

The Almanac

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‘Culture heals’: Half Moon Bay farmworkers use music to cope with mass shooting trauma

By Hannah Bensen

Two years after a mass shooting claimed the lives of seven farmworkers in Half Moon Bay, the community gathered to honor the legacies of the deceased and advocate for improved living and working conditions for the farm worker community.

Organized by Ayudando Latinos A Soñar (ALAS), a San Mateo-based nonprofit, and the National Farm Workers Ministry (NFWM), the vigil featured community speakers, several music performances, a poetry reading, and religious rituals to remember the deceased.

“This is how we heal,” said Dr. Belinda Hernandez-Arriaga, executive director and founder of ALAS. “With culture, with music, with community, with food, with love.”

ALAS is a community nonprofit that provides a range of mental health, education, and social services. It is closely

intertwined with the farm worker community. An hour before the shooting happened on Jan. 23, 2023, a team from ALAS was onsite at the farm where it occurred, said Enrique Bazán, director of strategic partnerships at ALAS.

“We knew the victims, and we knew the shooter,” Bazán said.

Since its inception as a nonprofit in 2013, ALAS has promoted artistic and cultural programs to preserve Latino culture, foster community connection, and improve social well-being.

In the aftermath of the shooting, ALAS developed a special music therapy program for farmworkers to learn to play the accordion and guitar. The program is centered around the idea that “culture heals,” exemplified by the group’s performing a song called Cruz de Madera — “the wooden cross” — at the vigil.

See **FARMWORKERS**, page 14



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Mental health clinicians Winsor Kinkadee, closest, and Wendy Rubio put final touches on an altar prior to a remembrance vigil in front of the ALAS office in downtown Half Moon Bay on Jan. 24.

County attorneys say it’s too late for Sheriff Corpus to stop recall election

Ballots have already been sent out to voters overseas

By Eleanor Raab

After embattled Sheriff Christina Corpus filed a complaint on Jan. 10 against the county seeking to halt the March 4 special election that would allow the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to remove her from office, attorneys for county and board replied in court filings. They stated that Corpus filed her complaint too late, as the election is already underway.

According to a sworn declaration from Jim Irizarry, the assistant chief elections officer for San Mateo County, ballots for the March 4 election were sent to military and overseas voters

on Jan. 17, and the election division has already begun receiving completed ballots. The county has also already begun printing the 440,000 voter information guides and sample ballots that will be mailed out to county voters by Feb. 11.

Vote by mail ballots will also be mailed to voters by Feb. 3, and the printing of those ballots has already been completed, according to the statement from Irizarry.

“Election staff began working on the March 4, 2025 as soon as it was announced,” wrote Irizarry. “Some of the planning items include coordinating with vendors, contracting with vendors, updating materials, and

contacting staff. ... Extra help staff have already been contacted about working the March 4, 2025 election.”

The measure on the ballot, Measure A, would give the Board of Supervisors the authority to remove Corpus from her office “for cause.” Supervisors voted to put the measure up for a vote following the release of a county-commissioned independent investigation that revealed abuses of power within the Sheriff’s office. Corpus has stated repeatedly that she will not step down from her position.

Corpus, via her Attorney Christopher Ulrich, requested that the county courts move the trial up to Feb. 24 so that

it could be completed before the special election takes place. The case management and trial setting conference was previously scheduled for March 19, two weeks after the election will have taken place.

In her complaint against the county, Corpus alleges that the election was improperly calendared for March 4, as it represents a “substantial” change to the county charter, which her lawyers argue can only take place at a November general election. She also argues that the election should be cancelled because Supervisors Ray Mueller and Noelia Corzo took



Anna Hoch-Kenney

San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus takes questions from the press on Nov. 12, 2024.

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Local News

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Courtesy Oakland Zoo

Three Portola Valley mountain lion cubs were rescued and transported to the Oakland Zoo for rehabilitation on Jan. 26.

Portola Valley community works together to rescue mountain lion cubs

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The community of Portola Valley banded together for the search and rescue of three orphaned mountain lion cubs, after residents reported a dead female mountain lion on Portola Road on Jan. 13, suspected that the lion was a mother. On Sunday, Jan. 26, the cubs were captured by wildlife specialists and taken to the Oakland Zoo for rehabilitation.

The cubs named Fern, Thistle and Spruce, are the 30th mountain lion rescue for the Oakland Zoo. The trio are now recovering under the care of the zoo's veterinary hospital.

Veterinarians determined that the two male and one female cubs are about 3 months old.

Around Jan. 19, wildlife cameras were set up by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Midpeninsula Regional Open

Space District after a resident reported one cub in the area around Portola Road and Grove Drive. Later in the week, three cubs were spotted on Grove Drive on the evening of Jan. 25 and then by another resident on the morning of Jan. 26, according to Portola Valley resident Joanne K.

The cubs were found hiding under a car, 0.3 miles away from where the dead mountain

See **MOUNTAIN LIONS**, page 11

Gerry's Cakes must leave Chestnut Street location after 30 years

The building that houses the business was recently sold

By Eleanor Raab

Gerry's Cakes has been a fixture of Chestnut Street in Menlo Park for 33 years, but soon owner Sohrab Molavi will have to find a new location or shut the business down. The building that houses Gerry's Cakes as well as neighboring businesses Shiok! Singapore Kitchen and Ela Lingerie was recently sold, and the new

landlord asked the businesses to vacate the premises, according to Molavi.

Gerry's Cakes and its neighbors were originally given just 30 days from Jan. 1 to move or shut down, but Molavi told this publication that the date has been extended to Feb. 24. Molavi anticipates that Gerry's Cakes will close for business at the end of January, and that he will take the month of February to move

everything out of his current location.

Molavi would like to find a new location in Menlo Park, but said that it is seeming like an impossibility due to the high costs of moving.

"If I am able to get a new location, I will move," said Molavi. "If not, I will have to sell my equipment. ... I would like to stay

See **GERRY'S CAKES**, page 17

Atherton closer to certified housing element

State only suggests a couple tweaks to state-mandated housing plan

By Eleanor Raab

On Dec. 30, Atherton received a letter from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) stating that the town still has to make a couple tweaks to its most recent housing element plans that were adopted on Oct. 16, 2024. Though the town's housing element is still not certified, the letter was not all bad news, as HCD said that the adopted housing element "addresses most statutory requirements" of state housing law.

In a Jan. 8 staff report for a Planning Commission and City Council study session, town planning staff wrote that the issues raised in HCD's most recent comment letter do not indicate any issues with the town's approach to building the 348 housing units required by the state, or to achieving its fair housing goals. At the Jan. 8 meeting, Town Planner Brittany Bendix said that the town is not anticipating any corrective action relating to the sites selected for rezoning back in October.

Atherton has been working toward achieving a state-certified housing element since 2021, and has encountered many challenges along the way as council members tried to preserve the "rural character" of Atherton, while still conforming to state housing requirements.

"HCD recognizes the significant

efforts of the town in the housing element update and rezoning," wrote HCD Senior Program Manager Paul McDougall in the letter to Atherton. "We are committed to assisting the town in addressing all statutory requirements of state housing law."

HCD asked Atherton to make the following changes in its housing element plans:

- Include an analysis of the redevelopment potential for the school sites (Menlo School and Sacred Heart Schools), which explains what areas of the school sites are available for development and any conditions that might prevent development on the sites.
- Restructure certain tables and figures in the housing element plans.
- Clarify in the town's new multifamily housing standards that multifamily housing developments with at least 20% of units affordable to lower-income households will not require discretionary approval; HCD asked Atherton to explicitly use the term "ministerial approval" in the relevant section of the town's codes.
- Revise the town's Senate Bill 9 lot split program to include evaluation of development trends on split lots, and to identify alternatives to meet the town's housing goals if

See **HOUSING ELEMENT**, page 16



Eleanor Raab

Gerry's Cakes owner Sohrab Molavi, photographed on Jan. 28, says he doesn't know what will come next for his business.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Menlo Park Fire Protection District accepting CERT Academy registrations

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District has opened registrations for its March 2025 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Academy, which provides local residents with hands-on training in disaster preparedness, disaster medical care, first aid, search and rescue techniques and more.

Registration is free, and available until all spots in the course are full. Interested participants must be at least 18 years old to register for the CERT Academy.

The Academy consists of three full-day sessions that will take place on March 15, March 29 and April 12. Participants must attend all three sessions to be certified as a CERT member. Make-up sessions are available.

Membership with the local CERT team is free, but training must be renewed every two years. CERT members are contacted during a disaster incident to help first responders.

Learn more and register at menlofirecert.com/event-5945470/ Registration

Menlo Park hosts Black Liberation Month celebration on Feb. 8

The city of Menlo Park will host a Black Liberation Month celebration on Feb. 8 at the Belle Haven Community Campus at 100 Terminal Ave. from noon to 3 p.m. The celebration will focus on the theme of "African Americans and Labor," and will celebrate local business owners.

The event will also offer cultural entertainment, free food, youth presentations, musical guests and spoken word performances. The event is free for all participants.

— Eleanor Raab



Courtesy Menlo School

The cast of Menlo School's *The Wiz*.

Menlo School production of 'The Wiz'

Menlo School and the Black Student Union is presenting a winter production of *The Wiz* at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 5, 6 and 8 at the Spieker Performing Arts Center, 50 Valparaiso Ave. in Atherton. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.

The Wiz is a twist on the classic "The Wizard of Oz," following Dorothy's journey to find her place in a contemporary world. The musical features a score with soul, gospel, rock and 70s funk and embraces themes of courage, self-discovery and community.

The production is directed by drama teacher Steven Minning with assistance from assistant director Noelle Lenden, a senior at Menlo School.

"Our goal with *The Wiz* is to create an uplifting and empowering experience for both our performers and audience," said Minning in a prepared statement. "It's a story about resilience and joy, told in a way that celebrates the diverse voices of our community."

The Wiz is a celebration of Black culture, featuring an all-black cast in its original Broadway musical, which debuted in 1975.

"The collaboration between the Black Student Union and Menlo Drama has been energizing. We've got kids from choir, basketball, mock trial, water polo, and even from middle school! It's a huge cast, and everybody's bringing the show to life with authenticity and heart," said Matthew Majalya, who plays the scarecrow.

For tickets and more information, visit menloschool.org/tickets.

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 15



Devin Roberts

Transitional kindergarten teacher Chihmei Chung with students at Encinal Elementary in Menlo Park in 2024.

Report on early childhood educators shows rising stress levels among staff

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Recruiting and retaining qualified staff continues to be a struggle for early child care providers across San Mateo County, according to a report on San Mateo County's early care and education workforce. The industry's difficulties include providing sufficient wages and benefits and rising stress levels among the workforce.

The report, released in partnership between the San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council and UC Berkeley's Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, includes the county's ECE worker demographic, working conditions, compensation and well-being to provide more insight into the field and highlight key challenges.

According to the report, there are approximately 465 family child care providers operating in their own homes and about 280 child care centers serving children from birth through 5 years old.

Notably, 67% of family child care providers said they had high stress levels, 72% of center teachers said they did and 55% of center assistants said they did. Researchers conducted the study between March and August 2024. They reached 462 educators: 98 family child care providers, 117 center directors, and 247 center teachers and assistants. The educators in the center-based sample work in over 130 different sites throughout the county.

Salaries

Due to the county's high cost of living, data from the study shows that wages in San Mateo

County are slightly higher than the statewide average and child care centers in the county are more likely to offer benefits.

"Despite the report's analysis that San Mateo County reflects slightly higher wages for the ECE workforce, the significant challenges to sustaining high-quality child care options in such a high-cost county as San Mateo are real," said County Superintendent Nancy Magee in a Monday, Jan. 27, press release. "As county leaders we must continue to advocate for legislative and policy solutions to address the stark reality that our ECE workforce is compromised because they cannot afford to live here. Solutions that include regional funding formulas will be critical to our long-term success."

The study discusses the impact of the expansion of transitional kindergarten on early childhood education workers, especially on topics of pay disparities between TK teachers and their colleagues. The findings aim to provide statewide and regional data on systemic inequities and opportunities for policy reform.

The report recommends increasing wages for ECE workers to reduce turnover and improve wellbeing. According to the County Office of Education, more funding for increased salaries may be helped by state subsidy rate reforms but local action is necessary for child care systems. Some 72% of local child care center directors interviewed cite higher pay for their workers as the number one way they could help address staff turnover.

See **EDUCATORS**, page 17

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The **Almanac**

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Local school districts open enrollment for TK, kindergarten

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Transitional kindergarten will be open to all 4-year-olds in California during the 2025-26 school year. Local school districts across Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto, Portola Valley and Woodside have opened up TK and kindergarten registration for next school year.

The TK program, which became a requirement of public schools in the state in 2021, aims to create a smoother transition for children between

preschool and kindergarten. Over the course of five years, the state has been slowly expanding the age requirement for enrollment, but some local schools in the area have already welcomed all 4-year-olds.

For the 2025-26 school year, prospective TK students must be born on or between Sept. 2, 2020 and Sept. 1, 2021. For kindergarten, children must turn 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2025.

Find out how to register your students for TK and kindergarten below.

Menlo Park City School District

TK and kindergarten registration for the 2025-26 school year begins on Monday, Feb. 3, at 8 a.m. for Menlo Park City School District families.

MPCSD is also holding informational meetings for its Kindergarten Spanish Immersion during one of the following meetings:

- Feb. 5 at 9-10 a.m. at the Teacher Education Resource Center at the MPCSD office, 181 Encinal Ave., Atherton
- Feb. 12 at 6-7 p.m. at the TERC
- Feb. 26 at 9-10 a.m. at the ENSPIRE Lab, Room 33 at Encinal Elementary, 195 Encinal Ave., Atherton

For more information on enrollment visit district.mpcsd.org. Registration questions can be directed to the District Registrar at 650-321-7140 ext. 5600 or at registrar@mpcsd.org.

