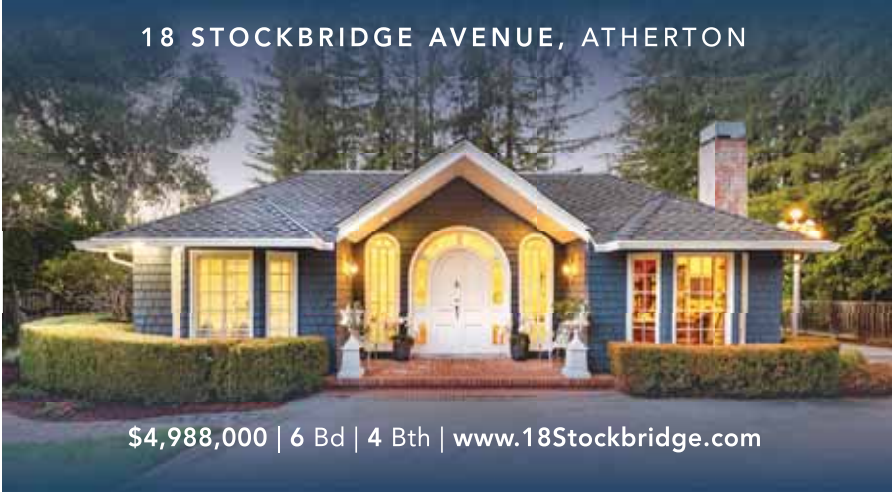
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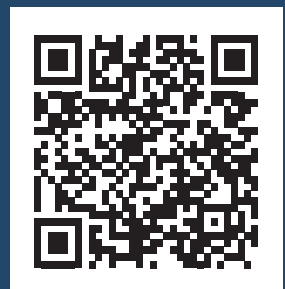
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Dove

(continued from page 5)

we refer to as a ‘lifer,’ meaning we have never seen it before, anywhere. For others who had seen the bird in its normal range, it was an ‘ABA Area life bird’ — American Birding Association refers to North America including Canada, Alaska and Hawaii.”

The Oriental turtle-dove is similar in shape to the Eurasian collared-dove but with a rusty scalloped pattern on its back and wings. It is immediately distinguishable from any other doves in the area, he said. The bird is closer in size to a pigeon than to the local mourning doves.

The bird’s native distribution ranges mainly across Asia to Japan, where it isn’t rare. A migratory species, it has six subspecies ranging from eastern and central Asia to the Himalayas and from central Siberia to Japan. It winters in India and as far south as Sri Lanka.

It also occupies an incredibly diverse habitat. According to the Cornell Laboratory’s Birds of the World website, the Oriental turtle-dove occupies habitats ranging from northern coniferous to tropical forests and from forest edges and mountainous regions of Japan, where it can thrive in subalpine habitats. It can occur in sparse woodland, scrub and



Photo by Yash Shetty/Courtesy Verde Magazine

Birdwatchers gather at a cul-de-sac near Greer Park in an attempt to get a look at an Oriental turtle-dove, nested nearby in a tree.

wooded farmland bordering cultivated fields and it appears to be increasingly breeding in Japan in areas with tree-lined streets.

In Kashmir, it breeds in pine forests mixed with birch, aspen, poplar and willow groves, but it is also found in foothill oak, mixed deciduous and bamboo forests. It has been found as high as nearly 8,000 feet on Mt. Fuji and more than 13,000 feet in Nepal.

So how did it get here? Dodder said that it might have traveled north from its breeding range instead of south as expected.

“It would have had to come across the Bering Strait to reach North America and may have then ‘mirrored’ its movement south. This is a common phenomenon

with Asian vagrant species. It is often called ‘mirror mis-orientation,’” he said, noting that its internal navigation system might not have been functioning properly.

“There are no records of this bird being kept in collections or sold by breeders, so it seems to have gotten here naturally. There is a possibility it was ‘ship assisted,’ meaning it was a stowaway on a freighter — quite common, actually. But we will likely never know,” he said.

Palo Alto’s dove has likely found a cozy place to hang out, with plenty of nearby seeds and grains in bird feeders or on the ground. Bradshaw, who is also a birder and does bird conservation work in the south bay, said he noticed the dove when it was feeding with mourning

doves on the ground under his bird feeder. He wasn’t sure what he was seeing at first, but after looking the bird up in his Sibley’s Bird Guide, he thought it could be the Oriental turtle-dove.

He posted a request on a local birding listserv for assistance identifying the bird. At first, he thought it was a possible lost pet or escaped captive bird, such as some parrots, doves and pigeons. But Alvaro Jaramillo, a global bird expert, responded that based on its plumage, it looked like a subspecies of the Oriental turtle-dove that can migrate and cross over to Alaska.

“He said that it is a super rare bird and I could expect large crowds,” Bradshaw recalled.

“On the first weekend, more than 200 people showed up. On Wednesday, there were 20. I talked to a guy from St. Louis this morning. He had friends from New Jersey who are coming tomorrow,” he said.

Bradshaw said he isn’t a “chaser” — one who follows the birds wherever they go — but he has seen a number of rare birds, particularly in Palo Alto.

More recently, he viewed the rare curlew sandpiper, a small wader that breeds on the tundra of Arctic Siberia and winters in Africa, Asia and Australia and New Zealand, which had attracted crowds in the Palo Alto Baylands

Nature Preserve.

But the Oriental turtle-dove has beaten them all so far, as one birding expert told him: “This kind of blows that sandpiper out of the water.”

There’s no danger of the many people scaring the bird, since it’s high enough away from people. The only threats could be from a Cooper’s hawk that might swoop down to take it as a meal or outdoor cats, Dodder said.

Salying Wong and Andrew Yeh, avid birders for the past two years, said they arrived from Sunnyvale to view the Oriental turtle-dove. After a few days of trying, they were finally rewarded with a view of the bird on Monday.

“That it could find its way all the way over here is pretty amazing. That it can migrate long distances is pretty incredible,” he said.

But what about the social life of the Oriental turtle-dove, the only one of its kind? Just because it’s the lone example doesn’t mean it has to be lonely. The bird has been roosting with the mourning doves, Bradshaw said.

It’s quite possible it could also interbreed with local doves, Dodder said.

“Hybridization happens all of the time, often with ducks and gulls,” he added. ■

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

Masks

(continued from page 5)

especially community members who are older or immunocompromised. Continuing to mask indoors should also allow our case rates to continue to drop quickly.”

The county announced its metrics for lifting local masking requirements in October, which were adopted when the delta variant was circulating in the community. On Wednesday, the Public Health Department said it had updated its prior metrics, based on the fewer risks of the current omicron variant, which has a lower chance of causing severe illness and hospitalization than delta, they said.

