

# The Almanac

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

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## Portola Valley mountain lion cub moves to Alabama

Cross-country trip to a new forever home

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Spruce, one of the mountain lion cubs rescued from Portola Valley, recently arrived at his new home in the Birmingham Zoo in Alabama after taking a cross-country flight. Spruce leaves behind siblings Fern and Thistle at the Oakland Zoo.

The three cubs were rescued in late January by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and California Department of Fish and Wildlife after Portola Valley residents reported a dead female mountain lion weeks before. Locals found the cubs hiding under a truck and they were transported to the Oakland Zoo for rehabilitation.

At the Birmingham Zoo, Spruce is joined by a new companion named Juniper, a female cub rescued from Billings, Mont. Juniper was rescued in December 2024 after a property owner found her stuck in his fence.

The decision to relocate Spruce was based on the duo's similar personalities and so far the match seems to be perfect. Upon their arrival in Birmingham,

staff have observed the pair cuddling, playing and chirping, according to the Oakland Zoo.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife selects the forever homes of rescued cubs with the animals welfare and wellbeing in mind, said the zoo. The sibling trio unfortunately were not able to stay in Oakland due to a mismatch in personalities between the cubs and the current mountain lions at the zoo. New homes for Fern and Thistle are yet to be determined but the zoo has previously confirmed they will stay together.

### Moving to Birmingham

The Oakland and Birmingham zoos collaborated with FedEx, which donated transportation costs for Spruce's flight as part of its FedEx Cares "Delivering for Good" initiative.

In preparation for his travels, animal care staff at the Oakland Zoo used positive reinforcement training to help him become comfortable in his travel crate. In time for his early morning flight on April 4, Spruce, accompanied by Zoological Manager Angela Gibson, did an "amazing



Courtesy Oakland Zoo

Spruce rests in a travel crate for his FedEx flight to Birmingham Zoo in Alabama.

job shifting into his crate," said the zoo.

Once the two cubs are settled in the Birmingham Zoo night-house, they will move into

the new Wojciechowski Cougar Crossing Habitat, which opened to the public on March 19.

"The cougar cubs, along with the two adult bobcats, live in a

new facility designed to allow the cats to explore and exhibit natural behaviors. Guests will

See **MOUNTAIN LION**, page 14

## State Sen. Becker focuses on education cuts

Residents implored to 'Stand up, Speak out'

By Arden Margulis

Residents across the Peninsula joined demonstrators nationwide on Saturday, April 5, 2025, for the Hands Off! Day of Action, protesting federal program cuts by the Trump administration.

"This is a nationwide mobilization to stop the most brazen power grab in modern history," Hands Off! organizers said.

Protesters rallied to demand an end to the Trump administration's cuts through the Department of Government Efficiency. As of April 1, the

cuts have resulted in at least 56,000 federal workers losing their jobs, with plans to eliminate another 171,000 positions. These cuts affect public services such as healthcare, education, and social welfare programs.

Organizers reported over 1,300 Hands Off! protests across the United States, with demonstrators advocating for three primary demands: ending corruption within the Trump administration, preserving federal funding for Medicaid, Social Security, and other programs, and protecting immigrant and transgender communities.

### Elected officials gather in response to cuts to federal education programs

While Hands Off! protests in Redwood City addressed broad federal cutbacks, another event specifically targeted impacts to local education.

State Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, hosted a "Stand Up and Speak Out for Schools" event Saturday morning at the San Mateo County Government Center in Redwood City.

Although not associated with the Hands Off movement, when the event ended, attendees were encouraged to attend a nearby Hands Off! protest.

Education officials from all over San Mateo and Santa Clara counties attended the event. Las Lomas Elementary School District board president Paige Winikoff, Mountain View Whisman School District board member Lisa Henry, San Mateo Community College District board member Lisa Petrides, Santa Clara County Board of Education member Jessica Speiser, were some of the attendees.

San Mateo County Supervisor Lisa Gauthier, U.S. Rep. Kevin Mullin, state Assemblymembers Diane Papan and Marc Berman all spoke at the event.

See **EDUCATION CUTS**, page 18



Arden Margulis

State Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, addresses the crowd at Stand Up and Speak Out for Schools event on April 5.