Portola Valley School District

Registration for TK at the Portola Valley School District began on Jan. 17.

For more information on registration, visit pvsd.net/student-registration.

Woodside Elementary School District

Registrations for TK and kindergarten opened on Jan. 8 for the 2025-26 school year at the Woodside Elementary School District.

The school district is hosting a TK orientation on Jan. 30 from 8:45-9:45 a.m. If you cannot make it to the orientation but would like access to the information presented, email malstrom@woodside-school.us.

Orientations will include an introduction to school staff and administrators, an overview of school programs, guidance through the registration process and a Q&A.

School tour dates are also available to TK, kindergarten and new families at 8:45 a.m. on Feb. 5, March 5, April 1 and May 6. Register for a tour on tinyurl.com/Woodsideschooltour.

For more information on TK and kindergarten orientation and registration visit tinyurl.com/WoodsideTKandKinder.

Las Lomitas Elementary School District

Registration for TK will open in early spring for Las Lomitas Elementary School District and will remain open throughout the spring. All children turning four on or before Sept. 1 are guaranteed enrollment in the program.

Children are required to meet pre-kindergarten immunization requirements prior to the first day of school.

For more information on registration call Deanna Celis at 650-854-5900 or email registration@llesd.org. For information on the program visit llesd.org.

Ravenswood City School District

Children who are turning 4 by Sept. 1 will be eligible for TK at the Ravenswood City School District.

Families can register online at ravenswoodschools.org or by picking up a registration packet from the district office at 2160 Euclid Avenue, East Palo Alto, open Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

For more information email Registrar Adriana Vasquez at avasquez@ravenswoodschools.org.



Magali Gauthier

Students in a transitional kindergarten class at Ormondale Elementary School raised their hands to speak in Portola Valley in 2022.

SHERIFF

continued from page 1

“biased actions” against Corpus which violated her rights.

On Thursday, Jan. 23, Andrew Werbrock, a lawyer retained by the county to represent the Board of Supervisors in this case, wrote that Corpus “waited far too long to seek any relief regarding the election.”

“By filing this case at the eleventh hour, (Corpus) has slept on her rights,” wrote Werbrock in the court filing.

Werbrock wrote that Corpus had two months since the first vote on the ordinance in November 2024 to file a complaint to stay the election, and cancelling the election now would only harm and confuse voters.

“If (Corpus) ‘trial’ is held, as requested, on Feb. 24, hundreds of thousands of voters will have likely already cast their ballot at that time, and cancelling the election would sow confusion among the public,” Werbrock wrote.

In his sworn statement, Irizarry wrote that there were several public review periods for the ballot measure in December, and that the county elections office received no challenges in court to the ballot measure at those times.

Werbrock argues that a trial is not needed at all, as he sees no need for a factfinding and discovery process.

He also argues that the basis of Corpus’ argument for cancelling the election is faulty, as the sections of the state elections code that her attorneys cited when arguing that the election was improperly calendared does not apply to county governments, but rather to cities.

The court opted to move Corpus’ case management conference forward to Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 9 a.m. At that time, Judge Nicole Healy will hear arguments in favor of and against moving the trial forward. ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.

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Controversial Willow Park project will soon head to environmental review

By Eleanor Raab

On Jan. 24, the city of Menlo Park released a request for proposals from environmental consultants to prepare a California Environmental Quality Act review of the controversial development proposal for the site of the former Sunset Magazine Headquarters at 80 Willow Road.

Final proposals from environmental consultants are due Feb. 28, and the public will have a chance to comment on consultant selection at a subsequent City Council meeting.

If built as proposed, the project, dubbed “Willow Park,” would consist of three towers that contain 665 housing units, more than 350,000 square feet

of office space, a Montessori school, a 130-room hotel and nearly 40,000 square feet of retail space.

CEQA review is a legally required analysis that must be undertaken for any project of this size. Environmental review under CEQA typically covers a wide range of subject matters that may be affected by a project, including air quality, biological resources, cultural and archaeological resources, hazardous materials, water quality, public services, transportation and traffic, population and employment, aesthetics and more.

During the environmental review process, the city will also determine if any special historical statuses apply to the property. The site

has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places by the Menlo Park Historical Association. The State Historical Resources Commission will consider the nomination at its May 9 meeting. The meeting was originally set for Feb. 7 but was postponed.

The public will have a chance to weigh in on the project at multiple points during the CEQA process. If an environmental impact report is determined to be necessary for the project, there will be a public scoping session where community members can comment on topics that they believe should be addressed in the environmental review process. There will also be multiple



Courtesy city of Menlo Park

Renderings show what the Willow Park development at 80 Willow Road might look like.

opportunities to comment on the environmental impact as it is being prepared and finalized, including public hearings with the Planning Commission and City Council.

Environmental impact reports

for other similarly sized projects, such as the one for the SRI Parkline development, have taken over a year to prepare. ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.

Bay Area air quality management district shortens name and launches new logo

BAAD rebrand designed to ‘better connect with the public’

By Bay City News Service

The regional body that regulates and monitors air quality in the Bay Area has a new name and a redesigned logo.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has rebranded as the Bay Area Air District, or BAAD.

The district comprises the nine Bay Area counties — Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and portions of Solano and Sonoma counties.

The changes were designed to “better connect with the public,” according to a Jan. 22 press release from the air district.

The old logo was a square comprised of nine, wavy, navy blue-and-white lines and a light-blue triangle, with nine stripes for nine counties.

The new logo also has nine blue-and-white lines, but with four different shades of blue, and this one is circular, with lines that sweep to the left of the circle they form, giving it a swooping or wing-like effect, evoking flowing, clean air on a clear summer day in the Bay Area.

The circle, according to the air district’s website, represents “environmental justice and our global impact.”

The district’s executive officer Philip Fine said the rebranding was a “fresh, modern look” that represented a more “contemporary” time and mission.



Bay Area Air District via Bay City News

“This rebrand isn’t just a visual update — it’s a renewed promise to lead with purpose and align with the aspirations of the communities we serve,” he said in a statement.

The air district was formed by state legislation in 1955 and was the first regional air quality regulator in the state. The blue colors in the new logo represent the district’s history of championing clean air and the “changing landscape of air quality management,” according to the district’s website.

The district is governed by a 24-member board drawn from the cities and counties under its jurisdiction and can set and enforce emissions and environmental standards.

In 2024, the air district levied three major fines against regional refineries, including a

\$20 million fine in February for violations at the Chevron refinery in Richmond. It was a record amount at the time but was dwarfed by an \$82 million fine levied in October against Valero for decades’ worth of regulatory violations at its Benicia refinery for unreported emissions from its hydrogen system.

It also fined Marathon Petroleum Corporation \$5 million that month for violations at its Martinez refinery for frequent flaring events that emitted pollution above the district’s standards.

The air district also issued Spare the Air alerts for the Bay Area when pollution levels are deemed unhealthy. The alerts ban wood burning during the winter and advise sensitive populations to take precautions against prolonged outdoor exposure. ■

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Woodside Mayor is preparing for a 'dynamic year'

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Entering his seventh year on the Woodside Town Council, 2025 Mayor Brian Dombkowski said his experiences have given him an understanding of how to “chart a balanced course that is well-reasoned and well-informed.” This will be a year of change for the town as it inches closer to a certified housing element, develops a long-term vision for the Town Center and brings on a new town manager.

This will be Dombkowski's second term as the mayor of Woodside and in 2025, he hopes to make positive impacts on the community while focusing on transparency, town engagement and helping the town evolve.

Housing element

In July, the Woodside Town Council voted to approve four multifamily housing sites on High Road, Raymundo Drive, 773 Cañada Road and at Cañada College to fulfill its state mandated requirements to develop 328 new housing units between 2023 and 2031, five times as many required during the previous cycle.



There were contentious comments from residents during multiple council meetings in which the council discussed the potential sites for housing in the plan. Residents called for council members to explore other locations and to preserve the rural nature of the town.

“[Change] is a reality that we just have to accept. It's a new day in that for 70 years, Woodside's population has not grown and now it is mandated to grow,” said Dombkowski. “We're not going to go back to 1956, when Woodside was incorporated to stop development and we're not going to make the town a developer's paradise.”

Although some of the townspeople fear Woodside will be urbanized, Dombkowski said that there is a way to balance both preservation and mandated growth.

The town is currently reviewing the proposed housing site on 773 Cañada Road which could satisfy 12% of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment cycle's total housing requirements as well as additional dwelling unit programs, including preapproved ADU designs for residents, he added.

“In a town with limited sewer infrastructure, very high fire zones and one that was literally established to preserve its rural character, the RHNA cycle at five times the level of housing required than any other prior cycle, has been a tall order and perhaps not surprisingly, there weren't a lot of folks who were interested in development,” said Dombkowski.

As private property owners were not willing to build housing, the town had to concentrate its remaining housing needs into its town-owned sites on High Road and Raymundo Drive.

Dombkowski said it wasn't the

original plan to push the housing density into just these two sites, but during the iterative council process, two of the original four town-owned sites were dropped. He is working on finding better ways to address the needs of impacted neighbors, exploring other sites, specifying owner occupancy and incorporating language on ingress and egress requirements.

“I believe Woodside is on track to meet its halfway [RHNA] cycle goals with HCD, and I think we will be one of the few communities in the state of California that actually makes it over that high bar,” said Dombkowski.

Town Center Plan, traffic issues, lack of parking

Woodside is looking to update its Town Center Area Plan, which was originally adopted in 1970 and most recently amended in 1988. The town issued a request for proposals in December 2024 seeking an urban planning firm to conduct an update to the plan.

While focusing on the current RHNA Cycle 6 of the housing element, the town also needs to be proactive about Cycle 7, said

Dombkowski. With an expectation that the cycle between 2031-39 will continue to demand higher housing density, the town will be exploring “growing from the center out” rather than continuing with targeted density approaches in select neighborhoods.

“We also want a vibrant Town Center that addresses the evolving needs of the community's commercial center, as well as addressing the need for adequate parking and circulation in the community,” said Dombkowski. “We need to do that with the broad support of the property owners and community, by providing a long-term vision for the future of Woodside.”

The town will be looking at how they can build housing along Woodside's commercial corridor. Dombkowski adds that this plan is getting the town ready for the next decade of growth and demand in housing.

The Town Center also struggles with a lack of parking and traffic at Cañada Corners. With the approval of the Cañada Corners project in early December 2024, Dombkowski

See **WOODSIDE MAYOR**, page 12

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Trump's funding freeze sparks fear, opposition from local officials

Leaders are left with many questions about impacts of funding cuts

By Zoe Morgan and Emily Margaretten

Editor's Note: Update: On Wednesday, Jan. 29, President Donald Trump's administration announced it would reverse course and rescind a decision to freeze spending on federal grants. The move came after substantial outcry from leaders, both nationally and locally.

The Trump administration's announcement on Monday, Jan. 27, that it was implementing a federal spending freeze left local leaders with numerous questions and significant concerns about what it would mean for programs and services that rely on federal funding.

A Jan. 27 memo from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget announced that "federal agencies must temporarily pause all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all federal financial assistance." The order prompted confusion from national, state and local officials about the extent of the freeze, as well as opposition to the halt on federal funding.

The memo exempts Medicare and Social Security benefits, as well as "assistance received directly by individuals," but lacks details on what that would mean in practice.

Officials across the country raised concerns about the impact of putting federal funding on hold for early childhood programs, major infrastructure projects, health care and

housing programs that support low-income populations.

On Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 28, a federal judge in Washington, D.C. temporarily suspended the implementation of the spending freeze until Feb. 3.

With rapid changes and a lack of information, local elected officials, nonprofits and government entities were left with no shortage of questions on Tuesday afternoon.

Responses from local elected officials

Local elected leaders responded to the federal funding freeze, denouncing the sweeping implications of the order and promising to challenge it.

"This freeze on federal grants is illegal, immoral, and dangerous," said state Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park. "These funds support critical programs and jobs that people depend on every day. Halting them would put lives at risk, jeopardize major infrastructure projects, and hurt the economy by driving up unemployment."

Becker listed several public safety investments threatened by the freeze, such as firefighting, police, homeland security and anti-fentanyl programs. He also noted that grants for affordable housing, school meals and reproductive health care were at risk.

"The UC system alone faces \$6 billion in losses, with statewide impacts totaling \$50 billion in losses to our economy. No district — red or blue — would be spared from the harm," Becker said.

Similarly, state Assembly member Marc Berman, D-Menlo Park, criticized the halt in federal funding, describing it as part of the chaos and confusion of the Trump administration.

"While it is hard to determine the full impact due to the vague language of the order and contradictory statements that have come out of the White House today, the uncertainty it has created is already having a devastating impact on programs that support disaster victims, law enforcement programs, early childhood education, and so much more," Berman said.

Berman praised state Attorney General Rob Bonta for filing a lawsuit to block the order, a sentiment shared by other elected officials.

"Sensible budget-cutting requires discernment, not disregard for human suffering from halting essential public safety, health care, or disaster relief," said U.S. Rep. Sam Liccardo. "I will fight to push the President to abide by the 1974 Budget and Impoundment Control Act and our Constitution" he said.

Maggie A. Cornejo, executive director of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Activities League, said in a written statement that her organization will continue providing critical services to county youth.

"The Trump Administration's position to temporarily freeze federal funding will have a direct impact on SAL's budget," she said. "Despite that reality, we will continue to serve San Mateo's children and will not turn anyone

away. Now more than ever, we are going to need community support to assist us with our mission of being a lifeline for San Mateo County's youth."

Nonprofits and other groups

The federal funding freeze has also prompted alarm for various organizations that rely on federal funding to support their operations.