The October metrics required the seven-day average of new cases to be approximately 150

or below, based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s “moderate” criteria before lifting the masking requirement. The updated metrics would lift indoor masking when the county’s seven-day average of new cases is 550 or below for at least a week.

Santa Clara County has already met one of the three metrics for lifting the indoor masking requirement: 80% of all county residents are fully vaccinated. The local indoor masking requirement will be lifted when the remaining two metrics are met: COVID-19 hospitalizations in the county are low and stable, in the judgment of the health officer; and the seven-day average of new cases per day is at or below 550 for at least a week.

“While overall case rates have declined significantly since their January peak, COVID-19 continues

to circulate widely, and case rates are still higher than at any other time in the pandemic prior to the January omicron peak,” the county stated in its announcement.

“The county’s current seven-day average case count is 1,922 cases per day, which is in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention highest level of community transmission. Hospitalization rates likewise remain high and are not yet falling.”

The state plans to lift its universal indoor masking requirement on Feb. 16. State health orders will continue to require universal indoor masking in many settings, however, including all K-12 schools, child care facilities, public transit, health care facilities, shelters, jails and long-term care facilities. ■

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

Public Agenda

A preview of Palo Alto government meetings next week

CITY COUNCIL ... The council plans to discuss the city’s plans for Cubberley Community Center, including the possibility of acquiring additional land at Cubberley, and get an update about the city’s contract with Pets In Need, including potential capital improvements at the animal shelter. The virtual meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 14. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 362 027 238.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD ... The board plans to discuss 525 East Charleston Road, a development with 50 below-market-rate housing. The virtual meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 17. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 965 6189 1491.

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION ... The commission plans to discuss its annual work plan. The virtual meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 17. Those wishing to participate by Zoom can do so by dialing 669-900-6833 and using Meeting ID: 892 4258 8522.

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 Agents: submit open homes at PaloAltoOnline.com/real_estate

Priorities

(continued from page 5)

long-term impacts on our city and it really warrants some serious consideration.”

Mayor Pat Burt argued that recovery will remain the primary goal, which includes restoring services and reversing some of the cuts that the city made over the course of the pandemic. This includes hiring more firefighters and police officers.

“We historically had 11 investigators and we have three today,” Burt said of the Police Department. “I was hearing from a friend who had a car stolen and we don’t have the capacity to send an investigator for an automobile theft. Not a bicycle theft — a car theft! That’s how thin our police are.”

Council member Greg Tanaka made a pitch for cryptocurrency. Tanaka said that he plans to accept his council paycheck in Bitcoin

— echoing an announcement recently made by New York Mayor Eric Adams. Taking a cue from Miami Mayor Francis Suarez, an outspoken proponent of cryptocurrency, Tanaka also suggested that the city consider mining Bitcoin and issuing a currency called “PaloAltoCoin,” which would become a local median of exchange.

No one else commented on that idea.

The council defines “priorities” as topics that will “receive unusual and significant attention during the year.” Its goal is to have each priority on the list for no more than three years. City staff craft a work plan around each priority and issue updates throughout the year.

Housing, a mainstay on the priority list, once again received broad support, with the council adopting the same language — “housing for social and economic balance” — as in 2021. Council members signified that they will have a full workload when

it comes to housing, including adoption of a new Housing Element and more zoning changes in response to Senate Bill 9, which allows homeowners in single-family zones to split their lots and construct up to four residences.

While the council had adopted a goal of creating 300 new housing units per year, the city had only permitted 95 units in 2021, of which 89 were accessory dwelling units, according to Planning Director Jonathan Lait. And while the council had evaluated numerous “planned home zoning” proposals — which allows residential developers to exceed development standards such as height and density restrictions for multifamily housing projects — none of the developers had actually filed formal applications, Lait said.

Council member Alison Cormack, who made the motion on the four priorities, suggested that the city has not made sufficient progress on housing. She alluded

to the recent report from the Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury, which compared Palo Alto’s record on creating affordable housing with that of Mountain View. The grand jury report issued a long list of recommendations for Palo Alto, encouraging the city to streamline its approval process for housing projects, develop a stable funding source for affordable housing and adopt more “area plans” for sections of the city where the council wants to encourage affordable housing.

“I think there’s a significant opportunity for us there to read and reflect on the grand jury report, to look at how we have funded affordable housing in the past and to think about how we’ll fund affordable housing in the future,” Cormack said.

Prior to the vote, the council heard from residents who encouraged members to prioritize issues such as combatting airplane noise, enforcing the city’s prohibition

on gas-powered leaf blowers and supporting mental health, particularly for the city’s youth. All of these, along with the issue of crime, were folded into the new priority called “community health and safety.”

Council member Greer Stone said the new priority will both demonstrate the council’s commitment to both protecting the mental health of its community and nuisances like gas-powered leaf blowers and airplane noise.

“These things aren’t just annoying. ... They’re true health risks,” Stone said. ■

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly.com.

TALK ABOUT IT
PaloAltoOnline.com

What do you think of the city’s priorities? Talk about the issue with others on Town Square, the community discussion forum, at PaloAltoOnline.com/square.

Cal. Ave.

(continued from page 7)

a new report that the experiment is “very popular with Palo Alto residents, with thousands corresponding to council requesting the street closures continue.”

“Continuation of the closures temporarily and contemplation of permanent closures may represent a ‘new normal’ in Palo Alto,” the report states. “Not

only loved by many in the community, the potential new normal provides economic benefits to local businesses, especially restaurants. Not only because it creates an enhanced opportunity for al fresco dining, but also because the closed portions of streets contribute to a strong sense of place that attracts diners and shoppers alike, helping generate business activity (that in turn generates tax revenue).”

In addition to considering the

future of California Avenue, the council is weighing a similar decision on a block of Ramona Street between Hamilton Avenue and University Avenue in downtown. While the area is smaller, the debate is largely the same, with most restaurants favoring the closures and some retailers opposing it.

Cherry LeBrun, owner of De Novo Fine Contemporary Jewelry at the corner of University Avenue and Ramona Street, is firmly in the latter camp. She

argued in a letter to the council that the street’s closure has limited access and visibility to her businesses. And an increasing number of customers are now dining either indoors or at parklets on the sidewalks.

“The need for the street closure is past, and the seating outside the parklets is not being used in a significant way,” LeBrun wrote.

Not so, said Nancy Coupal, owner of two Coupa Cafe locations in downtown Palo Alto.

The difference between the atmosphere at her shop on Lytton Avenue, a street that is open to cars, and the one on Ramona is significant, she said. Most people prefer the latter.