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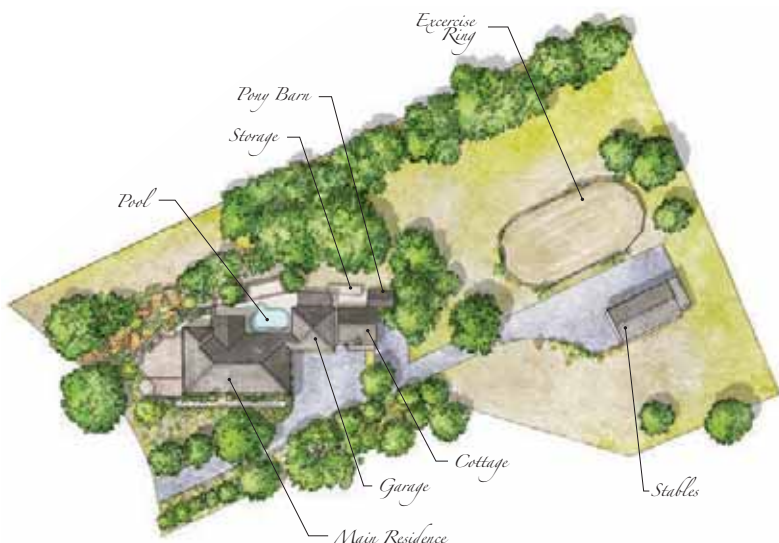
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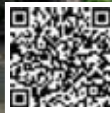
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## Stanford athletes and scientists team up to boost performance

At Stanford, scientists and athletes are collaborating through the Wu Tsai Human Performance Alliance to improve sports performance, training, injury prevention, and recovery. Researchers use advanced data collection and analysis — such as sprint profiling, muscle adaptation studies, and biometric monitoring — to better understand how athletes perform and recover. Projects span various sports, including baseball and rowing, combining real-world athletic needs with cutting-edge scientific research. This unique partnership not only benefits athletic outcomes but also advances scientific knowledge of human performance. **SCAN TO READ THE SPOTLIGHT**



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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Anna Hoch-Kenney

About 1,000 community members and activists gathered at the intersection of Jefferson Avenue and El Camino Real in Redwood City as part of the nationwide Hands Off protests on April 5.

## Redwood City joins nationwide protest against Trump administration

Organizers set up along El Camino

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

More than 1,000 protesters in Redwood City showed up on Saturday, voicing their opinions against the Trump administration's policies on social security, immigration, LGBTQ+ rights, and the dismantling of the education system.

The protest was one of over 1,300 that occurred across the United States in the Hands Off! Day of Action movement. By

Friday, April 4, one day before the protest, roughly 770 people had RSVP'd to the RWC Hands Off demonstration.

Sidewalks on El Camino Real from Jefferson to James Avenue were crowded with protesters of all ages, from as young as babies in strollers to elders in their 90s. Organizers from activist group Indivisible Portola Valley wore giant Trump and Elon Musk masks that stood tall over the crowd, crossing the road as an ensemble.

Many demonstrators held

signs, some which read "Hands off our courts", "Morons are governing america," and "You don't belong in government," from community members occupying the space across the block.

Although the crowd skewed to an older demographic, younger protesters say their peers were showing up in other ways.

Many said they and their friends participate through social media by sharing and

See **PROTESTS**, page 18

## Woodside appoints new town manager

Ledbetter comes from city of Yreka

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The town of Woodside unanimously voted to appoint Jason Ledbetter as its new town manager during a Town Council meeting on April 8. Effective May 15, Ledbetter will be taking over from current Town Manager Kevin Bryant, who has served Woodside for 13 years.

Ledbetter is coming from the city of Yreka in Siskiyou County and brings over 25 years of team and project management experience from working in local government and private industry. As the current city manager of Yreka, Ledbetter has been focusing on initiatives toward fire resilience, water security, housing and revenue generation.

He's also served as the director of general services for the county of Siskiyou. Prior to his work in public service, Ledbetter was a winemaker in Napa Valley, where he grew up. He holds a bachelor's degree in viticulture and enology from the University of California, Davis, and a master's in environmental engineering from the University of California, Riverside.

"It is a privilege to be the next town manager for the town of Woodside and I am ecstatic yet humbled for the opportunity to lead such a remarkable community," said Ledbetter in a statement. "I can't wait to meet the community and align the goals of the Town Council into action."

The town staff and council



Courtesy Town of Woodside

Jason Ledbetter will start his new position May 15.

have dedicated many hours over the past few months to select the best candidate for the position, Mayor Brian Dombkowski said. He expressed his confidence in Ledbetter's experience, engagement and leadership to drive a new vision for Woodside moving forward.

"One of the first things that I'm focused on coming in is just stabilizing for the employees because they've been used to Kevin [Bryant] for so long," said Ledbetter during the meeting. He added that he anticipates the work that will come with the housing element, financial planning and Town Center Plan.