In Mountain View, the Community Services Agency released a statement noting that it relies on federal money to help fund its programs. CSA serves thousands of the most vulnerable residents in Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, providing food, direct financial assistance, case management and other services.

The nonprofit receives federal funding to support programs including its food and nutrition center, services for homeless individuals, homeless prevention services, senior case management and senior nutrition, Executive Director Tom Myers said.

"We are evaluating the potential impacts of this freeze on CSA's programs and will keep the community informed," he said in a statement. "Thank you for your continued support during this time."

Housing will take a hit from the funding freeze, according to YIMBY Action, a statewide nonprofit housing advocacy group that released a statement Tuesday.

"This unprecedented funding freeze, taking place in the midst of a historic nationwide housing

shortage, will have devastating consequences for every member of our society, especially those already facing housing insecurity," said Laura Foote, executive director of YIMBY Action.

YIMBY Action listed several programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that were at risk. This includes Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and Project-based Rental Assistance, which help house low-income families, seniors and people with disabilities.

It also noted that the freeze would likely impact grants that fund shelters, outreach and permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness, as well as grants that help individuals and families stay in their homes.

"Everyone who relies on affordable housing production is damaged by this arbitrary and capricious action, from the senior citizens living in subsidized housing to the corporations who rely on predictable contracts to deliver the homes we desperately need," Foote said. "At a time when housing costs are prohibitively expensive for so many, this is a devastating blow that will only make our economic conditions worse." ■

Almanac Editor Angela Swartz contributed to this story.

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New safety standards, oversight proposed for battery storage facilities after Moss Landing fire

By Bay City News Service

In the wake of the fire earlier this month at Vistra Corporation's Moss Landing Power Plant and Energy Storage Facility, the California Public Utilities Commission has proposed new standards for battery energy storage facilities.

In a statement on Tuesday, Jan. 28, the CPUC said also said it has deployed its Safety and Enforcement Division to the Moss Landing site last Wednesday to investigate the fire, which sparked on Jan. 16 and lasted several days, prompting evacuations and air quality concerns.

At issue is the adequacy and enforcement of a 2024 state law that requires facility owners and operators to create emergency response action plans in concert

with local agencies.

If the commission votes to approve the proposal at its March 13 meeting, it will set new standards for the maintenance and operation of battery facilities and increase oversight over emergency response action plans, according to the CPUC.

Battery energy storage systems are composed of hundreds of lithium-ion batteries stacked on racks in cargo containers and placed in neat arrays in a fenced-in area. Wind and solar systems generate electricity all day long. But when the sun sets and the wind settles, these battery storage units keep the power flowing while people cook dinner and run dishwashers.

The facilities are a vital component of Gov. Gavin Newsom's push for California to derive 100 percent of its electricity from

carbon-free sources by 2045.

Over the past several years, the deployment of battery storage systems has grown significantly.

According to the CPUC, California's current battery storage capacity is over 20% of its peak demand. The power capacity of battery storage systems has increased from 500 megawatts in 2019 to over 13,300 megawatts statewide in 2024.

The state's projected need for battery storage capacity is estimated at 52,000 megawatts by 2045. In 2024 alone, the state brought more than 7,000 megawatts online — the largest amount in a single year in California's history.

In 2024, the Solano County Board of Supervisors placed a moratorium on a permit request by Corby Energy, a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources,



Ruth Dusseault/Bay City News

The world's largest battery storage plant, Vistra Moss Landing Energy Storage Facility in Moss Landing, caught fire on Jan. 16 and led to the evacuation of up to 1,500 people.

for a new BESS near the PG&E Vacaville-Dixon substation. It was done in response to public outcry after a 2023 fire at the Valley Center Energy Storage

Facility in San Diego County. According to Solano County spokesperson Matthew Davis, that moratorium is still in effect. ■

MOUNTAIN LIONS

continued from page 5

lion was found, when CDFW and Midpen rangers arrived at the scene.

Hours before their arrival, Joanne made sure that the nearby community was aware of the cubs farther down the street and stood at the end of Grove Drive, asking people to stay clear of the area so as to not scare the cubs. Residents frequently walk their dogs, sometimes off lease in the cul-de-sac, she said.

CDFW have been monitoring the area and have not reported any sightings of an adult female searching or calling for her cubs, according to a press release by the Oakland Zoo. Due to the cubs' disoriented behavior and lack of a mother for two weeks, CDFW decided to capture them for evaluation.

'We are considering the best way to address these concerns, as we are a WUI community and want to respect the wildlife that shares our town.'

JUDITH HASKO,
PORTOLA VALLEY MAYOR

Young mountain lions may stay with their mother for as long as 26 months to learn necessary survival skills to live in the wild, according to The National Wildlife Federation. Because the rescued trio are still young, they lack the necessary skills to survive on their own.

Zoo veterinarians conducted a thorough health examination and determined that the cubs are healthy but thin.

According to the Oakland Zoo, Fern, Spruce and Thistle will not be staying at its facility. It is currently working with CDFW to find the cubs a forever home at an appropriate institution.

Increased threats to mountain lions

As human developments have increased, so has mountain lion mortality. The protected species is susceptible to death by vehicle strikes, human-caused wildfires, rat poison and permitted killings after accusations of preying on livestock and pets, according to the Center of Biological Diversity.

"As human development has significantly enhanced the wellbeing of our communities, it has simultaneously taken a toll on wildlife and their natural habitats. As we continue to thrive as a species, it is essential for coexistence that we also take action to ensure the survival of others," said Oakland

Zoo CEO Nik Dehejia. "Now more than ever, we must continually advocate for establishing wildlife corridors, such as the recent overpass in Los Angeles, to maintain the biodiversity of our Golden State."

A 2023 study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found that mortality risk is influenced by not only the merge of landscapes but also human mindsets.

Researchers from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of California, Davis concluded in the study that "mortality risk increased for mountain lions closer to rural development and decreased in areas with higher proportions of citizens voting to support environmental initiatives."

A mountain lion mortality map by UC Davis also determined that locally, Instate Highway 280, south of San Francisco, is one of the most dangerous areas for mountain lions. It revealed that every week, one or two lions were killed on California roads and highways between 2015 and 2022.

In 2023, a female mountain lion was killed after being struck by a vehicle along Highway 280 near Burlingame. CDFW suspected the dead lion was a mother to two mountain lion cubs, who were found, rescued and transported to the Oakland Zoo in November 2023.

Portola Valley residents are calling for increased signage around Portola Road and Alpine Road, warning drivers to slow down due to wildlife in the area.

"We are considering the best way to address these concerns, as we are a WUI community and want to respect the wildlife that shares our town," said Mayor Judith Hasko.

Supporting mountain lion conservation

Across California, several organizations are working toward protecting mountain lions. They are: CDFW, Bay Area Puma Project, Mountain Lion Foundation and Bay Area Cougar Action Team.

The BACAT was formed out of the Oakland Zoo and is an alliance between multiple agencies, local parks and researchers that aim to create a support system for mountain lions that can be used within and beyond California.

In Portola Valley, the rescue of the three cubs have already sparked ideas to fundraise for the Oakland Zoo within the community.

To support the Oakland Zoo's rescue and rehabilitation efforts, donate at oaklandzoo.org/give. ■

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Courtesy Oakland Zoo

A rescued mountain lion cub is being cared for at the Oakland Zoo.



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Reginald W. Rice

June 30, 1929 – November 29, 2024

If you live a good life according to God's plan, you get to live to the ripe old age of 95 and your last meal is Thanksgiving. At least that is how it was for Reginald W. Rice, Eagle Scout, Collegiate Athlete, Trusted Financial Advisor, Church Deacon, devoted husband and father, who left this earth on the morning of November 29, 2024.

Reg was born and raised in Wilmette, Illinois, a village on the outskirts of Chicago. His mother, Madge Rice, a nurse who served in France during WWI, was the second wife to his widowed father, Arthur Louis Rice, an engineer and publisher. Reg could not have been more proud of his high school, New Trier, and reveled in his days there as co-captain of the tennis team and playing football for the Trevians. During WWII, prior to graduating from high school, he spent the summer working on short staffed farms across the Midwest to help bring in the war time crops. His father, who died before Reg headed off to college, continued to be a moral force throughout his life. Reg started his college career at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he again played both football and tennis. After two years, he transferred to Cornell University, where he earned both his BA and MBA. At Cornell he played on both the Varsity Tennis and Football Teams, an unheard of accomplishment in the Ivy League. He stayed connected with the Cornell Football Alumni well into his later years.

After college, he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio and started working for Proctor and Gamble. In his free time, he earned his pilot's license and became part owner of a single engine Aeronca Champion tandem two-seater airplane. Most importantly, while in Cincinnati, he met his future wife, Alice, also an employee of Proctor and Gamble. They married in December 1954 and left Cincinnati the following day, on their honeymoon and for their future life in California. Alice gave birth to their first son, Stephen, ten months later and their second son, John, followed after five years. Upon settling in Menlo Park, Reg soon began working for Connecticut General Life Insurance Company. Reg and Alice were founding members of the Alpine Hills Tennis and Swimming Club, where Reg's athleticism continued to be displayed in club tennis tournaments. As the boys grew older, the family became avid backpackers, going on lengthy High Sierra trips in Yosemite and surrounding wilderness areas, an activity Reg and Alice continued when the boys left home. They regularly attended performances at TheatreWorks and also enjoyed playing duplicate bridge, both becoming Life Masters. Reg was actively involved in Boy Scouts with both his sons, who also became Eagle Scouts, as did his grandson, Chris.

Reg cared deeply about his clients and eventually left Connecticut General to do full service financial planning with Rollins Burdick Hunter, the firm from which he retired in 1989. After retiring, Reginald continued to serve his community by becoming an area Deacon with the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, now the Menlo Church, and serving as a Traffic Commissioner for the City of Menlo Park. In later years, he became a talented and studious water-color painter and enjoyed sharing his art at local art shows.

Reg is survived by his wife of nearly 70 years, Alice; his son Stephen and his three children Sarah, Jordan, and Lucas; his son John and his wife (a loving daughter-in-law) and their two children Christopher and Izabela.

He is certainly now with God, but will be sorely missed here on earth by all who knew him. A celebration of his life will be held on February 13, 2025 at 1:00 pm at the Menlo Church 950 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park, CA.

The Rice family expresses their heartfelt gratitude for donations made to: Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. (PVI) for Rosener House Adult Day Services. Address for checks: Peninsula Volunteers, Inc., 800 Middle Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Internet: www.lpvi.org

PAID OBITUARY



WOODSIDE MAYOR

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believes these issues will be resolved and improve safety and access for residents as well.

"It'll move the town forward in a way that honors the spirit of the citizen-led ballot [Measure A] as well as ultimately supports a small but vibrant and healthy business community," he added.

Merge with Portola Valley?

As the neighboring town of Portola Valley works its way through a financial crisis and staffing shortage, Woodside

is surprised to see a town so similar going through such a difficult time.

Both towns share the Woodside Fire Protection District's services, San Mateo County Sheriff's coverage, waste management, equestrian culture and ethos on preserving open space.

"I know the idea to merge Portola Valley is a concept that's been put out there by many but without significant financial incentives from the county and the state, I can't imagine the citizens of either town being too enthusiastic about all the

economic efficiencies and benefits relative to the perception of their lost identity as a separate community, said Dombkowski.

If residents are able to overcome the initial reaction about a merger and see the strength that both communities can bring to get more services for less cost, Dombkowski said it might be worth exploring a merger between the two towns.

Challenges in the new year

2025 is going to be busy as the town faces big transitions, but with "council engagement and the support of the community," Dombkowski believes that Woodside will make significant progress moving forward.

Seeing the results of the devastating fires in Southern California, Dombkowski pointed out that fire resiliency and home insurance are primary concerns in towns like Woodside.

He encourages residents to participate in the towns' Defensible Space Program which reimburses residents up to 50% of any costs to create defensible space and home hardening, up to a maximum of \$3,000.

"We're all in this together, and those are the happiest checks that we write every month at Town Hall on the fire prevention front," Dombkowski said.

The town also is continuously working toward addressing traffic, safety, infrastructure and supporting its equestrian heritage, he added. ■

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Judith Ellen Komoroske

December 1, 1941 – January 7, 2025

Judith Ellen Komoroske (née Roach) passed away peacefully on January 7, 2025 surrounded by family. Born December 1, 1941 (Hartford, CT), she was raised in Brighton-by-the-Sea, Old Lyme, the second child of Robert Nicholas and Frances Prendergast Roach. She graduated from Williams Memorial Institute in New London and the Duchesne Residence School (NYC). Her first employment was Time Inc., Photography Division. The Manhattan location of Duchesne enabled her to pursue academics alongside her interest in dance, moving from ballet to modern, in the style of Isadora Duncan and Doris Humphrey. She took classes in the studios of José Limón, Alwin Nikolais, Martha Graham, and others.



On November 16, 1963, she married US Navy Nuclear Submarine Officer, Alex B. Komoroske, Jr. Following life in the Navy, the couple settled in Menlo Park, CA where Judith took over a dance studio, expanded it to children and adults of all ages, and incorporated music and poetry representing a wide variety of genres. Judith's classes left an indelible mark on her students—not least, youth in transition to adulthood (e.g., "Tuesday Girls"). At this time, she also formed the Creative Dance Workshop, a dance troupe of select students who regularly performed her choreographies in the Bay Area. In collaboration with close friend and Stanford Drama Department instructor, Marianne Crowder, the Creative Dance Workshop provided the principal dancers for a film documentary of previously unrecorded Renaissance court dances. For her numerous important contributions to the Bay Area art scene, Judith was named Silicon Valley Arts Laureate. She was a multi-faceted artist who also leaves behind a rich cache of poetry, paintings, and photography.