“Everyone who does come to the cafe loves being outdoors,” Coupal said. “Being out on the streets with no cars, no smoke, no noise, no contaminants.” ■

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly.com

CityView

A round-up of Palo Alto government action this week

City Council (Feb. 5)

Priorities: The council adopted four priorities for 2022: economic recovery and transition; climate change protection and adaptation, housing for social and economic balance; and community health and safety. **Yes:** Unanimous

City Council (Feb. 7)

Budget: The council approved a budget amendment authorizing 11 new full-time-equivalent positions. **Yes:** Burt, Cormack, Filseth, Kou, Stone **No:** Tanaka **Absent:** DuBois

Streets: The council heard public comment about options for keeping California Avenue and a block of Ramona Street closed to traffic. **Action:** None

Board of Education (Feb. 8)

Construction: The board voted to award Cal-Pacific Construction an \$8.64 million contract to construct a multipurpose building at El Carmelo Elementary School. The board also signed off on increasing the total budget for the El Carmelo project by \$1.16 million to \$12.26 million. **Yes:** Unanimous

Settlement: The board voted in closed session to approve a \$140,000 agreement in relation to an anticipated claim on behalf of a special education student. **Yes:** Unanimous

Council Policy and Services Committee (Feb. 8)

Race and equity: The committee heard an update about the city’s Race and Equity initiative and recommended that council members take microaggression training; that the Human Relations Commission research the lived experience of Asian American residents in Palo Alto; and that the council discuss alternatives to encryption for police radio communications. **Yes:** Unanimous

Utilities Advisory Commission (Feb. 8)

Fiber: The commission discussed the city’s planned community engagement efforts relating to Palo Alto Fiber. **Action:** None

Planning and Transportation Commission (Feb. 9)

985 Channing: The commission denied a request to remove a height restriction from a parcel map at 985 Channing Ave. request by Feb. 23. **Yes:** Chang, Hechtman, Rechdahl, Summa **No:** Hechtman, Roohparvar, Templeton

Housing: The commission discussed the housing sites proposed for the 2023-31 Housing Element and continued its discussion to Feb. 23. **Yes:** Unanimous

911

(continued from page 11)

me, making this kind of situation likely to happen to someone else in the future. I still have nightmares about this episode, and reading this gaslighting report was retraumatizing.”

Her husband also responded by email: “Readers interested in what actually happened should refer back to the Weekly’s story. The city report omits critical facts and misstates others. Among the many facts omitted from the report is that failing to provide urgently needed medical care to my wife, who was having a seizure, violated city policy at the time.”

“There was never any indication that she posed any risk to anyone. In my opinion, my wife was a victim of poor training and leadership by the police and fire chiefs and the city manager, and a

City Council that defers to senior staff members rather than exercising actual oversight. I don’t expect performance on the ground to improve until those facts change.”

An occasion for change?

But the OIR report concluded that the department has made concrete changes as a result of this case.

The incident “proved to be an occasion for a thorough revisiting of related policies and practices. This systemic review resulted in concrete operational changes,” the OIR report concluded. The changes included updates that “refined expectations for the timelier delivery of medical aid in situations where the police and fire department personnel are both responding.”

Police are now directed to use lights and sirens to speed their arrival to medical emergencies;

policy includes more specific prioritization of medical care even when the individual might be subject to a mental health hold.

“To us, these steps appear to make practical sense. They also show a commendable ability to glean lessons from experiences in the field, and to make adjustments in an effort to improve future performance,” the OIR report concluded.

The report didn’t address the lack of transparency by the Police Department and the city to explain the delays to the woman, her husband and the media after the incident, despite many requests for information. The current report also doesn’t address the Police Department’s and city’s lack of an explanation for why Moore’s patrol car didn’t have dashcam video, which the city claimed doesn’t exist. ■

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

Correction

The City View in the Feb. 4 edition reported that the Utilities Advisory Commission discussed the community engagement plan relating to Palo Alto Fiber on Feb. 3. The commission had deferred that discussion to Feb. 8. The Weekly regrets the error. To request a correction, contact Editor Jocelyn Dong at 650-223-6514, jdong@paweekly.com or P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302.

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Pulse

A weekly compendium of vital statistics

POLICE CALLS

Palo Alto

Feb. 3-Feb.9

Violence related

800 block San Antonio Road, 1/12, 3:56 p.m.; battery.

200 block University Ave., 1/30, 6:22 p.m.; battery.

Sheridan Ave./Ash St., 2/3, 12:04 p.m.; domestic violence.

Emerson St./Addison Ave., 2/4, 4:03 p.m.; assault with a deadly weapon.

El Camino Real, 2/7, 2:37 p.m.; battery.

500 block Pasteur Dr., 2/7, 8:37 p.m.; battery.

Theft related

Burglary 2

Credit theft 2

Embezzlement/Financial elder abuse 1

Forgery 1

Grand theft 5

Petty theft 4

Shoplifting 4

Vehicle related

Auto burglary 2

Driving w/ suspended license 4

Hit and run 1

Stolen car parts 1

Stored vehicle 3

Theft from auto 3

Vehicle accident/no injury 1

Alcohol or drug related

Driving under influence 1

Possession of drugs 1

Miscellaneous

Disorderly conduct 4

False ID 1

Found property 4

Indecent exposure 1

Lost property 1

Mental health evaluation 4

Misc. service 1

Missing person 1

Outside warrant arrest 1

Public urination/defecation 1

Suspicious circumstances 2

Threat/intent to terrorize 1

Unattended death 1

Vandalism 2

Warrant arrest 1

Menlo Park

Feb. 3-Feb. 8

Violence related

1300 block Hollyburne Ave., 2/5, 6:04 p.m.; brandishing a weapon.

Theft related	
Attempted theft	1
Fraud	4
Vehicle related	
Driving w/ suspended license	1
Misc. traffic	1
Vehicle accident/injury	1
Vehicle accident/no injury	3
Vehicle tow request	1
Alcohol or drug related	
Possession of drugs	2

OBITUARIES

A list of local residents who died recently:

Myron “Mike” Turbow, 82, a resident of Palo Alto who practiced oncology for more than 40 years and founded California Cancer Care in San Mateo, died Feb. 3; **Edgar “Bud” Galt McLellan**, 86, an Atherton resident, died on Jan. 11; **Rowland Whitney Tabor**, a Portola Valley resident and volunteer for the city’s conservation committee and geologic safety committee, died on Jan. 13; **Betty Porter Sox**, 98, an Atherton resident and Hewlett-Packard employee for 47 years, died on Jan. 22; **Else Muller Towle**, 88, a former Portola Valley resident and volunteer for the Portola Valley School District, died on Jan. 23; **Mark Steven Moriconi**, 73, an Atherton resident, died on Jan. 25; **James Henry “Lee” Minnis**, 92, a Palo Alto resident and veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 12. He owned and operated Catering by Lee in East Menlo Park for 30 years; and **Judith Kays**, 86, an art historian and educator and longtime resident of Palo Alto and Stanford, died on Sept. 2, 2021.