Ledbetter will be coming to Woodside on April 21 to meet with Bryant and the Town Council. He will be relocating to the area with his wife Diane and their 10-year-old son Otto. ■

Email Staff Writer

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## East Palo Alto community remembers civil rights icon

Cesar Chavez Middle school students take part

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

About 100 community members from East Palo Alto and neighboring communities marched from Bell Street Park to St. Francis of Assisi Church for the Cesar Chavez March on April 7, honoring the civil rights activist and the work of the United Farm Workers of America.

Locals carried signs that said "Sí, Se Puede," and "Feed Our Minds. Feed Our Belly," Event

organizers held a United Farm Workers of America flag as they led the march.

Since 1994, Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School has carried the name of the civil rights legend and celebrated the work he did for migrant farmworkers. According to event organizer Ruben Abrica, in the last three years, the celebration has extended beyond the school and throughout the community.

"This year, we wanted to do a march for peace and justice

and also focus on supporting immigrant communities," said Abrica. "This is not only a celebration of Cesar Chavez and the farmworkers, but it's a celebration of all the people who do the work that often is not recognized."

The event featured various community organizations, including Comité Latino, Youth Community Services, resilient East Palo Alto community team,

See **CESAR CHAVEZ**, page 18



ProBonoPhoto.org/Austin Noble

About 100 people from East Palo Alto participated events honoring Cesar Chavez on Monday, April 7.

# Portola Valley youth earn Eagle Scout ranking

2 troops celebrate honors

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Portola Valley's Scouting America troops 64 and 4064 recognized five scouts — Luke Zamboldi, Jenny Richter, Ellie Axelrad, Sloane Smith and Eryn Ellis — who earned the highest ranking of Eagle Scout during a Court of Honor ceremony at Valley Presbyterian Church on March 30.

"We couldn't possibly be more proud of our five new Eagle Scouts," said Troop 4064 Scoutmaster Karyn Ellis. "All of them have demonstrated tenacity and commitment to their community through the long advancement process and their various Eagle projects."

In 2020, Troop 4064 was established to expand scouting to girls. The Boy Scouts of America recently rebranded to Scouting America in February, marking the 115th anniversary of the organization and fifth year of welcoming girls to scouting.

The four girls, Richter, Axelrad, Smith and Ellis, are the first in Troop 4064 to make Eagle ranking. To achieve this highest honor, scouts must earn 21 merit badges and complete an Eagle project.

Zamboldi, a senior at Sacred Heart Preparatory joined Troop 64 in first grade and has since had the opportunity to embark on many backpacking, hiking and camping trips. Zamboldi has also served as assistant

senior patrol leader and senior patrol leader.

For his Eagle project, he rebuilt the outdoor classroom at Ormondale Elementary School using downed Redwood trees from Portola Valley. In the fall, Zamboldi will be attending college to study engineering.

Richter is a senior at Woodside High School and is a founding member of Troop 4064. During her time as a scout, Richter has served as troop scribe, instructed junior scouts in skills training and assisted others in their Eagle projects.

For her own project, she replaced the benches at Woodside High School's Green Academy garden, which is used for outdoor classes. Richter also refurbished and reroofed one of the equipment sheds. She will attend Montana State University in the fall.

Axelrad is also a senior at Woodside High School and a founding member of the troop. She started as a Girl Scout in the first grade and joined Troop 4064 in sixth grade. She has served as patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader and senior patrol leader.

Axelrad's favorite memories as a scout are from her time working as an assistant camp counselor at Boulder Creek Reservation. For her project, she led a group of scouts in making 125 blankets for children in crisis. In the fall, Axelrad will be attending college to study



Courtesy John Ellis

Left to right: Luke Zamboldi, Ellie Axelrad, Eryn Ellis, Jenny Richter, and Sloane Smith are recognized for earning Eagle rank during Court of Honor ceremony on March 30.

psychology.

Smith, a sophomore at Sacred Heart Preparatory joined Troop 4064 in 2020 and has earned a total of 30 merit badges. She has dedicated hundreds of hours to serve the community and was awarded Redwood District Scout of the Year while also serving as troop historian, patrol leader and senior patrol leader.

Smith dedicated her Eagle project to supporting animal welfare by leading scouts in the construction of 40 hay feeder boxes for the SPCA and Peninsula Humane Society.

The youngest in the celebrated group is Eryn Ellis, a sophomore at Woodside High School. She began scouting in fifth grade and switched over from Girl Scouts with an interest in learning how to shoot rifles and a desire to carry a pocket knife and use a tomahawk. Since joining the troop, Eryn has earned 27 merit badges,

including one for backpacking, a difficult accomplishment that nobody in the troop has completed for years, according to Troop 4064.