She is survived by her husband, Alex, two siblings, Susan Kelly (m. Peter Kelly) and Robert Roach Jr. ("Nick" m. Linda Roach [deceased] and Fran Gammell Roach); three daughters, Clare Rothschild (m. Douglas Rothschild), Kirsten Komoroske, and Jessica Solomon (m. Rob Solomon); and six grandchildren, Declan Schriever (m. Paulette McCroskey), Maxwell Rothschild, Luke Rothschild (m. Madison James), Samson Solomon, Joshua Solomon, and Sophia Solomon. A private funeral mass will be followed later this year by a celebration of life event. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Dr. Betof Warner Research Fund at Stanford University (<https://give.stanford.edu/med/fund?kwoDCFilter=KDC-MED0013&kwoDCPreselect=KDC-MED0013>) or by check payable to Stanford University with "Dr. Betof Warner Research Fund in memory of Judith Komoroske" indicated on the memo line, mailed to Development Services, P.O. Box 20466, Stanford, CA 94309.

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Manager's Corner



Sergio Ramirez
General Manager

As we enter a new year, I'd like to recognize the hard working and dedicated staff at West Bay Sanitary District (District). I see in my daily interactions that they care about their impact on the community and making a difference by providing exceptional service to Atherton, East Palo Alto, Los Altos Hills, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Mateo County, a small portion of Santa Clara County, and the Town of Woodside. We pride ourselves on having one of the best response times to a service request in the Bay Area and 98% customer satisfaction. Our service crews respond to service requests within twenty minutes of receiving a call and our administrative staff has worked with homeowners and contractors on the more efficient automated (and easy to use) on-line permitting system.

Most recently, the District received recognition from the California Water Environment Association by awarding the District with the coveted "Collection System of the Year" award. The award recognizes outstanding preventative maintenance programs, minimal sewer spills, and an excellent "no loss time due to accidents" history. The District's current experience modification (X-Mod) factor used to rate workers' compensation cost

is one of the lowest in the State. I am very proud of our staff and the way in which they serve the community.

An exciting project we will be focusing on in 2025 is the new Bayfront Recycled Water Facility behind Bedwell Bayfront Park. The new facility will bring recycled water to the Menlo Park and Atherton area and eventually to the Menlo Park Government Center, Burgess Park, as well as East Palo Alto through the Willow Village project. The District broke ground in August 2024 by demolishing the Menlo Park Sanitary District treatment facility which was constructed in the 1940's and retired in the early 1980's. Demolishing the old facility gives way to constructing a one million gallons per day reclamation water facility and distribution system. The new facility will take raw wastewater and convert it to Title XXII clean and clear reusable water for irrigation, cooling towers, and commercial toilet flushing. We are excited to offer this great resource to the community.

We are busy working on many other infrastructure projects as part of our 10-year Master Plan. For more information on reclaimed water and other projects, please visit our website at www.westbaysanitary.org We look forward to another great year and hope the same for our community!



SAFETY FIRST!

The District employees have surpassed seven years without a lost time accident which represents one of the lowest rates of on-the-job injuries in the wastewater and public works industries. Employees have worked over 62,400 hours without a lost time accident. As a result of working year after year without a lost time accident, the District has realized savings in insurance contributions to the California Sanitation Risk Management Authority. The District's proactive safety program is an essential part of effective risk management and provides savings in insurance premiums, improved morale, increased productivity, employee wellbeing, and may reduce equipment and vehicle repair costs.



Trench Safety Training

LENDING A HELPING HAND

The District is in three Interagency Service agreements for the Operations and Maintenance of sanitary sewer systems. Since 2014 staff have been successfully working with the Town of Woodside and Town of Los Altos Hills to inspect and clean the towns' sewer systems. Staff recommends repairs and are added to the towns' Capital Improvement Projects according to the deficiencies found by the Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Crews. The District's Pump Crew also maintains the publicly owned sewer lift stations for the towns. As of August 1, 2024, the District entered its third interagency agreement with the City of East Palo Alto to assist in maintaining their subsidiary sanitary district, the East Palo Alto Sanitary District (EPASD). District maintenance crews will Hydro Jet and CCTV inspect the sanitary sewer mainlines just as they do for the other two contracts. This agreement includes 24-hour lateral service call response; as well, as Underground Service Alert (USA) utility marking. All three agreements are intended to provide the same quality service West Bay Sanitary District customers have been receiving since the District was formed in 1902.



Inspecting Manhole Pipeline Access while Jetting

IMPROVING THE PROCESS

Our regional wastewater treatment plant, Silicon Valley Clean Water (SVCW) is developing a Nutrient Removal project mandated by the California State Water Board. In addition to the solids, organics, and pathogen removal already required by the Water Board, SVCW will soon need to reduce the amount of nitrogen discharged into the bay by 60%. If nutrients are not treated, the discharge of nitrogen into the bay can cause algal blooms, kill fish, increase microbes and be harmful to human health and aquatic plants and animals. The new mandate will require SVCW to make a significant investment in the treatment process that could cost nearly \$100 million or beyond. The nutrients removal project will need to be constructed by 2034. SVCW is currently in the planning phase for the project and is looking for ways to reduce the cost while still meeting the regulatory requirement.

DISTRICT PROJECTS

Bayfront Recycled Water Facility Project will include a recycled water facility, recycled water distribution pipeline, and influent wastewater pumping station. The District's consultant, Woodard & Curran, is managing the construction. The project began in August 2024 with a completion date in early 2027.



Bayfront Recycled Water Facility

Flow Equalization and Resource Recovery Facility Levee Improvements Project provides sea rise flood protection of the District's Flow Equalization and Resource Recovery Facility (FERRF). Improvements include both sheet pile and nature-based adaptation measures, with a living shoreline to combat rising sea levels. The project raises the levee from its current elevation to fifteen feet, four feet above the FEMA eleven-foot flood elevation.

Bayfront Park Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project is located at the intersection of Marsh Road and Bayfront Expressway at Bedwell Bayfront Park. It is upsizing trunk sewer pipelines for the benefit of a future influent pump station, replacing portions of the 30-inch and 36-inch sewer main along Bayfront Expressway at the front of the park entrance with a 42-inch pipeline to allow for future capacity, and installing recycled water pipe for future use.

Avy Altschul Pump Station Project is located on Los Lomitas Elementary School District property in a new easement to provide 60,000 gallons per day of additional wastewater to the Sharon Heights Recycled Water Facility for treatment, used for irrigation.

Willow Road Pump Station & Stowe Lane Pump Station Projects are modernizing two of the District's oldest pump stations. This includes features such as new pumps and valves, modern telemetry alarm communication, fall protection access hatches, ventilation for updated odor control, and security perimeter fencing.

Pump Stations Telemetry System Project will replace the District's phone line telemetry system to monitor the eleven publicly owned pump stations. The District's telemetry system is vital to monitoring and operating the District's pump stations. The new system will remove outdated telephone lines and be cloud based, bringing the system to the 21st century.

Point Repair Phase 1 & 2

This project includes rehabilitation and replacement of sanitary sewer mains by open trench construction, pipe bursting, pipe patches, and cured-in-place pipe at 100 locations in the City of Menlo Park, Town of Atherton, and unincorporated areas in San Mateo County. The project replaces old pipeline with root intrusion, cracks, and voids. Some pipelines have been in the ground for over 90 years.



Contractor Replacing Old Brick Manhole with Concrete Manhole



FARMWORKERS

continued from page 1

Pedro Romero Perez, a migrant farm worker from Oaxaca, Mexico, is a survivor of the shooting and has become a dedicated accordion player while studying in the music program. Perez's older brother, Jose, was killed in the shooting.

ALAS also offers a wide range of free mental health services to individuals, couples, and groups within the community they serve, many of which are farmworkers. All clinicians are English and Spanish-speaking, and the work is holistic and art-centered, said Winsor Kincade, a community mental health technician at ALAS. Kincade uses they/them pronouns.

Before the shooting took place, Kincade and their colleague, Wendy Rubio, had already built strong relationships with the farm worker community as members of a food distribution program

'The county and city and ALAS have done a lot to improve conditions, but I fear that it will be even harder because people are going into the shadows.'

RAY MUELLER,
SAN MATEO COUNTY SUPERVISOR

and, later, as mental health clinicians who offered group therapy sessions to workers.

"It sort of opened up the door, I think, for folks to be even willing to engage with the community mental health clinician because they knew us as people first," said Kincade.

After the shooting, Kincade and Rubio began a group for the survivors, witnesses, and friends and families of the

workers who had been killed. "Wendy and I, as clinicians, were also grieving alongside the community," said Kincade. "We were ... all learning together, all kind of stumbling through the grief together. And that group is still ongoing."

At Friday's vigil, some speakers invoked the words of Cesar Chavez and Martin Luther King Jr. to emphasize community solidarity. Other leaders expressed anger that the lives of workers who had sought a better life ended in such cruel acts of violence.

"What war was waged against us when we can only return to our country in a box?" said former East Palo Alto Mayor Antonio López in a spoken poem.

After photos of the "deplorable" housing conditions where victims lived with their families circulated on X following the shooting, city and county officials vowed to expand

See **FARMWORKERS**, page 15



Photos by Anna Hoch-Kenney
Clockwise from top left: San Mateo County Supervisor Ray Mueller speaks at a remembrance vigil hosted by ALAS in Half Moon Bay on Jan. 24. Members of the Grupo Campo Media Luna, an accordion and guitar music therapy program for Coastside farmworkers, perform at the remembrance vigil. Mariachi Nueva Generación performs during the remembrance vigil. A guitar player watches the audience from off stage after performing with Grupo Campo Media Luna. Candles burn on an altar in front of the ALAS office in downtown Half Moon Bay.

FARMWORKERS

continued from page 14

affordable housing in the area. While one housing development for farmworkers is expected to open in Half Moon Bay in May, another proposed development — 555 Kelly Ave. — has faced delays due to logistical hurdles and waning community support for the project. “When the shooting happened, everybody was like, yes, they don’t deserve that,” Bazán said. “But as soon as we started working towards building something, a lot of people of the community tried to shut it up. They said, ‘No, this is not the right place.’ But nobody’s giving us any other alternatives.”

As the vigil concluded, hundreds of community members milled to *mariachi* music, ate *tamales*, and drank *atole*, a sweet hot drink made from corn and popular in Mexico. Missing from the crowd, though, were some undocumented farmworkers who were too afraid to come to the event in light of President Donald Trump’s deportation policies.

“The county and city and ALAS have done a lot to improve conditions, but I fear that it will be even harder because people are going into the shadows,” said San Mateo County Supervisor Ray Mueller, who vowed to continue to provide services to all county residents.

“We need to organize,” he added. ■

*Email Editorial Intern
Hannah Bensen at hbensen@almanacnews.com.*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

continued from page 6

All Five welcomes new interim executive director

All Five in Menlo Park welcomed Interim Executive Director Helen Luis while the school continues to look for a permanent executive director. Luis has worked in early childhood education for about thirty years and previously served as All Five’s assistant director from 2019-20. She has also been working with the school to provide guidance in its process of being accredited under the National Association of the Education of Young Children.

All Five asks for the input of stakeholders during its search for a permanent executive director.

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi



Helen Luis

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. M-293673

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): WAVES OF GRIEF COLLECTIVE 1259 El Camino Real, Unit 1118 Menlo Park, CA 94025 FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON: 03/13/2023 REGISTRANT’S NAME(S): OCEANFLOW COLLECTIVE 1259 El Camino Real, Unit 1118 Menlo Park, CA 94025 THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY A Corporation. This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on January 03 2025. (ALM Jan 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2025)

GREEN WHALE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299201

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) GREEN WHALE , located at 123 Escalona Ave, EL GRANADA, CA 94018. Mailing Address: PO BOX 1541 EL GRANADA, CA 94018. Registered owner(s): NICHOLAS GOLDSWORTHY PO BOX 1541 EL GRANADA, CA 94018 This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 06, 2024. (ALM Jan 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7, 2025)

STUDIO BELMONT BELMONT HARDWARE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299423

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) STUDIO BELMONT , 2.) BELMONT HARDWARE , located at 940 El Camino Real, Belmont, CA 94002. Registered owner(s): COMPLETE BALDWIN BRASS CENTER OF CALIFORNIA 940 El Camino Real Belmont, CA 94002 State of Incorporation/Organization: CA This business is conducted by: a Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 02, 2025. (ALM Jan 24, 31, Feb 7 and 14, 2025)

BONOMI CABINETS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299322

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) MARK BONOMI , located at 2913 SHERWOOD DRIVE, SAN CARLOS, CA 94070. Registered owner(s): MARK EUGENE BONOMI 2913 SHERWOOD DRIVE SAN CARLOS, CA 94070 This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/01/2011. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 19, 2024. (ALM Jan 31, Feb 7, 14 and 21, 2025)

BLUE SEAL POTTERY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299564

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) BLUE SEAL POTTERY , located at 1220 Peralta Road, Pacifica, CA 94044. Registered owner(s): ROBERT CHARLES MELHORN 1220 Peralta Road Pacifica, CA 94044 This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/18/2018.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 17, 2025. (ALM Jan 31, Feb 7, 14 and 21, 2025)

MONTESSORI@HOME FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299436

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) MONTESSORI@HOME , located at 413 Miramontes Ave., Half Moon Bay, CA 94019. Registered owner(s): WENDY JOHNSON ROSSELL 413 Miramontes Ave. Half Moon Bay, CA 94019 This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 03, 2025. (ALM Jan 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7, 2025)