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

Bliss Carnochan

December 20, 1930 – January 24, 2022

Bliss Carnochan, Richard W. Lyman Professor Emeritus of the Humanities at Stanford University, died of congestive heart failure on January 24th, 2022 at his home in Portola Valley, CA.

Bliss grew up in Manhattan, where he went to Buckley School and then entered St. Paul’s school in Concord, NH. He lived for the summers, which he spent at his grandparents’ farm in Bernardsville, New Jersey. There he loved to roam the property, climb its many trees, and help to bring in the hay—as well as read books.

He went on to Harvard, as his grandfather, father, and brother had done. There he earned his BA, MA, and PhD degrees. After his BA he “passed an idle year at New College, Oxford, where I spent much of my time rowing on the college crew, not because I had a special aptitude but because a 6’2” American had an initial advantage that reality never quite dissipated.”

He was a young man from the East Coast with roots deep in American history. His family traced its life in America to Colonial times, and it included Gouverneur Morris, who had written the preamble to the U.S. Constitution. Bliss wrote that his family had prospered in the 19th century and had managed to keep some “though by no means all” of its wealth in the Great Depression. He counted the deaths of his father and older brother in WWII as “an unlucky beginning,” but noted that it was followed by “a run of good luck” during a lifetime he said he sometimes found hard to believe.

That “good luck” certainly included his move in 1960 to Stanford as an assistant professor, in his first time west of Pittsburgh. As an academic, he focused his teaching and writing on the literature of the British eighteenth century, with the work of Jonathan Swift at its center. Not very fond of lecturing, he preferred the seminar format and the give-and-take of a lively discussion. He also served as Chairman of the English Department; Dean of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost of the university. He considered 1986-1991 as the most personally rewarding years of his academic career, when he served as the second Director of The Stanford Humanities Center—having helped to conceive the idea of the Center itself. There, he modestly said, he learned a great deal from the Center’s community of intellectually engaged scholars.

Bliss Carnochan’s publications include some twenty books, among them Lemuel Gulliver’s *Mirror for Man*, *Confinement and Flight*, *Gibbon’s Solitude*, and *The Battleground of the Curriculum*; dozens of articles and monographs; and scores of reviews. After his retirement, he turned to address contemporary issues. “The Death Penalty and Prison Reform” was the product of several visits to the Louisiana State Prison at Angola and a years-long correspondence with the editor of “The Angolite,” the inmate publication. His books about African explorers were written after visits to Tanzania looking for elusive traces of his uncle, who had studied zoology at Harvard and then collected snakes for the Washington Zoo, spending the better part of a decade in what was then the colony of Tanganyika as chief assistant to Kalola, head of the powerful snake guild.

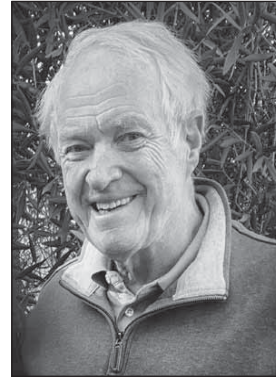
An abiding interest in education and society produced other thoughtful essays, among them “On the ‘Purposes’ of Liberal Education”; “Where Did Great Books Come From, Anyway?”; “The English Curriculum: Past and Present”; and “English at Stanford, 1891-2000: A Brief History.”

“Art, Constraint and Memory: Egon Schiele in Prison” married two of his deep interests, as

did “Art, Transgression, Shock and the First Amendment.” The latter, written with wit and insight, showed a non-academic familiarity with popular figures such as Ice-T and Jenny Holzer as he probed the challenges of our rapidly changing society.

A trustee of Mills College and the Berkeley Art Museum, he chaired the board of the Athenian School in Danville. He also served on the Overseers Committee to Visit Harvard College.

After retirement, when he relished being freed from the “tedium of the footnote,” he wrote a modest but engaging memoir, *Momentary Bliss*.



In *Confessions of a Dodger Fan* he described the mixed blessings of being passionate about baseball; and, with his own Scottish origins keenly in mind, he wrote *Scotland the Brave*, about Scotland’s national identity and some of its manifestations in America.

Bliss Carnochan’s always lively and intimate sense of our national past helped to create the core of who he was as a scholar, writer, husband, father, friend, and man of broad interests. Those interests included expertly collecting memorable American folk art, riding horses (whether in the eastern Sierra or in Ireland, Spain, and France), and playing tennis (mostly doubles) with Stanford colleagues. As a fan, he attended the French, British, and US Open tournaments. As a transplant to California he remained a Dodger fan and also became a Sharks and a Warriors fan. His children remember he was a lover of Bob Marley’s music, which once led him to sweep up the entire family for a trip to San Diego to hear Marley in concert. For about 20 years from the early 80s Bliss and Brigitte spent much of their summers in Martha’s Vineyard, where they built a house, made friends, and enjoyed their children and grandchildren on the Vineyard’s beautiful South Beach.

Essential to his character and personality was Bliss’ sense that moving to California proved to be a “liberation” of sorts. Never one to trade on lineage, his view of his distinguished ancestry was one of slight bemusement. Gouverneur Morris was a family name preserved through the generations—but one which Bliss also bestowed on his last and beloved Labrador, who answered happily to “Morris” and lounged at his feet as he wrote in his study.

Late in life, Bliss wrote, “It has been not just a fortunate life, but a rich one.” His friends remember many things: his generosity, wit, erudition, wide-ranging conversation, and humility, as well as his deep, rich, contagious laughter. His children remember that he was present: every graduation, athletic event, birthday party, grandparents day or theater performance: He Showed Up.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of forty-two years, Brigitte Carnochan; four children from his first marriage to Nancy Carter Edebo: Lisa Carnochan (Frank Yu), Sarah Carnochan (Michael Myers), Gouverneur Morris Peter Carnochan, Sibyll Carnochan Catalan (Rodrigo Catalan), a step-daughter, Erika Journey (the late Craig Journey), and seven grandchildren (Kate Carroll, Patrick Carroll, Anna Myers, Gouverneur Morris Bodhi Carnochan, Nicholas Catalan, Sophia Catalan, Thomas Catalan), and three step-grandchildren (Henry Journey, Edward Journey, Charlie Journey).

A celebration of life is being planned at the Stanford Humanities Center for a later, safer time.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a memorial donation to save and protect the Ethiopian wolves, one of Bliss’s favorite causes: wildnet.org/wecp.