As a scout, she has served as senior patrol leader, historian and troop guide. Eryn said her most memorable experience was camping in a hammock during a rainstorm. For her project, she created a mural at Corte Madera School commemorating an old oak tree that once marked the center of the campus.

"After all was said and done on the national level, adding the girls to the troop here in Portola Valley was never a problem in any way," said Scoutmaster Karyn Ellis. "The kids had a ton of fun together and still do. Everyone in our troop — male, female, young and adult — can be proud of the example we set for how to make this work." ■

Email Staff Writer Jennifer Yoshikoshi at [jjyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com](mailto:jjyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com).

# Libraries encourage community engagement, this week and all year long

No longer just quiet place for books

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Nowadays, "shhhh," is a sound that you'll rarely hear at the library — at least at the San Mateo County Libraries. For National Library Week, local librarians want the community to know that aside from books, libraries are a community hub that fosters engagement and socialization.

"There's a lot of buzz and activity that's happening in the libraries," said Katie Woods, communications and marketing manager at San Mateo County Libraries. "You can feel the synergy when you're walking in...." Over the years, Peninsula

libraries have evolved to meet ever-changing community needs and trends, and to offer resources to support the local people. The San Mateo County Libraries recently released its strategic plan for 2025- 2030, outlining goals and initiatives for community outreach, community-focused programming and providing flexible spaces.

According to Woods, the plan involved community focus groups and surveys to gauge needs and ensure that the services and resources the libraries offer match with the community.

Woods added that focus group participants described the



Courtesy San Mateo County Libraries

The San Mateo County Libraries encourages culturally relevant, community-oriented and intergenerational events.

library as their second home and living room space. People are making friends, enjoying community activities, playing music and participating in social programs, she said.

"(Libraries) are not quiet and stale. They are energy-driven," said Woods.

Throughout its 13 locations, the county libraries are encouraging culturally relevant, community-oriented and intergenerational events. The library's event schedule is packed with different activities held every

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See **LIBRARIES**, page 14

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Courtesy Veronika Hsu/veronikahsu.com

Love Our Earth Festival on April 13, 2024.

### Love Our Earth Festival on horizon

The fourth annual Love Our Earth Festival will take place on Saturday, April 26, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Belle Haven Community Campus. The event will include information on home electrification, a clean vehicle expo, a plant-based market, live music and more activities.

This year's theme is "resilient communities" and will focus on how communities can mitigate and prepare for the effects of climate change. The event is free and attendees are encouraged to RSVP through Eventbrite.

The event is produced by the cities of Menlo Park and East Palo Alto, 350 Silicon Valley, Acterra, Menlo Spark and Peninsula Clean Energy.

### Atherton Police warn of impersonation scam

The Atherton Police Department has issued a warning to residents regarding a new phone scam in which an individual impersonates a member of the police department and requests money. The impersonator typically claims there is an emergency requiring immediate financial assistance, such as a car accident, bail money or being stranded in another country. They may state they are contacting the victim on behalf of a friend or relative.

The fraudster may ask victims to send cash via FedEx, UPS, or MoneyGram, or request payment through gift cards.

Atherton police recommend that potential victims verify the caller's identity by asking questions only the real person would know, such as the names of pets or birthdays of family members. Police also suggest attempting to independently contact the supposed individual or their relatives directly by another method. Residents are advised not to send money until they confirm the request genuinely comes from someone they know.

Atherton police did not disclose how many residents have reported the scam or whether any victims sent money.

— Arden Margulis

### Ravenswood Classroom Partners seeks volunteer tutors

Ravenswood Classroom Partners is looking for volunteer tutors to join for the 2025-26 school year. Interested volunteers can attend an information session at 10 a.m. on May 7 in Menlo Park.

No prior experience is necessary and all volunteers will receive resources, training and guidance. Tutors will be volunteering once a week for 60-90 minutes.

To RSVP to the information session, email Program Director Susan MacLeod at [susan@ravenswoodclassroompartners.org](mailto:susan@ravenswoodclassroompartners.org) for further details. Visit [ravenswoodclassroompartners.org](http://ravenswoodclassroompartners.org) for more information.

### Compost giveaway in Woodside

The town of Woodside, in collaboration with GreenWaste, is giving away free, bagged compost for Woodside residents. The giveaway will take place in the Town Hall parking lot, 2955 Woodside Road, next to the sandbag station starting after 1 p.m. on Friday, April 18.