BECK BROS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299467

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) BECK BROS , located at 1221 S El Camino Real #111, San Mateo, CA 94402. Registered owner(s): 1221 S EL CAMINO REAL LLC 1221 S El Camino Real #111 San Mateo, CA 94402 State of Incorporation/Organization: CA This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/07/2017. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 07, 2025. (ALM Jan 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7, 2025)

SPIFFY POTTERY STUDIO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299486

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) SPIFFY POTTERY STUDIO , located at 1919 Menalto Ave , Menlo Park, CA 94025. Mailing Address: PO BOX 368 Palo Alto, CA 94302. Registered owner(s): THE SPIFFY STUDIO LLC PO BOX 368 Palo Alto, CA 94302 State of Incorporation/Organization: CA This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/09/2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 09, 2025. (ALM Jan 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7, 2025)

GIDEON SYSTEMS GIDEON SYSTEMS AI FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299509

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) GIDEON SYSTEMS , 2.) GIDEON SYSTEMS AI , located at 25 Amherst Ct, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Registered owner(s): JERVIS E WILLIAMS II 25 Amherst Ct Menlo Park, CA 94025 This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/06/2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 10, 2025. (ALM Jan 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7, 2025)

PAROLE PORTFOLIO SPECIALISTS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299458

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) PAROLE PORTFOLIO SPECIALISTS , located at 50 Dorchester Dr, Daly City, CA 94015. Registered owner(s): AARON JEREMY LOWERS 50 Dorchester Dr Daly City CA 94015 This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/01/2024.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 07, 2025. (ALM Jan 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7, 2025)

CALLINGS.AI FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299417

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) CALLINGS.AI , located at 8 Rockwood Ct, San Mateo, CA 94403. Registered owner(s): JOBHUNTERS INC. 8 Rockwood Ct San Mateo, CA 94403 State of Incorporation/Organization: DE This business is conducted by: a Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 31, 2024. (ALM Jan 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2025)

SPHYNX CONSULTING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299391

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) SPHYNX CONSULTING , located at 188 Stone Pine Lane, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Registered owner(s): BLANKA SKUBNIK 188 Stone Pine Lane Menlo Park, CA 94025 DOUGLAS SCOTT PHILLIPS 188 Stone Pine Lane Menlo Park, CA 94025 This business is conducted by: a Married Couple. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/02/2015. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 27, 2024. (ALM Jan 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2025)

LATINMEX RESEARCH CONSULTANTS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299403

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) LATINMEX RESEARCH CONSULTANTS , located at 274 Redwood Shores Parkway PMB 737, Redwood City, CA 94065. Registered owner(s): EULALIO R SEGOVIA 274 Redwood Shores Parkway PMB 737 Redwood City CA 94065 This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 27, 2024. (ALM Jan 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2025)

DETAILED-NOTARY ELITE INK NOTARY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299394

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) DETAILED-NOTARY , 2.) ELITE INK NOTARY , located at 1422 Bellevue Avenue Apt 100, Burlingame, CA 94010. Registered owner(s): TIFINI LYNNE VEGA 1422 Bellevue Avenue, Apt 100 Burlingame, CA 94010 This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on January 8, 2024. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 27, 2024. (ALM Jan 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2025)

HAS FUND MANAGEMENT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-299384

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 1.) HAS FUND MANAGEMENT , located at 104 MESA VERDE WAY, SAN CARLOS, CA 94070. Registered owner(s): APRIL S. CARLSON 104 MESA VERDE WAY SAN CARLOS, CA 94070 THOMAS W. STEUBER 600 MCCORMICK STREET, SUITE A SAN LEANDRO, CA 94577 This business is conducted by: a General Partnership. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s)

listed above. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 26, 2024. (ALM Jan 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Case No.: 25-CIV-00188 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Lauren Elizabeth Peterson filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: LAUREN ELIZABETH PETERSON to LAUREN PADILLA STEVENS 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: March 17, 2025, 9:00am, Southern Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. 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: ALMANAC Date: January 14, 2025 Hon. Stephanie G. Garratt JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (ALM Jan 24, 31, Feb 7 and 14, 2025)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

FREDERICK BRUCE THIEMANN Case No.: PRO00084 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of FREDERICK BRUCE THIEMANN. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: FREDERICK DONALD THIEMANN in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.

The Petition for Probate requests that: FREDERICK DONALD THIEMANN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent’s will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. A HEARING on the petition will be held on March 10 2025 at 9:00 am in Dept. 3 of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

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

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

Petitioner in Pro Per: Frederick Donald Thiemann 850 Piedmont Way Redwood City, CA 94062 650-814-6114 (ALM Jan 31, Feb 7 and 14, 2025)

**To place a legal notice visit
AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/**

Ask a Master Gardener: Before you spray for pests, find out which pesticides are now restricted

By UC Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County

Starting Jan. 1, some insecticide ingredients commonly used to treat ornamental plants, trees, turf and other plants will no longer be available to buy off the shelf in California. Neonicotinoid, a class of pesticides found in more than 100 insecticide products, will no longer be allowed for sale at retail nurseries and garden centers under a new set of laws aimed at protecting birds, bees, aquatic insects and humans from their potential harmful impacts.

This class of pesticides will only be available for sale at licensed pest control dealers and limited for use by licensed professionals. The insecticide imidacloprid and the related active ingredients acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, and thiamethoxam, belong to the neonicotinoids group. To find out whether you may have insecticides on your shelf that are now prohibited, look for these active ingredients, or check the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's list of neonicotinoid products.

For more information about these restricted pesticides, the University of California's Integrated Pest Management (UC IPM) is hosting a free webinar on Jan. 16 that will cover which ingredients have been restricted and how to protect



Courtesy Getty Images

pollinators and wildlife with the new laws that just came into effect in California.

The program is part of the group's monthly webinars about pest identification, prevention and management around the home, garden and landscape.

The webinar is free, but advanced registration is required. All webinars will be recorded and posted to their YouTube channel.

Your gardening questions answered

Why are the leaves on my citrus tree turning yellow?

While there are several possible causes for yellow citrus leaves, the most likely one in winter/early spring is that citrus roots do not absorb nitrogen

efficiently from cold, wet soils. There may be adequate nitrogen in the soil, but the roots aren't able to take it up. However, if the tree doesn't green up when the weather warms, give it some nitrogen fertilizer, up to 1 pound of nitrogen per year for a mature, full-size tree. Dwarf trees or ones in containers require less fertilizer, a 1/2 pound of nitrogen or less. Do not overfertilize since that may cause other problems.

January gardening tips

Prune (some) California native plants

If your landscape includes California native plants, you may wonder if you should prune them. It depends. Some

don't respond well to shaping or shearing to control size. But they do like careful pruning at the proper time, which is when they are dormant. That could be either summer or mid-winter. Natives that do well with winter trimming include California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*), and salvia species. California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*) and lilac verbena (*Verbena lilacina*) can be cut almost to the ground. But wait until summer for grasses and broadleaf evergreen shrubs and trees.

Plant blueberries for spring harvest

The best time to plant blueberries is from late fall to winter, using 2- to 3-year-old plants. Varieties that do well in Santa Clara County include Southern Highbush and Northern Highbush. These varieties bloom from late January to March, with their flowers turning into berries from late May to early September.

January gardening events

Blueberries require acidic soil with a pH between 4.5 and 6.5. If you have clay soil, amend it with organic matter, preferably peat moss, and add sulfur during the wet season to help maintain acidic soil conditions. Oregon State University has useful information on acidifying soil for blueberries.

INFORMATION

Do you have a gardening question? The UC Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County can help. Our volunteers are part of the University of California's Cooperative Extension program and we are trained to use research-based information to educate our fellow residents on sustainable gardening and landscaping practices specific to our area. Our monthly "Ask a Master Gardener" column will answer your questions and offer tips. Have a question? Email lifestyle@embarcaderopublishing.com.

New branch and leaf growth starts after berry harvest and continues until fall colors appear from September to November. Not all blueberry varieties are deciduous; some drop their leaves in late November or December. The plants go dormant from December to January. Blueberries need annual pruning to maintain the right balance of new and previous season growth. If you want to increase your blueberry crop, you're in luck! We're offering a hands-on workshop on blueberry (and rose) pruning on Feb. 1 at our Palo Alto Demonstration Center. Bring your pruning tools.

For more information on successfully growing blueberries, visit mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu. ■

HOUSING ELEMENT

continued from page 5

too few SB 9 projects have been built by the middle of the current housing element cycle.

In the Jan. 8 staff report, town planning staff wrote that the town currently anticipates that its multifamily overlays on school and open space sites throughout the town will yield 96 units, including 57 very low-income housing units.

Bendix said that since the required revisions to the housing element were fairly minor, she will be presenting the updated housing element to the town's Planning Commission at its Jan. 29 meeting.

"Ideally, the Planning Commission will be able to review changes next week and make a recommendation so that the item can be introduced to the City Council at their February meeting," Bendix told this news organization.

Bendix said that since the adjustments to the housing element will require making changes to the town's zoning ordinances, two council meetings will likely be required before the town's housing plans can be resubmitted to the state for certification. If the council reviews the plans in February, the housing element could be resubmitted at its regular March meeting.

"That would be the fastest that we could get (council) approval and turn it around and send it back to the state," she said at the Jan. 8 meeting.

Previously, Atherton has had several housing plan drafts rejected by the state. The housing element update process has involved the City Council going back to the drawing board multiple times after facing pushback from residents on the locations chosen for multifamily housing. ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.



Magali Gauthier

Ralph Robinson, an assistant planner in Atherton's Planning Department, speaks with residents about the town's state housing requirement at a community meeting in Jennings Pavilion at Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton in 2022.



Eleanor Raab



Eleanor Raab

Many of the recipes that Sohrab Molavi uses come from previous owner Gerry Stagi. He also uses some of his own recipes, as well as recipes he learned in culinary school.

Gerry's Cakes has been selling cakes, cookies and other pastries for over 30 years at 1141 Chestnut St.

GERRY'S CAKES

continued from page 5

in Menlo Park, but the rent is so high everywhere. There is a lot of empty space but it is hard to afford to move to a new location."

Molavi bought the bakery from previous owner Vicki Waters in 2010 after working as a bakery employee at the location for three months. He had

honed his pastry craft as a student at the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco, and subsequently worked at several bakeries around California and Washington before settling at Gerry's Cakes.

Molavi has owned the Gerry's Cakes business for 15 years, but the recipes for the Gerry's Cakes cupcakes, cakes and cookies have been a common feature of

Menlo Park birthdays, graduations and other special events for nearly 70 years. Many of the recipes that Molavi uses for his pastries were passed down to him by former Gerry's Cakes owner Gerry Stagi, who founded the business at 1141 Chestnut St. in 1992.

Stagi learned the recipes from his father John Stagi, who operated Pink Pastry bakery on

Santa Cruz Avenue from 1957 to 1986.

"I still continue to use some of Gerry's recipes because people got used to these recipes," said Moldavi. He also uses some of his own recipes and ones that he learned at culinary school.

Moldavi doesn't know what will come next for his business, and said that there is a high likelihood that he will have to

close his doors. Ultimately, he is grateful to the Menlo Park community for patronizing his business for 15 years.

"It has been an honor to serve this Menlo Park neighborhood," he said. "My deepest gratitude to the people who were with us for 15 years and before." ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.

League of Women Voters to host informational session on March special election

Online event is on Thursday, Feb. 6

By Eleanor Raab

The League of Women Voters of North and Central San Mateo County will host a nonpartisan informational session on pros and cons of the upcoming March 4 special election on Thursday, Feb. 6, from 6-7 p.m. on Zoom.

At the March 4 special election, San Mateo County

residents will cast their votes on Measure A. The measure, if passed by voters, would amend the county charter to give county supervisors the authority to remove the sheriff "for cause" with a four-fifths vote.

According to the listing for the event, the forum will include an impartial overview of the arguments in favor of and against Measure

A from sources not limited to the official voter information guide in order to help the community better understand the measure and the events that led to the special election being called.

The LWV has also prepared a nonpartisan pros and cons document that can be viewed online at tinyurl.com/LWVMeasureAProsandCons. The pros and cons

presentation will be repeated in person at Half Moon Bay Brewing Company on Thursday, Feb. 13, as part of the brewery's "Brews and Views" community education series.

Learn more and register for the Feb. 6 event at tinyurl.com/LWVMeasureAEvent. ■

Email Staff Writer Eleanor Raab at eraab@almanacnews.com.

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Brian Tak Hong Guan, 57, of Palo Alto, a long-time practitioner of Tai Chi, guitar and ukelele player and who pursued passion projects such as developing open source software for designing and fabricating 3-D printed musical instruments died on Dec. 10, 2024.

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

EDUCATORS

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Lingering impacts of pandemic

The most common impact of the COVID-19 pandemic site leaders reported was an increase in challenging behaviors among children. Some 66% of directors selected this option, along with 39% of family child care providers. A lag in children's development was also commonly noted among directors (45%), but not FCC providers (16%).

The report recommends strategies to help educators respond

to difficult classroom behaviors with professional learning opportunities, resources and programs for work-related stress.

"A well-supported, well-compensated workforce is foundational to a high-quality early education system," said Jennifer Mayman, Coordinator for the

San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council, in a prepared statement.

View the full report at tinyurl.com/smchildcare2025. ■

Email Staff Writer Jennifer Yoshikoshi at jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.



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Employment

The Almanac offers employment advertising.

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Visit AlmanacNews.com/employment_ads/.

For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.

Stop charging youth as adults

By Rebecca Kieler and Beth von Emster

GUEST OPINION

A juvenile's lengthy prosecution by the District Attorney concluded Jan. 16 in a case that garnered significant media attention. The case raised serious questions about how San Mateo County juveniles are prosecuted.