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Spectrum

Editorials, letters and opinions

Letters

Financial motivation needed to reach climate goals

Editor,

Thank you to Sherry Listgarten for her excellent grid research and reporting in her blog "A Snapshot of Grid Mixes Across the U.S." that appeared on Palo Alto Online on Jan. 30. As an electric vehicle driver, I appreciated the reminder to plug in midday rather than at peak demand hours to maximize renewable energy consumption.

Her second point about having a long way to go to transition away from coal and gas as a state, and more urgently as a country, is also right on point. While California leads the way and has made impressive strides toward its climate goals by shifting significantly to solar, wind and geothermal, the U.S. cannot meet climate goals without the Midwest and southern states getting on board.

As Ms. Listgarten points out, solar energy is everywhere, and it is increasingly inexpensive. From

the numbers she shares, clearly more financial motivation is needed if we are to get Pennsylvania off gas and Virginia off coal. Carbon fee and dividend policy offers an immediate, effective and equitable means of driving economic incentives needed to force this shift.

Christi Opitz,
Grant Road, Mountain View

Police need to be held accountable for hate crimes

Editor,

I read your piece informing us of an anti-Black racial epithet added to a sign at El Carmelo Elementary School, and that the Palo Alto Police Department was investigating this as a hate crime.

As a community member who served a partial term on the Human Relations Commission (2020-2021), I attended a meeting where we were educated by Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen on what constitutes a hate crime.

I learned, for instance, that if I were to aggressively push a

defenseless Gustavo Alvarez's face into a car windshield and sneer homophobic slurs at him, I would be guilty of a hate crime. One of our city's police officers did exactly that, in front of three other officers who stayed silent. In all likelihood, if Mr. Alvarez hadn't captured this interaction on his own security camera, this hate crime would have gone without consequence.

Because it was recorded, the city of Palo Alto paid \$572,000 to settle this case. And all officers on the force were required to do two hours of LGBTQIA+ training.

Police officers work for the communities they serve. If we truly believe hate crimes are not to be tolerated, then we should hold our service men and women to the same (or higher) level of accountability to which individual community members are held.

I have doubts that the organization tasked to investigate this anti-Black hate crime is up to the task. After all, Capt. Zach Perron, who is responsible for the Investigative Services Division, purportedly used the n-word in 2014 and has yet to face any consequences.

Burying our heads in the sand does not make either our city or our police department anti-racist and free of the systemic racism that plagues this country. Is it any wonder that the department has trouble attracting African American officers?

Sunita de Tourreil,
Ramona St., Palo Alto

It comes down to either public safety or exclusive housing

Editor,

Last week, I passed a gardener using a gas-powered blower on a street where there was a police car parked two blocks down. I called dispatch and asked if the officer — when he was done with his call — could ticket the gardener. The officer returned to his car minutes later and drove down the street at a leisurely pace right past the gardener and his blowing. I called dispatch and asked to speak to a watch commander. Sgt Figueroa replied to my request. He explained that Palo Alto Police Department is so badly understaffed, they are only responding to felony

crimes and, it seems, having trouble doing even that.

Because of all the negative national press, there has been a big drop in the number of people training to be officers. That makes for fierce competition in hiring and competition that Palo Alto is always on the losing end of because nobody who is not fabulously wealthy can afford to move here. Yet, at the same time, one of our council members sees fit to spend her weekends trying to convince shoppers at the farmers market to support overturning or obstructing Senate Bills 9 and 10, which are intended to help alleviate the affordable-housing crisis.

Dear people of Palo Alto, you can have public safety or you can have expensive, exclusive housing. In today's world, you can not have both.

The city of Mountain View is busy buying up blocks of apartment buildings for low- and moderate-income housing. Our city council and commissions? They just seem to want to hear themselves talk a lot.

Deborah Goldeen,
Birch Street, Palo Alto

This week on Town Square

Town Square is an online discussion forum at PaloAltoOnline.com/square

In response to 'Where do your recyclables go? Palo Alto struggles to track their destination as material heads abroad'

Posted Jan. 28 at 2:54 p.m. by Bob Wenzlau, a resident of Crescent Park:

"For three years, I have been engaged about the fate of our waste, realizing that the good act of 'recycling' is doing harm. I appreciate our city's engagement with this topic but have found that the 'study the problem' approach has inadvertently become the long term solution — while we study the problem, the harm of these materials continues.

As this article was written, I penned in the morning a letter to our Human Relations Commission (HRC). During a joint session with the City Council, I was inspired by the concern about harm of racism within our Asian community. I asked the HRC to extend their view toward the global human impact of Palo Alto actions, and in particular toward the harm on the Southeast Asian community as they receive the waste papers and plastics Palo Alto generates.

As the article informs, our mixed papers and cardboard, as well as much of our plastics, are shipped to Southeast Asia. These materials have a devastating impact on Asian communities as well as the environment. This impact includes children picking through waste, uncontrolled burning and uncontrolled disposal often controlled by local gangs. A horrific human impact we are complicit in.

The difference between local and global is that we do not see the harm we do globally, but that harm is still there, and perhaps more severe. I invited the HRC to embrace and opine on by city

policies that would cause adverse human impact beyond our boundaries.

I asked the HRC and ultimately Council to intervene to immediately stop the shipments of paper and plastic overseas, rather than study. We have studied for three years, but each week we continue the shipments we do harm. After we stop the shipments, we can regress to local disposal of paper and plastic and celebrate that the harmful human impact has ended. This action would also be symbolic to other cities who also participate in this practice. This action would drive domestic and environmentally sound markets to emerge."

In response to 'Report: Dispatcher's 'freelance' question to 911 caller slowed medical help'

Posted Feb. 9 at 12:17 p.m. by Lynne Henderson, a resident of another community:

"I am appalled by a total failure to assist a neighbor who needed medical help and the failure of Palo Alto to protect a citizen suffering from a stroke.

Someone is ill and begging for help, via a neighbor's kid, so they send out the Calvary rather than medical help?

I had my own battles with the Palo Alto Police Department when they sent the Calvary to my home because I was concerned about my late, mentally ill husband. They threw him on the driveway and broke his head open because he turned away and said, 'I don't have to talk to you.' So much for the Fifth Amendment and calling welfare checks.

I was just lucky that (Police Chief) Lynne Johnson was replaced by Dennis Burns over the years — he understood I wasn't a crackpot."

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Arts & Entertainment

A weekly guide to music, theater, art, culture, books and more, edited by Heather Zimmerman



Making a splash

With unconventional 'Men on Boats,' Palo Alto Players stage a historical tale from a different point of view

By Heather Zimmerman

On the surface, “Men on Boats,” which opened last week at the Palo Alto Players, provides nothing that the title advertises. Onstage, there are neither boats nor men to be found, both of which seem to be essential in a play about a 10-man voyage to chart a river.