Each household is entitled to one bag, available on a first-come, first-served basis until supplies run out. GreenWaste's compost is produced from 100% recycled yard trimmings and designed to benefit soil health.

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

# Parolee charged in sheriff threat case skips court date

Man had been released on \$10,000 bail

By Arden Margulis

A transient man accused of threatening Sheriff Christina Corpus skipped his scheduled hearing on April 3, prompting a commissioner of the court to issue a bench warrant for his arrest, according to court records.

James Taylor, who is homeless and on parole, was released on a \$10,000 bail bond on March 26 after Commissioner Jugo Borja declined the district attorney's office motion to set bail at \$50,000.

Taylor had previously been convicted of felony battery against a custodial officer and misdemeanor damage to a prison or jail.

He will likely not face additional charges for skipping court, but if apprehended, his bail could be set higher, according to San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

As the arresting agency, the

San Mateo County Sheriff's Office is responsible for apprehending Taylor, Wagstaffe said.

The Sheriff's Office directed all questions to the district attorney's office.

Wagstaffe said every police agency in the state is authorized to arrest Taylor. Fugitives like Taylor are often picked up during routine traffic stops or while committing other crimes, he said.

### Allegations against Taylor

Taylor was charged on March 18 with two counts of making criminal threats and two counts of threatening a sheriff, according to Wagstaffe. He pleaded not guilty to all counts.

Taylor allegedly threatened Corpus twice while in custody at a San Mateo County correctional facility: first on Oct. 29, 2024, through a grievance form and again verbally to a therapist on Feb. 18. In the grievance form, Taylor allegedly wrote he

would do something "severe" to Corpus, remarked that physically assaulting her would be humorous, and warned that deputies would need to draw their weapons if he encountered her.

On Feb. 18, Taylor reportedly told a therapist that he planned to kill Corpus using a trash bin or metal tray rack, citing her alleged anti-LGBTQ comments.

A report commissioned by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors into Corpus found that she texted homophobic slurs about an unnamed city official. Supervisor Ray Mueller shared a forensic report from Cellebrite, a company that specializes in investigative software, he claims definitively proves Corpus sent the texts. Corpus denies sending those texts.

Corpus did not comment on Taylor's arrest at the time. ■

Email Staff Writer

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**express**

# Bereaved Palestinian and Israeli women call for peace at Stanford event

Women share stories of healing, hope, and shared humanity

By Hannah Bensen

A Palestinian mother who lost her son and an Israeli daughter who lost her parents to the decades-long conflict between their nations shared their stories Monday night, urging peace, reconciliation and understanding.

Layla Alsheikh is a Palestinian mother whose 6-month-old son died in 2002 of health complications after an Israeli tear gas attack. Mor Ynon is an Israeli mother living in Tel Aviv whose parents were killed in the Oct. 7 attacks.

The dialogue was presented by Parents Circle - Families Forum, a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization made up of over 800 families who have lost loved ones in the conflict. Founded in 1995, PCFF promotes restorative justice, healing and non-violence, and is currently on a two-week college tour across the United States. The event at Stanford's Memorial Church was sponsored by the Office for Religious and Spiritual Life and other campus organizations.

According to Lior Ben-Zvi,

PCFF's development and communications manager who also served as moderator of the event, stories are a way to cut through the dominant political discourse and reveal partnership between Israelis and Palestinians.

"Everyone who's part of the parent circle is there because of their personal story," said Ben-Zvi in an interview. "Hearing personal narratives helps people connect in ways that maybe they wouldn't otherwise, both for the person that's sharing the story and for the person that's hearing it."

During the program, the event's organizers invited attendees to step outside their echo chamber and listen to stories that don't fit neatly into the conflict's siloed narratives. The event also featured a performance by Stanford Talisman, a cello performance from Stanford medical student Melanie Ambler, a Q&A session and a closing multi-faith prayer.

Both Alsheikh and Ynon described the immense pain of their loss — like a "bullet to the heart," Alsheikh said. For 16 years, Alsheikh avoided all contact with Israelis. But at a

friend's urging, she reluctantly agreed to attend PCFF, where she was astounded to see Israelis and Palestinians laugh together. Eventually, she too was touched and moved by the community.

"It's not about comparing the pain. It's not about who's right and wrong," Alsheikh said during the event. "It's about understanding."

Ynon spent the evening of Oct. 6, 2023, celebrating the Jewish holiday of Sukkat with her family, including her parents, who departed after an evening of eating, dancing and games. It was the last time she saw them alive.

Before the Oct. 7 attacks, Ynon had worked in tech and lived in a self-described Israeli "bubble." She never imagined she would become a peace activist.