Of primary concern was the DA's doomed effort to transfer this youth to the adult criminal legal system. As the judge detailed in denying the DA's transfer petition, this case was utterly inappropriate for the adult system — among other factors, the youth had no prior contact with the criminal legal system, was a model resident at the youth detention center, and had the robust support of a loving family and extensive friend network. The DA publicly acknowledged that the youth acted without intent to

cause harm.

The DA has tried eight times to transfer kids to adult court and, to date, has lost seven of those attempts. Those failed actions cause significant trauma for everyone involved — most importantly for the victim's family, whose expectations were raised for an outcome that could never realistically be achieved. The young defendant, his family, and the community at large also have suffered because of these ill-conceived attempts.

Beyond the emotional toll, each of these seven failed petitions has imposed enormous costs on the San Mateo County taxpayer for court time, judges, court staff, DA's Office, Probation Department, and defense counsel, among other expenditures.

Youth with criminal charges

belong in a juvenile court system created for them rather than the adult legal system. The data overwhelmingly shows that youth kept in juvenile court have much better outcomes — they are more likely to succeed in their rehabilitation and stay out of legal trouble upon release than kids transferred to the adult system. Reducing recidivism benefits everyone in our community and improves the public safety we all want.

Rest assured that the juvenile system imposes robust consequences for conduct that is found to violate the law. This youth, for example, spent over two years behind bars and continues to serve time on home confinement, electronic monitoring, and probation.

DA Wagstaffe is an elected official whose management of cases should reflect the values of the community. Please join us in demanding that the

DA stop filing petitions for transfers from juvenile to adult court by writing, calling his office, or signing our petition. Transfer filings are wasteful and cause deep harm to the people involved on all sides. Justice is better served by pouring those wasted resources into meaningful victims' services and proven rehabilitation programs. By doing so, San Mateo County can focus on creating a legal system that prioritizes true rehabilitation and community well-being over well-documented failed punitive measures.

"It's easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." - Fredrick Douglas ■

Rebecca Kieler and Beth von Emster are co-founders of In Our Care SMC, a community organization that supports our youth in the legal system and works to support a just and rehabilitative juvenile system.

What's on your mind?

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

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 2345 Yale Street, 1st floor, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

Questions? Email editor@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6529.

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Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



JAZZ STATION KCSM, NOW WITH ITS OWN DOCUMENTARY FILM, ENDURES



Courtesy Danny Monico

Host Sonny Buxton, left, and jazz vocalist Tiffany Austin are featured in a documentary about Peninsula radio station KCSM.

Courtesy Brandon Roots

By Peter Canavese

Bay Area residents have many good reasons to take pride in their home, and at least one of those reasons still resides on the radio. The new documentary “KCSM 91.1: The Bay Area’s Jazz Station to the World” — premiering soon at SF Indiefest — pays warm tribute to a local institution and the musical form it curates: America’s only original art form, jazz.

Directors Wade Shields, Jasmine Wang and Danny Monico begin by attempting to define jazz through the expertise of KCSM staffers before settling into a portrait of the station, past and present. “Jazz in the Afternoon” host Dick Conte — one of the many on-air talents to also play jazz in the community — succinctly describes the station as “a full-time jazz, commercial-free format,” while former KCSM program director Alisa Clancy credibly claims that the station holds “the largest jazz-radio library in the world.”

The film takes us into that library and the studios of the non-profit, listener-supported jazz destination for local jazz lovers and those around the world who can now hear the 24-7 commercial-free content via streaming. The station’s home at the College of San Mateo serves as a constant reminder to appeal to and educate the next generations of jazz

listeners, some of whom serve as interns (one might say the young man named Coltrane was born to it).

In addition to extensive interviews with staffers, the film weaves in listener testimonials. Certainly, Shields sees the present and future value of the KCSM, as he recently told this publication. “(KCSM host) Rachelle Rabin put it in the film of we’re in this A.I. algorithm world where everything is being fed to us ... there is a human element that’s always been there in taste-making and curation that should feed the culture. And I think that as everything pops up on our phone, day by day, people will get more and more frustrated with ... the same song popping up every hour,” Shields said. “The station seems aware of these challenges and ... they are uniquely positioned to be able to adapt to that.”

The film tells the history of the station, which “Mid Day Jazz” and “American Jazz Countdown” host Clifford Brown Jr. remembers well, as he was one of the prime movers of KCSM into its all-jazz format. “I was very fortunate to get to play that role. They brought me aboard the station in 1985, and there were two jazz shows and three jazz announcers. A gentleman named Rod Flores, who did a show called “Mid Day Jazz,” which I think aired from about 10 until 2, 10 to 3. And then there was “Jazz

After Hours,” which was a late-night jazz program, and I did 3 days, and a gentleman named Big John Howard did the other 3 days. Then in 1986, I was named program director, and we began a very slow transition to becoming a fulltime jazz station. It wasn’t an overnight format change as you often see.”

For Brown, jazz is the family business, his father being a celebrated jazz trumpeter and his mother the founder of the Clifford Brown Jazz Foundation. “I was only 6 months old when my dad passed. So I did not get to know him in the traditional sense of you grow up with a parent,” Brown recalled. “There’s pictures of me with him when I was young, but I really got to know him more from a search through his music, through his friends, which were some of the greatest musicians in the world, and through my family members.”

Brown told me that his father’s recordings demonstrated to him “that he had a lot of integrity. I mean, you can hear that in his playing, whether he’s doing something that’s a little more ‘accessible’ to the general public, like the “Clifford Brown with Strings” album, or he’s playing some hard bop. You can just hear the integrity in his solos. I also think there was a lot of compassion and depth to my dad because of what I hear in his music — and a whole lot of joy.”

Brown continues to bring the joy through his work for the station and the community: “My mother particularly raised me to understand the importance of giving back. And the easiest way to give back is find the things that you’re most passionate about and then find an underserved audience, and then share that with them. So that’s what we’ve done, from the Clifford Brown Jazz Foundation, which had youth outreach programs and introduced itty bitty kids — 3, 4 year olds — to jazz and rhythm, all the way to having training classes for adults and an instrument loan program for elementary, junior high, and high school programs...”

“The educational portion of jazz is something that both of my parents believed very strongly in. And I’ve carried it on now in serving on the board of directors of the California Jazz Conservatory, the Community Music Center, the Jazz School over in Berkeley ... I also teach now over at Santa Clara University. So it’s a labor of love. Something I really, really enjoy.” Above all, the documentary captures the breathtaking knowledge brought to bear by its on-air talent, who share the stories of jazz artists along with deep cuts of their music.

Like the station the film profiles, which airs a diverse selection of historic and freshly minted music, Shields took care to include jazz of today, showcasing

an exclusive jazz vocal performance by Tiffany Austin. “She just seemed to be a perfect encapsulation, as well as speaking into the African American experience,” Shields said, while pointing out that Austin is a graduate of UC Berkeley School of Law. “She knows the struggle (that) jazz is not necessarily enough to sustain everyone right now. So she just seemed to provide such a crucial viewpoint as well as ... obviously, the film talks a lot about the history. We wanted to step into ‘Where’s the here and now?’ So I think that’s what Tiffany also represents, and, obviously, she’s an amazing singer.” ■

Peter Canavese is a freelance movie critic and author of the website Groucho Reviews. You can reach him at GrouchoReviews@aol.com.

“KCSM 91.1: The Bay Area’s Jazz Station to the World” will be available for streaming via SF Indiefest beginning Feb. 6 at sfindie2025.eventive.org/welcome. Streaming admission is \$10. The festival will also screen the film Feb. 8, 6:45 p.m., at the Roxie Theater, 3117 16th St., San Francisco, with filmmakers in attendance. Tickets are \$17 per person. For more information, visit sfindie2025.eventive.org.

African American Composer Initiative honors musical traditions

The group holds its 14th annual benefit concert at East Palo Alto's Eastside College Preparatory School

By Ashwini Gangal

The endeavor to challenge the limiting way in which music history is appraised, to promote diversity in music and to bring the work of African American composers, both living and deceased, back into popular imagination is no easy feat.

For the team that runs the African American Composer Initiative (AACI), it is nothing short of a mission, one they have been devoted to since the initiative was co-founded in 2010, by Josephine "Jodi" Gandolfi, retired Judge LaDoris Cordell and Deanne Tucker.

Every year, the AACI team hosts a benefit concert to celebrate the music of African American composers whose names have faded into oblivion over the years, and in some cases, generations. The 14th such concert will be held at East Palo Alto's Eastside College Preparatory School. All ticket proceeds from the concerts will benefit the school.

This year, the concert is themed around the multi-generational sharing of musical traditions, including spirituals, concert music and jazz.

Composers represented in this year's program include a mix of creative innovators of yore, such as Margaret Bonds, Duke Ellington, William Grant Still, Zenobia Perry and Sister Sledge, and present-day musicians who include Regina Harris Baiocchi, Valerie Capers, John H. Robinson and Joshua McGhee.

Baiocchi, one of the featured composers in this year's concert, who is also a poet and novelist, describes spirituals as "a three-way conversation between the past, the present and the future."

For this year's program, she has written a piece called "Cain't See to Cain't See," which, she said, is a combination of a spontaneous spiritual and an arranged spiritual. The title, she explained, is a phrase enslaved people used to describe their long working hours in the fields; they started working before sunrise, when it was still dark, and worked beyond sunset, when it was dark again.

"They used music to make it through," Baiocchi said. "Even though there are no physical chains, the world is still hell-bent on enslaving Black people, people of color, women; and this music is so important because we have to stay inspired, because eventually we are going to experience freedom as a people."



Courtesy AACI

Musicians of the African American Composer Initiative perform at Eastside College Prep during a previous AACI concert.

Her own relationship with spirituals, a genre she believes has tremendous "power," has been layered. "As a child, spirituals were very frightening to me; it wasn't until I got a little bit older that I realized that they all have encoded messages," she said about these centuries-old songs that were created in the face of unthinkable adversity.

For instance, the song "Wade in the Water" was about enslaved African American people wading in the water while trying to escape so that the dogs on their trail couldn't pick up their scent. Similarly, "Follow the Drinking Gourd" was about looking at the Big Dipper in the night sky as a way to orient oneself with the North Star and stay on course while trying to escape.

"That is one of the ideas that inspired me to write the piece that I wrote," she said. "It's important to me to not only celebrate that which I learned from my parents and grandparents and great-grandparents, but to share that with younger generations, students, family members, keeping that part of our tradition alive."

Baiocchi appreciates the effort being taken by the AACI team in keeping the work of African American composers alive in present day consciousness. "Sometimes there's so much noise in the world that it's easy to forget how powerful this music can be," she said. "A lot of times 'popular' music tends to get more attention than, say, classical music."

That's why music composer and teacher Joshua McGhee gives his students "listening homework" to help familiarize them with older music and the work of composers from different countries and languages.

For this concert, McGhee has composed a tribute to William Grant Still, 20th-century

composer known as the father of African American music.

About his homage to Still, McGhee said, "I studied a lot more of music that I didn't know; he does have a very specific style, so what I wanted to do was to really create something that was in his vein rather than kind of use his material as a muse or do variations. I kind of wanted to just take his style but just interpret it in my own way."

Among musical traditions that inform McGhee's art today are classical, romantic and folk music. Besides Still's compositions, the work of 20th-century British composer Vaughan Williams has also been a "huge influence" on his music.

"These concerts really give a voice to people who otherwise probably would not have one," he said about the AACI's work over the last 15 years, which has been consistently pulling names of talented African American composers from the archives and bringing them into the present so that they can claim their rightful place alongside their better known white counterparts such as Mozart, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Debussy.

"Jodi's going back in history and bringing these names forth again and saying — 'hey, these people are just as brilliant,'" said McGhee. "She's giving them a platform." ■

Email Contributing Writer
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The African American Composers Initiative Concert takes place Feb. 1-2, 3 p.m. at Eastside College Preparatory School, 1041 Myrtle St., East Palo Alto. Tickets are \$5-\$20. aacinitiative.org/concerts.

Worth a Look

David Lang's 'before and after nature'

Pulitzer Prize and Grammy Award-winning composer and Stanford University alumnus David Lang was commissioned by Stanford Live

(among others) to create a new work to present on campus with the music ensemble he co-founded, Bang on a Can All-Stars. Lang combined insights and information he gleaned through meetings with faculty and students in Stanford's Doerr School of Sustainability and the Environmental Justice Working Group and his own reading on environmental issues to create "before and after nature," which Stanford Live calls "a meditation on the natural world, both before human existence and after humans are gone." Lang's texts and music are joined by video and projections by Tal Rosner at this world premiere event.

Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m., Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford; \$16-\$64; live.stanford.edu/events.



Courtesy Peter Serling

Bang on a Can All-Stars will perform in 'before and after nature.'

Alan Bond and Skedaddle

Red Rock's 2nd Story continues its series of bluegrass shows with a performance by Alan Bond and Skedaddle, a Bay Area band that plays a mix of bluegrass, old-time and original music. Referring to itself as "California Cosmic String Band," the group's lineup includes Alan Bond on mandolin, guitar and vocals; Judy Forrest on guitar and vocals; Tom Lucas on fiddle, banjo and vocals; and Bruce Lacey on bass and vocals. Though made up of veteran musicians, this will be the band's first appearance at Red Rock.

Feb. 1, 7-9 p.m., Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View; redrockcoffee.com/2nd-story.