But it’s not so much about what’s missing from the title as it is about who’s often missing or overlooked in our understanding of the past. Performed by a female and nonbinary cast, some of whom are also actors of color, the show looks at the question of who shapes history.

“Men on Boats,” written by Jaclyn Backhaus, chronicles an 1869 expedition of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon led by Civil War veteran and geologist John Wesley Powell.

Though clearly a contemporary take on history, the script melds modern language with historical sources.

“(Backhaus) wrote it in the vernacular of today, but also incorporated some of John Wesley Powell’s actual journal entries into the script. And there’s a little bit of iambic pentameter thrown in just to keep it interesting,” said Director Lee Ann Payne.

Though Backhaus drew on Powell’s journal and other historical sources to write “Men on Boats,” the amount of information available about each character (besides Powell) varies, said cast member Melissa Jones.

Jones portrays William Dunn, Powell’s second in command. In researching Dunn, Jones found information about him was “thin,” so she said she needed to rely

more on the script for her characterization. The journey down the river was often perilous and Dunn was willing to challenge Powell, which can lead to seeing him as the antagonist, noted Jones, but “this is really a ‘man versus nature’ instead of ‘man versus man’ show.”

The bulk of the play’s action takes place in small boats on the Colorado River and it’s entirely up to the cast, through choreographed movements, to create the illusion of the river’s rough rapids and swells. Payne drew on her background as a choreographer to create scenes that conveyed the river’s tumultuous waters.

“There’s a huge amount of storytelling that happens on the river and there is some virtuosity in the actors handling the boats and handling the movement,” Payne said, noting that this production forgoes even most props.

“We decided pretty early on we were going to do as much as we could with as little as we could — there’s no ropes, even though (the script) says to throw ropes — we left a lot of it to be physicalized and I think that gave us more freedom. I think it gave us more urgency down the river as well,” she said.

“Men on Boats” is physically demanding for the cast in part because the movements are so tailored to each situation the characters encounter, Jones said.

“The style of movement is different. There’s a lot of tension in the motion because you’re trying to portray going overboard or grabbing a rope to be pulled across the river so that you don’t go overboard,” she said.

But she said she enjoys the

opportunity to do more physical theater and explained that it’s not always easy for female and nonbinary actors to find roles that are both so fully realized and so physical.

“A lot of times female characters are foils for the male characters or their plot devices. It’s not as common that you get to fully embody a nuanced, layered, conflicted character, and particularly one that gets to explore a full range of motion like this,” Jones said.

For “Men on Boats,” Backhaus wrote the characters with women and nonbinary actors in mind, and as Jones points out, encouraged diverse casting in her playwright’s notes at the top of script.

“I’m Chinese and there was a point a while ago where I really felt limited by the visibility of my ethnicity,” Jones said. “And I’ve noticed that in the last maybe like five, six, seven years or so it’s really opened up, but I appreciate playwrights putting specific casting notes in their work to say, ‘please cast diversely: body type, ethnicity, age, gender.’ It’s heartening to see that happening.”

The casting not only serves as a reminder of who does or doesn’t make it into the history books, but hints at the history we might never know, Jones said.

“History is written by the victors and it’s written by the people who are in power, and so you have male explorers, and then male biographers and male newspaper writers. That’s the point of view that you get, and it really erases the visibility of women.

“Women were not on this expedition, but that’s not to say that women were not pioneering



Top: The cast of “Men on Boats” take in a view of the Grand Canyon. Above: William Dunn (Melissa Jones, left) drinks with the Howland brothers, O.G. (Jennifer C. Maggio) and Seneca (Naomi Evans), while Hawkins (Katie O’Byron Champlin) cooks. Courtesy Scott Lasky/Palo Alto Players.

different achievements and advancements during this time. And a lot of that just gets buried, and so by having women portray these roles, it inserts a level of visibility into the time period artistically,” Jones said.

As it is, Powell is hardly forgotten by history — among other things, he’s credited with giving the Grand Canyon its current name — but not all audiences may know about the expedition, which offers an exciting possibility, Payne said.

“If there’s a person in the audience who’s never heard of the Powell expedition, the first time they hear the story, they’re going to see it through the lens of female and nonbinary people telling the story,” Payne said. “It does give you a fresh perspective on strength, and on fortitude, and on hubris, and on all those things that we associate a lot of times with the male adventurer.”

Though the casting highlights history’s omissions, the show itself has some unsung players, Jones said. Especially with the pandemic bringing a greater level of uncertainty, the show’s understudies have to be ready to take on one of up to five roles, knowing all the characters’ lines and precise choreography, she said.

“Men on Boats” will be performed in person through Feb. 20 at Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. The show will also be livestreamed Feb. 17-20. For more information, visit paplayers.org. ■

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@paweekly.com.

About the cover:

The cast of Palo Alto Players’ “Men on Boats” journeys down the Colorado River.

Photos courtesy Scott Lasky/Palo Alto Players. Cover design by Douglas Young.

Filoli catches the eye of Antiques Roadshow producer

Historic Woodside estate to host filming of popular TV show in June



Woodside's Filoli estate will serve as a filming location for the 27th season of Antiques Roadshow this summer.

By Angela Swartz

With a large outdoor space, pleasant weather and a history of filming on the property, Filoli checked all the boxes for a stop on the Antiques Roadshow, according to producers.

A few years ago, Allyson Izzo Smith, who works for the PBS series, stumbled upon the historic Woodside estate when she was scouting show locations, said Marsha Bemko, Antiques Roadshow's executive producer. This summer, Filoli will be the fifth and final stop on the popular TV show's 27th season.

"We're always looking for

distinctive historical locations that will fit us," Bemko said. "When we called and asked, they said 'yes, they'd love to have us.'"

The show stops at the 654-acre property on Wednesday, June 22. "When we knock on doors, not everyone says 'yes.'" She said having a large group of people visit for the show can be overwhelming to some.

About 5,000 people are expected to descend on Filoli, which includes a 54,000-square-foot Georgian revival-style mansion and 16 acres of English Renaissance gardens, according to Bemko. Those interested in attending can enter to win two free tickets to the event, which runs from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will also be about 120 volunteers from KQED helping run the event.

Ticket holders will be given specific time slots to attend. Each attendee can bring up to two items to be appraised by experts.

In each hour-long episode, auction house specialists and independent dealers offer free appraisals of antiques and collectibles, including family heirlooms and flea market finds, according to the show's website.

Although not everyone who attends will end up on TV — producers edit down the 150 segments they film—there's a "100% chance" you'll have your items appraised, Bemko said.