"I feel that I lost a lot, and I miss my parents very much," she said during the event. "But I feel that I've gained a lot," referring to her community at PCFF, which she joined after quitting her job in the aftermath of the attacks.

Both women spoke about the choice to take a path that does not perpetuate violence, but affirms every person's shared humanity.



Tâm Vũ

Layla Alsheikh, left, receives an affirming embrace from Mor Ynon, right, at Memorial Church in Stanford on Monday, April 7.

Lynde Folsom, a Stanford doctoral student who attended the event, came to listen to the stories and has been reflecting on the divisions within the university.

"We're looking for ways to connect with each other, and it is difficult for us as grads, but also as students, also as kids, to learn how to see light when there is so much darkness, to find some spark in each other," Folsom said. "And honestly, I think that's what they demonstrated so well."

Folsom's favorite moment of the evening came when someone asked the speakers what was hardest about addressing

an American audience. The two mothers exchanged a look, embraced and began to stifle laughter. After a moment, Alsheikh said the hardest part was giving Americans hope — prompting laughter at the irony that those who had endured so much were expected to inspire it.

"Her response was... 'We're the ones giving you hope?'" Folsom said. "And it is a moment to think, wow, what has happened such that that could be the case? And I think they were successful, as mothers tend to be." ■

Email Editorial Intern  
Hannah Bensen at [hbensen@almanacnews.com](mailto:hbensen@almanacnews.com).

## Local students increase access to chess

M-A brothers found nonprofit

By Angela Swartz

Inspired by a desire to make chess accessible to everyone — not just people who can afford coaching or tournament fees, two Menlo-Atherton High School juniors formed ChessGuru. The pair offer chess lessons to students at a North Fair Oaks school.

In September 2024, Shawnak Shivakumar, 16, and Axel Pilette, 17, who are award-winning chess players, approached K-8 Connect Community Charter

School Principal Hayley Dupuy to ask if her students would be interested in an after school chess program. She said "yes" and ChessGuru has been hosting classes on Tuesdays ever since.

"We'd both had the game shape our lives — not just competitively, but in how we think, how we learn, and how we carry ourselves," said Shivakumar and Pilette, who are junior class presidents at M-A and helped revive the Atherton school's own chess club in 2023. "We wanted to bring that to communities where enrichment programs are too often out of reach. Connect Community Charter School operates with a small budget, and when we first reached out, the staff was genuinely excited and grateful."

Before ChessGuru's lessons, Connect was paying another organization to come teach chess during lunchtime, but only four or five students would attend those lessons, according to Dupuy.

"I knew already that there was an interest in chess so I started



Courtesy Akemi Kwan

ChessGuru students compete in the elementary division of the San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship on March 29.

discussing the program with them (ChessGuru) and it has been a great success," she said in an email. Now about 30 first through eighth grade students per week attend the ChessGuru lessons led by seven M-A student volunteers. "The group has done an excellent job teaching both beginners and players who already have some experience. The main impact is that students of all ages now enjoy playing chess, which I believe has a positive impact on memory and analytical thinking."

Shivakumar made his foray into chess at age 5 playing against people online using his mom's cellphone. He won the

U15 World Championship in 2022, and has ranked among the top players in the world for his age group. Pilette is in the top 99.9 percentile online. He became serious about chess after struggling to beat his dad at the game one Christmas. He promised his dad that by the next holiday season he would be the best chess player in the family.

At ChessGuru, some students are still figuring out how the pieces move, while others are getting serious about the game, according to the nonprofit.

"The room is loud and chaotic in the best way," Shivakumar and Pilette said. "They even run over to show us when they've

checkmated someone. ... We bring a structured curriculum, but a lot of it is just sitting with the kids, talking through moves, and letting them surprise us!"

The pair say that kids love figuring things out for themselves.

"We'll see a second grader play five games in a row and still want more — not because someone told them it's educational, but because they're genuinely enjoying the game," Shivakumar and Pilette, who are both Menlo Park residents, said. "We missed one Tuesday because of a scheduling issue, and the next week, several kids came up and demanded to know: 'Where were you!!?' Chess gives them a way to express themselves — whether it's staying calm under pressure, thinking ahead, or even just shaking hands and saying 'good game.'"

### Recent chess competition

Following months of preparation, Connect students participated in their first chess tournament, the San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship, on March 29. They placed second as a program.

Students went up against over 300 kids and more than 50

See **CHESS CHAMPIONS**, page 11

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# San Carlos Airport air traffic controllers reach labor agreement

Permanent staffing was in limbo during negotiations

By Angela Swartz

San Carlos Airport is now fully staffed with air traffic controllers following a pay dispute, the Federal Aviation Administration confirmed on Wednesday, April 2.