Deepa Iyer

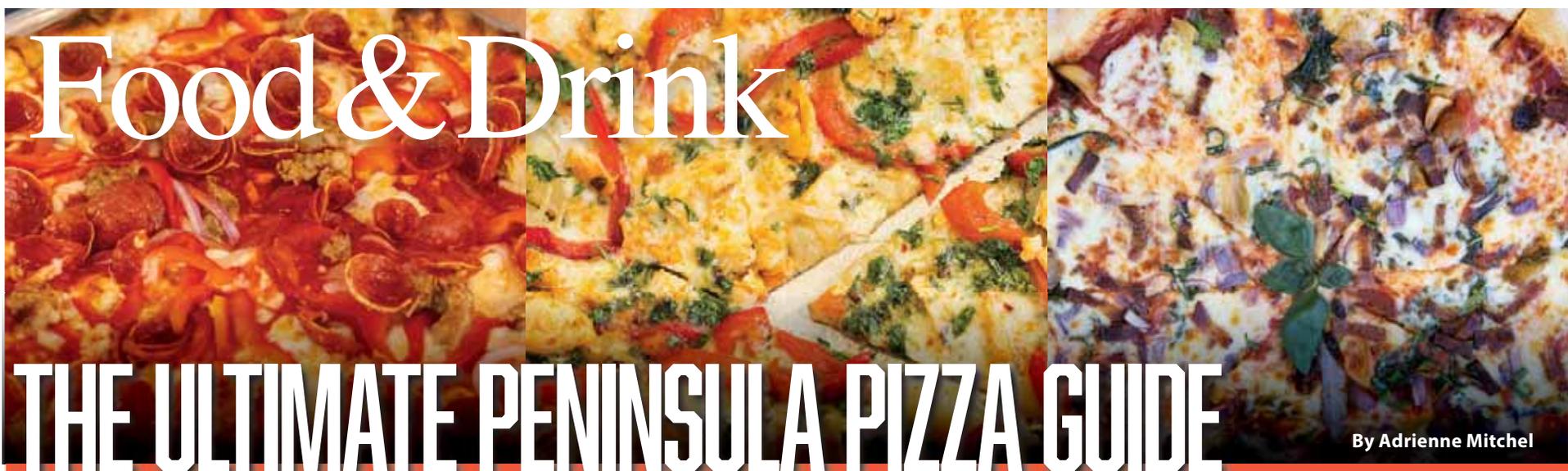
Deepa Iyer is a writer, lawyer and coalition builder whose books include "We Too Sing America: South Asian, Arab, Muslim, and Sikh Immigrants Shape Our Multiracial Future" and "Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection." She also teaches classes on Asian American Studies, social movements and public policy and leads the "Solidarity Is This" podcast. She comes to Palo Alto to present her debut picture book "We Are The Builders!", about a diverse neighborhood in which everyone works together. The story is told in rhyme, with illustrations by Romina Galotta.

Feb. 2, 3-4 p.m., Mitchell Park Library, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto; free (books available to purchase); paloalto.bibliocommons.com.

Birding at Bair Island

Peninsula Open Space Trust and Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance host a birding tour at the Bair Island Unit of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Attendees will learn about the birds flocking to this estuary habitat, as well as the history of the now-protected wetlands. Possible birds to be spotted include egrets, terns, stilts, pelicans and perhaps even a peregrine falcon or endangered Ridgeway's rail. Participants are encouraged to bring their own binoculars but extras are available. The tour takes place over the course of an easy 1-mile walk.

Feb. 2, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Bair Island (meet at Bair Island Trail parking lot), Redwood City; free; openspacetrust.org.



Food & Drink

THE ULTIMATE PENINSULA PIZZA GUIDE

By Adrienne Mitchel

WHERE TO FIND AUTHENTIC NEAPOLITAN PIES, SICILIAN SQUARE SLICES AND INDIAN-FUSION PIZZAS

From Left to right: Pizza at State of Mind Public House and Pizzeria in Los Altos. Photo by Devin Roberts. Amici's Spicy Pepper Chicken New York-style pizza with sliced chicken breast, roasted red peppers, caramelized onions, cilantro, oregano, hot red pepper flakes and mozzarella. Courtesy Amici's East Coast Pizzeria. Matt Burr's bacon, roasted garlic, spinach and onion pizza in Holbrook-Palmer Park. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

Whether you prefer it soft or crispy, cheesy or saucy, greasy or light, there's a pizza for nearly everyone along the Peninsula. From traditional Neapolitan pies to pizzas made from gluten-free cauliflower crust, these restaurants are offering flavors far more complex than plain cheese.

And since we're on the topic of pizza, Silicon Valley Pizza Week debuts Jan. 31 and runs through Feb. 9. Participating restaurants will offer pizza deals and discounts and may also present limited-time pizzas.

Looking to try a new style of pizza? Here's a brief description of some major categories offered along the Peninsula:

NEAPOLITAN: A soft-crust pizza with a distinctive wood-fired char and a limited selection of toppings. Created in Naples, Italy, in the 18th century as a street food, this original form of pizza tends to be a tad soggy in the center. The Associazione Vera Pizza Napoletana is an international organization that verifies if a pizzeria meets the strict requirements of Neapolitan pizza making.

NEW YORK: A crispy and chewy crusted pizza that has the structure to hold an abundance of toppings. Created by Italian immigrants in New York, Lombardi's in lower Manhattan was one of the first to offer this style of pizza in 1905.

CHICAGO DEEP DISH: A crunchy, thick-crust pie with raised edges that's loaded with toppings and sauced on the top. Ike Sewell and Ric Riccardo are credited with inventing this style of pizza in the mid-1900s.

SICILIAN: A square, thick-crust pizza with crunchy crust and pillowy dough. This style of pizza was brought to the United States in the 19th century by Sicilian immigrants, popularizing it after World War II.

DETROIT: Similar to the Sicilian, but with a caramelized cheese crust and sauce on top of the toppings. It was first created in a square automotive parts pan at Buddy's Pizza in 1946.

GRANDMA: A square, thin-crust pizza with sauce on top of the toppings. This style of pizza likely originated in the 1970s as a way to make pizza without access to a pizza oven.

HALAL: Prepared in accordance with Islamic dietary laws, which include the absence of pork among other regulations.

FUSION: Crust, sauce and/or toppings take influence from the cuisines of other global regions. Indian pizza is particularly popular along the Peninsula.

CALIFORNIA/GOURMET: Often routed in seasonality or featuring unusual ingredients, this is typically a similar style as New York pizza. The origins of California pizza can be traced to the late 1970s, when chef Ed LaDou created the recipes for California Pizza Kitchen.

To try the variety of pizzas that the Peninsula has to offer, here's your guide to local pizza spots, including price points and signature pies.

A SLICE OF NEW YORK — NEW YORK AND SICILIAN: With a mission to "create a New York experience in the Bay Area," this worker cooperative in San Jose and Sunnyvale offers multiple sizes and slices of New York pizza as well as two Sicilian varieties. Vegan cheese and an herb-dusted gluten-free pizza crust are also available.

Through Jan. 31, A Slice of New York will donate 15% of all sales from its Munchie Lunchie pizza to Slice Out Hunger's program to help feed and support families affected by the Los Angeles fires.

Price point: \$22-\$39.50 for a 14" New York; \$29-\$46.50 for an 18" New York; \$39-\$56.50 for a whole Sicilian (17"x17"); \$13-\$18 for a personal New York; \$5.50-\$7.50

for a slice

A Slice of New York, 1253 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale; 650-938-6969, Instagram: @asliceofny. Open Thursday from 3-9 p.m., Friday from 3-10 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

AMICI'S — NEW YORK AND DETROIT: Established in San Mateo in 1987, Amici's East Coast Pizzeria cooks its pizza in stone ovens at 700 degrees Fahrenheit for New York pies with thin, crispy, airy and slightly chewy crust. Unique pies include the Manhattan Red Clam and the New Haven White Clam. Daiya vegan cheese and housemade Beyond Meat sausage are also available.

Price point: \$13.75-\$17.75 for a mini 7"; \$18.75-\$23.75 for a small 10"; \$27.75-\$35.75 for a medium 13"; \$34.75-\$44.75 for a large 15"; \$26.75-\$29.75 for a 10"x14" Detroit

Signature: Amici's Combo with pepperoni, meatball, bacon, sauteed mushrooms, black olives, mozzarella and tomato sauce

Amici's, Instagram: @amicisbayarea. Locations in San Mateo, Menlo Park, Mountain View and Redwood City.

ATLAS PIZZA PARLOR — HALAL AND FUSION: This halal pizza parlor offers both classic pizza flavors and Indian fusion pies, including samosa chaat and achari gobhi pizzas. Crust options include regular, thin crust or gluten-free, and vegan cheese can be substituted in as well.

Price point: \$15.99-\$26.99 for 10" small pizza; \$17.99-\$39.99 for 12" medium pizza; \$25.99-\$41.99 for 14" large pizza; \$32.99-\$35.99 for an 18" extra large pizza

Signature pizza: Atlas Combo with red sauce, pepperoni, Italian sausage, red onions, bell peppers and tomatoes

Atlas Pizza Parlor, 637 San Mateo Ave., San Bruno; 650-588-5888, Instagram: @atlaspizzaparlor. Open Monday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Tuesday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

BAY AREA PIZZA — FUSION: Since 2019, Bay Area Pizza has been serving pizzas named after Bay Area references (Great America, 49ers, etc.), as well as Indian pizzas featuring saag paneer, chili chicken and more.

Price point: \$9.99-\$10.99 for a personal pizza; \$13.99-\$15.99 for a small pizza; \$17.99-\$19.99 for a medium pizza; \$23.99-\$25.99 for a large pizza; \$28.99-\$31.99 for an extra-large pizza

Bay Area Pizza, 2898 Homestead Road, Santa Clara; 408-244-9444. Open Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

BLUE LINE PIZZA — CHICAGO, GRANDMA, NEW YORK: Created as an offshoot of Chicago's Little Star Pizza in 2012 in downtown Campbell, Blue Line Pizza specializes in cornmeal crust deep dish pizzas, as well as New York and Grandma varieties. As a commitment to freshness, Blue Line Pizza doesn't have freezers in its restaurants. Gluten-free crust, cauliflower crust and Daiya vegan cheese are also available.

Price point: \$21-\$26.95 for a small pizza; \$27-\$36.95 for a large pizza; \$12.75 for an

individual pizza

Signature Chicago: Chicago chop deep dish pizza with chopped pepperoni, sausage, bacon, salami, shredded mozzarella, crushed red pepper and marinara sauce

Signature New York: Hot honey, sausage and arugula thin-crust pizza with Italian sausage, red sauce, mozzarella, arugula and Mike's Hot Honey

Signature Grandma: Italian combo grandma-style crust with salami, pepperoni, onions, green bell peppers, black olives, pepperoncini, mozzarella and marinara sauce

Blue Line Pizza, Instagram: @bluelinepizza. Locations in Burlingame, San Carlos, Campbell, Los Gatos and Mountain View.

CAMPBELL PIZZA CO. — CALIFORNIA/GOURMET, FUSION: Order pizza by the slice or by the pie, with regular crust or cauliflower, or topped with buffalo chicken or tandoori chicken. Campbell Pizza offers a wide selection of pies, including Mexicana, pesto chicken, Chicken Tikka and more.

Price point: \$5.49-\$6.17 for a slice; \$11.50-\$14.50 for a personal 8" pizza; \$21.95 for a 10" cauliflower pizza; \$20.50-\$27.50 for a medium 12" pizza; \$26.50-\$34.50 for a large 16" pizza

Campbell Pizza Co., 3393 Winchester Blvd., Campbell; 408-866-1202, Instagram: @campbellpizza. Open Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

CURRY PIZZA HOUSE — FUSION: This nationwide chain began in Fremont in 2012 and can be found at Hidden Tap & Barrel in Redwood City and Palo Alto along with standalone locations. Curry Pizza House offers both classic pizza flavors and Indian-inspired pies and even has a halal lamb kabob pizza. Crust options include regular, thin, gluten-free and cauliflower.

Price point: \$14.99-\$20.99 for a small 10"; \$17.99-\$25.99 for a medium 12"; \$20.99-\$32.99 for a large 14"; \$26.99-\$42.99 for an extra-large 18"

Curry Pizza House, Instagram: @currypizzahouse. Locations in Cupertino, Foster City, Palo Alto, Redwood City, San Mateo, South San Francisco and Sunnyvale.

DESI PIZZA HOUSE — FUSION: This locally owned pizza spot offers build-your-own pizzas, classic pizzas and Indian curry



From left to right: Cheese slices at A Slice of New York in Sunnyvale. Photo by Elena Kadvanj. Blue Lina Pizza specializes in cornmeal crust deep dish pizzas, as well as New York and Grandma varieties. Courtesy Blue Line Pizza. Amici's Combo with pepperoni, meatballs, bacon, sauteed mushrooms, black olives, mozzarella and tomato sauce. Courtesy Amici's East Coast Pizzeria. State of Mind's Not Fade Away with walnut sauce, mushroom, Marin French Golden Gate cheese, escarole, prosciutto, walnut vinegar and parsley. Courtesy State of Mind.

pizzas, including Vijayawada chicken and aloo chaat pizzas. Cauliflower and gluten-free crusts are also available.

Price point: \$15.99 for a small pizza; \$20.99 for a medium pizza; \$27.99 for a large pizza; \$35.99 for an extra-large pizza

Desi Pizza House, 327 Moffett Blvd. #K, Mountain View; 650-961-3301, Instagram: @desipizzahouse. Open Monday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Tuesday to Thursday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2:15 a.m.

DOPPIO ZERO — NEAPOLITAN: Founded in Mountain View in 2014 by Italian immigrants Gianni Chiloiro and Angelo Sannino, this local pizza chain now has outposts in San Carlos, Campbell and other Bay Area cities. The menu features a variety of red and white Neapolitan pizzas, as well as a vegan pizza.

Price point: \$19-\$25 for a whole pizza

Doppio Zero, Instagram: @doppiozerousa. Locations in Mountain View, San Carlos and Campbell.