"Most of us don't understand everything we own," Bemko said. "It's a chance to learn about what you own from the country's top experts. You get an answer to a question you can't search on the internet."

Bemko noted that she feels like she has "one of the best jobs in America" as a producer on the show. Because of her travels with the show, she's been to every U.S. state.

"I love learning with the audience," she said. "I love it (that the items) takes us further into subjects."

She said her favorite item from over the years with the show is a label for a 1918, World War I-era can of peaches and a letter from a soldier, worth about \$550 to \$600. Although not worth as much as diamond rings she's coveted in the past, she likes the sentiment of the soldier writing home that "peaches are worth fighting for."

Past filming at Filoli

Filoli is no stranger to film and TV productions. Most notably, parts of the soap opera "Dynasty" were filmed on the estate's property in the 1980s.

The first movie to be filmed at Filoli was "Heaven Can Wait" in 1978, which starred Warren Beatty. During the 1990s, casts of "George of the Jungle" and "The Joy Luck Club" filmed scenes in Filoli's mansion.

Filoli stood in as a possible wedding location in Napa in the 2001 movie "The Wedding Planner" with Jennifer Lopez and Matthew McConaughey.

Information on the show

The Antiques Roadshow will also make stops in Nashville, Tennessee; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Boise, Idaho; and Shelburne, Vermont.

The ticket drawing will be conducted in April. After the drawing, around April 11, ticket winners will be notified if they were chosen. All guests must be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Enter the drawing at pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/tickets by March 21. ■

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

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Eating Out So sweet!

Half Moon Bay's Sweet55 coming to Palo Alto

By Anthony Shu

This weekend, last-minute romantics will line up outside of Sweet55's tiny Half Moon Bay storefront to purchase colorful heart-shaped chocolates filled with smooth mocha ganache and solid chocolate lollipops covered in Cupid's arrows. A small glass window into the kitchen provides a peek at shining steel German machinery and Chief Chocolate Officer Ursula Schnyder's award-winning team.

Schnyder's path to becoming a chocolatier included a wide range of jobs. She opened a preschool in Switzerland and covered the rise of Californian cuisine as a journalist. Inspired by her time writing about restaurant kitchens,

Schnyder underwent culinary training in both the United States and Switzerland before converting a cottage in her Palo Alto backyard into a professional kitchen.

Sweet55 was born in 2013 and opened its first retail location in Half Moon Bay in 2016 when Schnyder found an affordable location in Shoreline Station (known for housing Dad's Luncheonette) that could hold her equipment in a cool, coastal climate ideal for working with chocolate.

And now, almost a decade later, Schnyder is bringing the chocolate shop to Palo Alto. In May, she plans to expand Sweet55 into Palo Alto's Town & Country Village. This larger retail space will

provide a showcase for pastries, cakes, and baked goods, most of which are only available by special order due to the limited space at the Half Moon Bay location.

In her kitchen in Half Moon Bay, Schnyder's detailed candy-making process begins with chocolate callets, wafers made for melting, purchased from a small supplier in Switzerland. The shop sources ingredients from throughout the cacao belt, a band around the equator with the humidity and high rainfall ideal for cacao cultivation.

The shop's signature chocolate is Bolivia 68%, which harnesses wild cacao harvested by Indigenous peoples in small quantities. A two-time Good Food Awards winner, Sweet55 works with vendors who pay above-average prices to cacao suppliers (exploitative practices remain common in the industry).

These callets are fed into Sweet55's "Rolls-Royce," an automatic tempering and enrobing machine that provides a constant flow of liquid chocolate that can fill molds or envelop ganache fillings. Fans of baking shows will be familiar with chocolate's finicky nature: It must be heated and cooled precisely to ensure a proper snap and sheen.

"Chocolate is very technical. It's not an art," Schnyder said. The Rolls-Royce keeps chocolate in temper and can even recalibrate itself whenever the temperature in

Ursula Schnyderis, founder and chief chocolate officer of Sweet55, is preparing to open a new outpost in Palo Alto this spring.

the room changes.

Forming a heart-shaped chocolate shell decorated with gold leaf and bright silver sprinkles, Schnyder fills a mold with the machine's stream of chocolate. Then, she empties it out and leaves a thin base layer.

Despite all of the equipment, confectionery requires plenty of skill.

Temperature control is essential to creating beautiful chocolate, and Sweet55 uses a converted wine fridge for setting the chocolate shell's initial layers and another, cooler set of refrigerators for a final setting.

Many of Sweet55's Valentine's offerings are filled with ganache, rich mixtures of cream and chocolate. Filled chocolates can be made in two ways. The first method uses the molds, where a bottom layer of set chocolate is piped full of ganache and enrobed again. Alternatively, ganache is spread onto trays, cut into strips, and then passed under the flow of tempered chocolate.

The ganaches are made in

another machine displaying the merits of German engineering, "Stephan." Stephan's chamber is equipped with a vacuum that removes oxygen from the ganache, which results in a smoother emulsion, a denser product, and improved mouthfeel.

While many of Schnyder's chocolates receive a final layer of decoration, like a logo imprinted with a transfer sheet or Jackson Pollock-like patterns applied through airbrushing, she considers her style restrained and straightforward. Referring to her shop's tagline, she said, "Enhancing the essence of chocolate (expresses) exactly how I feel about my work ... the center is the chocolate."

Sweet55, 225 CA-1 Suite 104C, Half Moon Bay; 650-440-4330. Instagram: @sweet55swiss. Check the website for special Valentine's Day hours and online orders at sweet55.com.

Email Associate Digital Editor Anthony Shu at peninsulafoodist@embarcaderopublishing.com.



Heart-shaped chocolates filled with ganache are prepared at Sweet55 in Half Moon Bay on Feb. 8.

Hungry for Sweet Maple's trademarked Millionaire's Bacon? Get in line

Eatery's newest downtown brunch spot attracts a crowd

By Anthony Shu

Walk down University Avenue and you might see a crowd forming in front of Palo Alto's newest brunch spot, Sweet Maple. The restaurant's original location opened in San Francisco in 2010, and images of their signature dishes still spread throughout social media. They hold a trademark on their most recognizable menu item: thick slabs of Millionaire's Bacon seasoned with brown sugar and cayenne.

Owner Steven Choi's restaurant group, which is best known for Asian-influenced brunch, is in the midst of expanding throughout the Bay Area — upcoming locations include

Cupertino and Mountain View. He even has a vision of opening locations across the country. Choi said that he picked University Avenue for this second location of Sweet Maple because he's always looking for "the most premium locations."