A new airport contractor, Oklahoma-based Robinson Aviation (RVA), reached a contract agreement with controllers before a 60-day deadline to settle talks.

Permanent staffing for the tower was in limbo when controllers for RVA refused to begin work on Feb. 1, in part, because RVA declined to give them an \$18,000 annual housing stipend to account for the Bay Area's

high cost of living, said San Mateo County airports spokesperson Davi Howard in early February. This caused a near disruption of services.

"From what I hear, all appears to be well; crisis averted," said Howard in an email.

The airport's longtime provider Serco stepped in and extended its services during labor negotiations.

During talks, control tower staffing was being supplemented with temporary controllers, which was "not sustainable," San Mateo County Supervisor Ray Mueller said in February. At the time, both Mueller and U.S. Rep. Kevin Mullin urged the FAA to expedite negotiations to staff the

airport with qualified air traffic controllers after hearing talks had stalled.

"We are heartened to hear that the FAA has reached a deal with our traffic controllers to ensure San Carlos Airport's control towers are fully staffed for the immediate time being and the skyways over San Mateo County are safe," said Mueller in a prepared statement. "I am deeply grateful to everyone involved for their swift action in restoring long-term air traffic control services, with special thanks to Congressman Mullin for his strong advocacy. This is great news for public safety on the Peninsula, and we will continue to stay vigilant to ensure



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Officials say air traffic controllers are now staffing the San Carlos Airport after a labor dispute.

everything remains on track."

Mullin, who issued a joint press release with Mueller on Wednesday commending the close of negotiations said that: "Communities surrounding airports and airline travelers across

the country rely on air traffic controllers to keep them safe. This news is a relief to many in my district and I will continue to stay engaged with the FAA

See AIRPORT, page 11

## OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

**Brenda Miller**, 91, a long-time Palo Alto resident and a Stanford graduate who had a career in teaching before focusing on raising her children, on March 20, 2025.

**Julie (Jules) Carman**, 61, a Redwood City resident who earned a track and field scholarship to the University of California, Berkeley, and later worked in the tech industry, on March 14, 2025.

**John Albert Carman**, 69, a standout student athlete at Sequoia High School who launched a 40-year career in Bay Area real estate working with the region's top firms, on March 8, 2025.

**Dolores (Dee) Josephine Nedd**, 94, who grew up in San Francisco before buying a home in Palo Alto and raising a family, and who participated in bowling leagues, flower arranging classes, exercise swimming and helping at local charity bazaars, on Nov. 9, 2024.

**Brendon Edward Vining**, 78, a 42-year resident of Palo Alto who traveled the world for his career as a computer systems engineer, working for Systems Control and several other companies in computer programming for energy projects, and later telecommunications, on March 24, 2025.

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

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### Harker Summer Programs San Jose

Harker summer programs for preschool-grade 12 children include opportunities for academics, arts, athletics and activities. Taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff, our programs offer something for everyone in a safe and supportive environment. Register as soon as possible. [Harker.org/Summer](https://Harker.org/Summer) (408) 553-5737

### Lydian Academy Menlo Park, Burlingame

Lydian invites 6th-12th Neurodiverse learners, 2E students, and those in need of credit remediation or advancement to complete UC-approved courses in our personalized 1:1 setting in as few as 2.5 weeks. Executive Functioning, Personal Finance, and Life Skills electives are popular, in addition to our Design Thinking and Engineering (STEAM) camps and Middle School day camps. [LydianAcademy.com/Admissions/Summer-at-Lydian/](https://LydianAcademy.com/Admissions/Summer-at-Lydian/) (650) 405-1312

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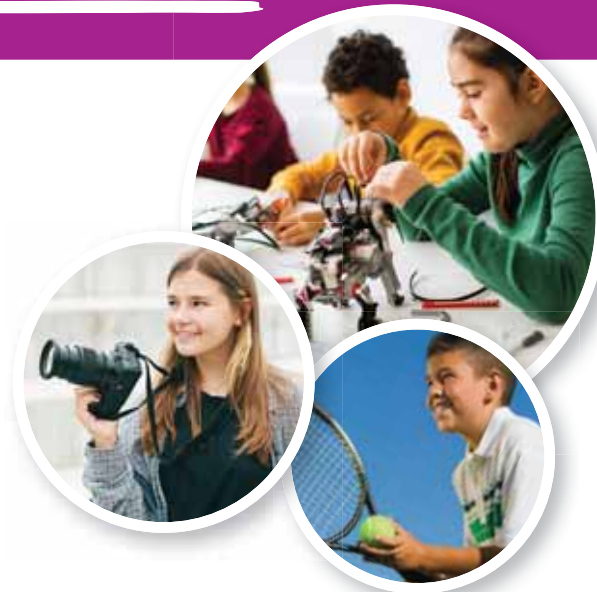
## ACADEMICS