GIOVANNI'S NEW YORK PIZZERIA — NEW YORK AND SICILIAN: Started by Sicilian immigrant Rosario Spatola in Sunnyvale in 1995, Giovanni's continues to be independently owned and operated by the Spatola family. New York and Sicilian pizzas are available by the slice, as well as in multiple whole pie sizes. A Weight Watcher pizza comes with roasted eggplant and peppers, garlic, marinated artichokes, fresh basil, olive oil and a light sprinkle of Mozzarella cheese.

Price point: \$5.75-\$7.75 for a slice; \$16-\$22 for a 12" pizza; \$20.75-\$28.75 for a 14" pizza; \$25.25-\$37.25 for an 18" pizza; \$29.75-\$45.75 for a 16"x16" whole Sicilian

Giovanni's New York Pizzeria, 1127 Lawrence Expressway, Sunnyvale; 408-734-4221. Open Monday to Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3-9 p.m.

GOLDEN BOY PIZZA — SICILIAN: Created in 1978 by Peter Sodini in San Francisco, Golden Boy Pizza specializes in pizza with a focaccia-like crust. Build your own Sicilian pie or order one of the preset options, including a clam and garlic pizza. The San Mateo location of this North Beach mainstay is takeout-only.

Price point: \$12-\$15.25 for a small 13"x9" pizza; \$22.50-\$28.75 for a large 13"x18" pizza

Golden Boy Pizza, 1119 N. Amphlett Blvd., San Mateo; 650-315-2988, Instagram: @goldenboypizza. Open Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday from noon to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon to 9 p.m.

KRUSTI PIZZA & PASTA — HALAL: Build your own pizza or choose from a variety of pizza flavors, including chicken tikka pizza and butter chicken pizza.

Price point: \$18-\$27 for a 12" pizza; \$21-\$32 for a 15" pizza; \$28-\$41 for a 20" pizza

Krusti Pizza & Pasta, 341 Lafayette St., #104, Santa Clara; 408-246-1800, Instagram: @krustipizzapasta. Open Tuesday to Thursday and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday from 2-10 p.m.

MALDONADO'S PIZZERIA — NEW YORK:

Founded 25 years ago by Tony Maldonado, this Mountain view pizzeria aims "to create a true neighborhood pizzeria where everyone is comfortable and feels at home," according to the website. Each flavor of pizza, including one that comes with ranch sauce, comes in four sizes.

Price point: \$13.42-\$20.35 for a 10" pizza; \$16.86-\$25.70 for a 12" pizza; \$19.61-\$30.93 for a 14" pizza; \$25.11-\$37.20 for a 16" pizza

Signature pie: Maldonado's Special, with pepperoni, salami, sausage, mushrooms, onions, linguica and bell peppers

Maldonado's Pizzeria, 615 S. Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View; 650-962-8499. Open Sunday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

MIKO'S CALITALIA — CALIFORNIA/

GOURMET: The newest pizza concept to enter Los Altos' State Street Market is serving "Neapolitan-ish" style pizzas, a hybrid between Neapolitan and New York. Created by Konjoe Burger owner Joey Camacho, Miko's Calitalia is serving classic flavors like Margherita and spicy sausage.

Price point: \$16-\$20 for a 12" pizza; \$28-\$35 for an 18" pizza

Miko's Calitalia, 170 State St., Los Altos; 650-383-6494, Instagram: @mikos.calitalia. Open Sunday to Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

NAPOLETANA PIZZERIA — NEAPOLITAN:

This Mountain View pizzeria cooks its Neapolitan pies in a 900 degree Fahrenheit wood-fired oven for 60-90 seconds. While most of the menu features classic pizza toppings, it also offers a pizza with a ricotta-stuffed crust.

Signature pie: Neapolitana, with tomato sauce, fresh mozzarella, Italian homemade sausage, basil and extra virgin olive oil

Napoletana Pizzeria, 1910 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View; 650-969-4884, Instagram: @napoletanapizzeria. Open Monday to Thursday from 5-8 p.m., Friday from 5-9 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-9 p.m., Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-8 p.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD PIZZA GUY — CALIFORNIA/

GOURMET: Build your own pizza or try owner Matt Burr's weekly special at Neighborhood Pizza Guy inside Cafe

Zoe. Previous specials have included the Spanakopita-zza with garlic cream sauce, aged mozzarella, feta, spinach and shredded phyllo dough, as well as the Pears 'n Plums with aged mozzarella, gorgonzola, D'Anjou pears, San Daniele prosciutto, lemon-infused olive oil, candied walnuts and plum honey.

Price point: \$29.50 for a whole pizza

Neighborhood Pizza Guy, 1929 Menalto Ave., Menlo Park; 650-407-7476, Instagram: @neighborhoodpizzaguy. Open Monday and Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

PIZZ'A CHICAGO — CHICAGO DEEP DISH:

Founded by Chicagoans Theo Reynolds and Art Harris in Santa Clara in 1991, this pizzeria offers multiple sizes of meat, chicken and vegetarian deep dish pizzas named after Chicago references.

Price point: \$22-\$31 for a small pizza; \$24-\$35 for a medium pizza; \$26-\$38 for a large pizza; \$28-\$44 for an extra large thin-crust pizza

Pizz'A Chicago, Instagram: @pizza_chicago. 3864 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-424-9400, open Sunday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. 1576 Halford Ave., Santa Clara; 408-244-2246, open Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 4:30-9:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

PIZZERIA CARDAMOMO — CALIFORNIA/

GOURMET: Chef-owner Momo Farouq is slinging sourdough pies with unique flavor combinations at Pizzeria Cardamomo. His original pizzeria was in Lake Como until he fell in love with California native Sarika Batra and relocated to Redwood City.

Pizza options include the carbonara with fior di latte, guanciale poached egg, Pecorino Romano and Madagascar voatsiperifery pepper, as well as the Alla Marocchina with fior di latte, ground beef, dried plums, roasted almonds and cinnamon.

Price point: \$19-\$27 for a 12" personal pizza

Signature pizza: Momo featuring fior di latte, montaggio cheese and slow-cooked yellow potatoes

Pizzeria Cardamomo, 2053A Broadway, Redwood City; 312-953-4328, Instagram: @pizzeriacardamomo. Open Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5-9 p.m., Thursday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

PIZZERIA DELFINA — CALIFORNIA/

GOURMET: Created by husband and wife Craig and Annie Stoll in 2005, Pizzeria Delfina is inspired by New York City and

Naples, Italy, and specializes in farm-to-table, Neapolitan-inspired pizza. The pizza dough, which rises for 48 hours, is made from custom-milled, organic North American flour that the Stolls call "Farivita."

For the month of February, Pizzeria Delfina will donate \$1 from every Margherita and Margherita DOP pizza sold to Restaurants Care LA Fire Relief.

Price point: \$18-\$25 for a whole pizza

Signature pizza: Margherita, with Bel Fiori mozzarella, California tomato and basil, sea salt and extra virgin olive oil

Pizzeria Delfina, Instagram: @pizzeriadelfina. 651 Emerson St., Palo Alto; 650-353-2208, open Monday and Tuesday from 5-9 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday from noon to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon to 10 p.m. 1444 Burlingame Ave., Burlingame; 650-288-1041, open Monday to Thursday from 5-8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon to 9 p.m., Sunday from noon to 8 p.m.

SLICE HOUSE BY TONY GEMIGNANI —

DETROIT, GRANDMA, NEW YORK AND SICILIAN: Created by 13-time world pizza champion Tony Gemignani, this franchise offers a Mountain View exclusive pizza with Blenheim apricot jam, bacon, sausage, pesto, mozzarella, ricotta, Romano cheese, red onion, hot honey, Tony's hot pepper oil, oregano and garlic oil. Peninsula locations include outposts in Levi's Stadium, Belmont and Mountain View.

Price point: \$21-\$29 for a medium 12" New York; \$32-\$41.50 for a large 20" New York; \$28-\$38 for a 9"x12" Detroit; \$27-\$32 for a 12"x12" Grandma; \$31-\$39 for a 11"x17" Sicilian

Slice House by Tony Gemignani, Instagram: @slicehouse. 1000 El Camino Real, C, Belmont; 650-394-4118, open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. 2565 California St., Suite 501, Mountain View; 650-966-7772, open Sunday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

STATE OF MIND — CALIFORNIA AND

GRANDMA: Lars Smith and his family opened the first State of Mind Public House and Pizzeria in Los Altos in 2018. Inspired by California's local and seasonal ingredients, State of Mind offers a new seasonal pizza every three months. Order whole pies at one of its pubs in Los Altos and Redwood City or opt for a slice in Palo Alto. Gluten-free 10"x10" pies are available for an extra dollar.

Price point: \$20-\$26 for a 14" pizza; \$24.50 for a grandma pie; \$5-\$6 for a slice

Signature pizza: The Ultimate, with mozzarella, Point Reyes Toma, organic sauce, mixed mushrooms, pepperoni and truffle zest

State of Mind Public House and Pizzeria,



From left to right: A broccoli raab pizza from Pizzeria Delfina. Courtesy Pizzeria Delfina. Terún's Nduja Neapolitan pizza with spicy spreadable Calabrese salami, mozzarella and zucchini. Courtesy Terún. Tandoori Pizza's tandoori chicken pizza comes with creamy garlic sauce, mozzarella cheese, bell peppers, red onions, diced tomatoes, tandoori chicken, green onions and fresh cilantro. Courtesy Tandoori Pizza. State of Mind's ode to the "grandma pie" is a double-proofed and double-baked pan pizza with mozzarella, organic sauce, pecorino cheese and fresh basil. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

Instagram: @stateofmindpub. 101 Plaza N., Los Altos; 650-383-5210. 3710 Florence St., Redwood City; 650-995-7478. Both locations open Sunday to Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

State of Mind Slice House, 3850 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; 650-384-6369, *Instagram: @stateofmindslicehouse.* Open Sunday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

TANDOORI PIZZA — FUSION: Started in 2015 by Tejinder Singh, Tandoori Pizza has two locations in Sunnyvale, one of which is open 24/7. Find classic pizzas like pepperoni or barbecue chicken, as well as an abundance of Indian fusion pies, including shahi paneer and lamb kabob pizzas. Choose from thin, regular, gluten-free or cauliflower crust, as well as regular or vegan cheese.

Price point: \$19.95 for a small pizza, \$24.95 for a medium pizza, \$30.95 for a large

pizza, \$39.95 for an extra large pizza
Tandoori Pizza, *Instagram: @tandooripizzaca and @tandooripizzasunnyvale.* 241 W. Washington Ave., Sunnyvale; 408-889-4881, open daily 24 hours. 1663 Hollenbeck Ave., Sunnyvale; 408-854-5500, open daily from 9 a.m. to 3 a.m.

TERÚN, ITALICO AND IMPASTO — NEAPOLITAN: Created by brothers Franco and Maico Campilongo along with chef Kristjan D'Angelo, all three Italian restaurants specialize in traditional Neapolitan pizzas made from Napoletana "00" Caputo flour.

While the pizza offerings between the restaurants are relatively similar, Impasto in San Carlos also offers Neapolitan pies made from Caputo cuor di cereali (a whole-grain flour), gluten-sensitive pizzas and a Nutella dessert pizza with cacao in the pizza dough.

Price point: \$21-\$32 for a whole pizza
Signature pie: Terún, made with San Marzano tomato sauce, fior di latte mozzarella and cured spicy sausage

Terún, 448 California Ave., Palo Alto; 650-600-8310, *Instagram: @terunpizza.* Open Monday to Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-9:30 p.m.

iTalico, 341 California Ave., Palo Alto; 650-473-9616, *Instagram: @italico341.* Open Sunday to Thursday from 5-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 5-9:30 p.m.

Impasto, 661 El Camino Real, San Carlos; 650-486-1504, *Instagram: @impastosan-carlos.* Open Tuesday to Thursday from 5-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-9:30 p.m., Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-9 p.m.

TOTO'S — NEAPOLITAN: Founded by Caroline and Antonio "Toto" Spadarella in 1932 in Brooklyn, New York, Toto's claims to be "one of America's oldest continuously operating, family-owned, authentic Neapolitan pizzerias." It's owned by the fifth generation of the Spadarella family and has locations in San Bruno, Belmont and Levi's

Stadium. At Toto's, guests may build their own pizza or select one of Toto's five signature creations.

Price point: \$20-\$30.50 for a whole pizza
Signature pie: Pizza a la Toto's No. 1, with salami, mushrooms and anchovies

Toto's, *Instagram: @totospizzeria-since1932.* 1690 El Camino Real, San Bruno; 650-873-8686, open daily from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. 1250 El Camino Real B, Belmont; 650-631-8686, open Wednesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. ■

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8 BRITTANY MEADOWS ATHERTON



SPECTACULAR WEST ATHERTON ESTATE ON 1+ ACRE

This magnificent estate is the epitome of sophistication and refinement, seamlessly blending luxury with livability and opulence with allure, all while nestled on over an acre of land in prestigious West Atherton. Past the gated motor court awaits a 6-bedroom residence that has been meticulously upgraded and remodeled with top-of-the-line craftsmanship and materials, boasting nearly 7,400 total square feet of living space filled with lavish appointments and impeccable details. The gracious multi-level floorplan radiates style and convenience while offering expansive formal rooms, a chef-worthy kitchen with top-tier appliances, a full bar in the family room, an executive office, recreation room, and wine cellar. Each bedroom is en suite, with the palatial primary suite providing a fireplace and spa-inspired bathroom. Outside, the sprawling grounds offer a five-star resort experience, complete with an outdoor kitchen, pool, heated seating areas, and more, complemented by a pool house with a full bathroom and kitchen. Tucked away at the end of a cul-de-sac, this estate provides privacy while being conveniently located near everything the surrounding area has to offer, from downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, to Stanford University, Menlo Circus Club, top public and private schools, and two international airports.

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