Just like the restaurant's location, Sweet Maple's menu items also attract attention: Matcha moffles (chewy mochi waffles) are covered in green tea-flavored "lava" that spills across the plate, and "Big Hip" deep-fried French toast is stacked with plenty of fresh fruit and powdered sugar.

While many diners visit Sweet Maple for these creative dishes, Choi said that his primary goal



Sweet Maple's Millionaire's Bacon is seasoned with brown sugar and cayenne. Courtesy Sweet Maple.

is to create a neighborhood restaurant that patrons can visit multiple times a week. "Maybe because of the decorations, because we care about the plating and presentation, people might think (our food) is trendy, but that's not what we're after," Choi said.

Alongside its Instagrammable creations, Sweet Maple serves breakfast classics like scrambles, eggs Benedict, and sandwiches. Choi hopes Bay Area residents can all find something familiar at his restaurants, and he credits his diverse staff for creating menu items that reflect many different cultures. Sweet Maple Palo Alto's head chef, Nick Yoon, has worked

in kitchens preparing European, Japanese, Chinese and Korean cuisines. Thanks to staff members like Yoon, Sweet Maple's offerings include fried rice made with the iconic Korean instant ramen Shin Ramyun alongside a version of huevos rancheros that stacks a chicken breast on top of a poached egg, roasted salsa and corn tortillas.

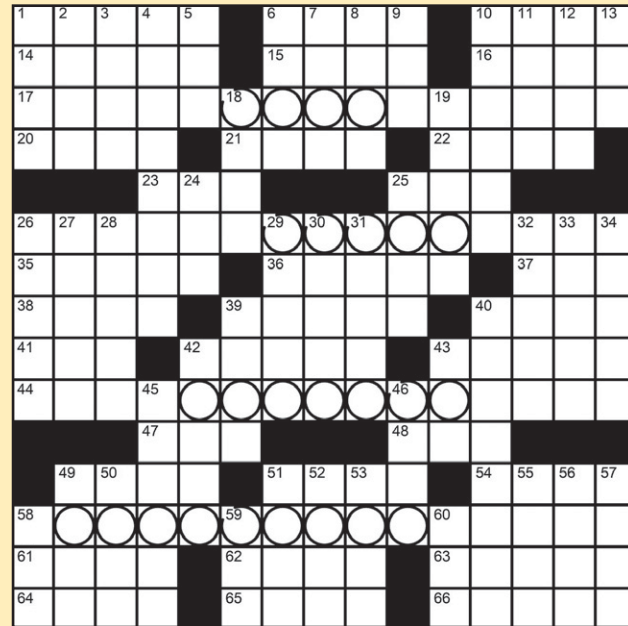
Sweet Maple is now open for breakfast and brunch and hopes to start serving dinner next month.

Sweet Maple, 150 University Ave., Palo Alto, 650-521-0764; Instagram: @sweetmaplesf. Check their website for the latest operating hours.

Across

1. "Pee-wee's Playhouse" genie
6. Wing measurement
10. Rack purchases, briefly
14. Burger topping
15. "Pam & Tommy" streamer
16. Singletons
17. One of the "Friends: The Reunion" attendees
20. Boo-boo
21. March time
22. Filing target
23. Yang's complement
25. Dept. of Justice agency
26. Setting the new mark, as in the Olympics
35. Book, in France
36. Felt badly
37. "La ___" (Debussy opus)
38. Stuff in batteries
39. Chunk of grass
40. Upcoming Paramount+ series based on a video game
41. "Volare (___ Blu Dipinto Di Blu)"
42. Absolutely not
43. "___ the Mirror" (song in the Broadway musical "MJ")
44. Call center activity
47. "Winnie-the-Pooh" character
48. "No Time to ___" (2021 Bond film)
49. Grad
51. Kiss, in British slang
54. Song from "Turandot"
58. Like Peru and Mexico
61. Sex Pistols' genre
62. Vital spark
63. Gate part
64. Planet dwellers of film
65. Indicate boredom
66. Stated further

"Mixed Emotions" — feeling a little unusual. Matt Jones

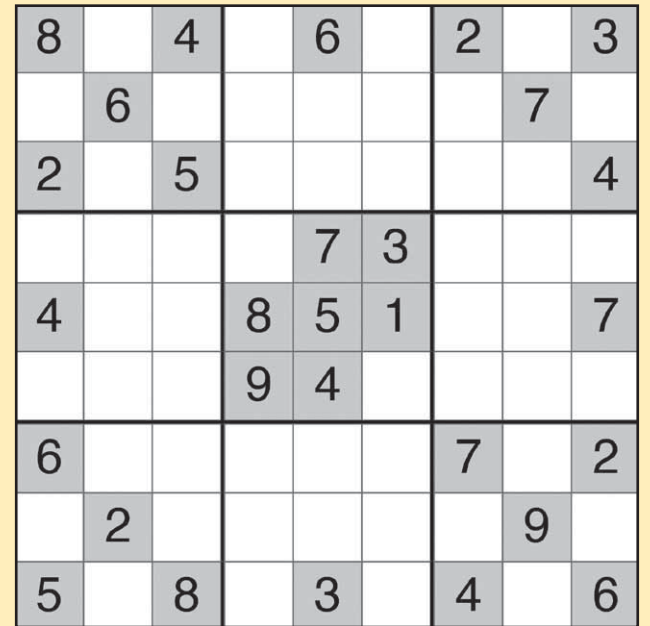


Answers on page 6.

Down

1. Reduplicative name in a "Bizarre Adventure" manga
2. Over again
3. Smaller version
4. Cemetery
5. "Here Comes the Hotstepper" singer Kamaze
6. Lawnmower's building
7. Untarnished
8. "What a shame"
9. Sister or mother, maybe
10. Art made of tiles
11. Prefix for body or gravity
12. Earth sci.
13. Tax ID
18. Foreign film ender
19. Asleep, usually
24. Actor Barinholtz
25. Worry (about)
26. Mel who voiced Yosemite Sam
27. Houston campus, for short
28. Bad things
29. Gullible
30. Charitable person
31. "Zut ___!"
32. Sultanate inhabitant
33. Historical object
34. Aerial photography aid
39. Audition tape
40. Give birth, informally
42. "Prometheus" actress Rapace
43. 3-D screening

This week's SUDOKU



Answers on page 6.

www.sudoku.name

45. Certain swimwear
46. Do landscaping work
49. "___ Named Scooby-Doo" (cartoon spinoff of 1988)
50. Daily Planet reporter
51. "Transformers" actor LaBeouf
52. "Clicker beware" letters
53. Not hidden
55. Fruit peel
56. "Bus Stop" dramatist William
57. Like some steaks
58. Relaxation spot
59. Shifty
60. "A clue!"

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