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

Stanford Explore is a lecture series in biomedical research and offers high school students the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students. Explore various topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neuroscience, cancer, immunology and other topics. [Explore.Stanford.edu](https://Explore.Stanford.edu) [explore-series@stanford.edu](mailto:explore-series@stanford.edu)

### Summer@Stratford Palo Alto/Bay Area

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### Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto

Casti Camp offers girls entering grades 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music. Leadership program available for girls entering grades 7-9. [Castilleja.org/SummerCamp](https://Castilleja.org/SummerCamp) (650) 470-7833

### Hidden Villa Los Altos Hills

Hidden Villa is a 1,600-acre living classroom where kids explore organic farms, connect with animals, and discover the intersection of ecology and equity. Our Summer Camp transforms young people, cultivating compassion, environmental stewardship, and community understanding through hands-on adventures that inspire change. [HiddenVilla.org/SummerCamp](https://HiddenVilla.org/SummerCamp) (650) 949-8606

### J-Camp at the Oshman Family JCC Palo Alto

J-Camp is a day camp for incoming transitional kindergarten through 10th grade. Our camp activities build confidence, stretch imaginations and teach new skills. Every session is a unique experience, full of fun and engaging programs. We are a welcoming and inclusive community where campers of all backgrounds and their families learn, play and connect. [OFJCC-JCamp.com](https://OFJCC-JCamp.com) (650) 223-8622

### Riekes Center Menlo Park

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## ARTS, CULTURE & ENRICHMENT

### Stanford Jazz Workshop Stanford

Stanford Jazz Workshop week-long jazz immersion programs for young musicians in middle school (Giant Steps Day Camp, starts July 7), high school (Jazz Camp, starts July 12 and/or July 20, and advanced teens/adults (Jazz Institute, July 27). All instruments and vocals. On the Stanford campus! [StanfordJazz.org](https://StanfordJazz.org) (650) 736-0324

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### Maccabi Sports Camp Hayward

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Spartans Sports Camp offers a wide variety of sports and academic enrichment camps for kids entering grades 1-9. Experienced staff ensures everyone has fun. Daily on-site swimming is offered for all camps. Camps run weekly from June 9 - August 1 at Mountain View High School. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available. [SpartansSportsCamp.com](https://SpartansSportsCamp.com) (650) 479-5906

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Please check directly with camps for updates and offerings. To advertise in print and online, contact your sales representative or email [Sales@EmbarcaderoMedia.org](mailto:Sales@EmbarcaderoMedia.org).

# Dr. Anjali Rao named chief medical officer at Sequoia Hospital

OB-GYN steps into leadership role

By Simmerdeep Kaur

Dr. Anjali Rao didn't know she wanted to be in obstetrics and gynecology until she carried out her first delivery in medical school and realized she could have a significant impact in women's lives. Over two decades later, she intends to widen the scope of her impact on all patients at the Dignity Health's Sequoia Hospital as its new chief medical officer.



Dr. Anjali Rao

staff physician working on labor and deliveries. She loved being involved in the different parts of a woman's life, from childbirth and postpartum care to birth control, perimenopause and menopause. She wasn't just meeting her patients for one event, but rather getting to know them over several years, guiding many through multiple life transitions. She had been with some patients for more than two decades.

"My primary love has always been obstetrics. I love the excitement..." she said. "And I love being part of a joyous part of medicine and healthcare."

Over time, she seized opportunities to take leadership positions so she could learn about the inner workings of the hospital. One of her initiatives was the creation of a hospitalist program to ensure that an OB-GYN was available in the hospital 24/7 to handle emergencies.

She then served as the OB-GYN

department chairperson, where she was responsible for overseeing and facilitating communication between department members. She added that she has worked with peer review committees to improve the quality of patient care by studying various cases occurring in the hospital.

Rao, a second-generation immigrant, grew up in Fremont after her parents migrated from India. She earned her bachelor of science in biology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and completed her joint MD/MPH degree at the New York Medical College. She later completed her residency at Stanford University Medical Center, where she served as chief resident of obstetrics and gynecology.

"I definitely owe a lot to the community and to my parents; that immigrant work ethic is so important to me," she added. "When my dad texted me earlier this week, saying he's proud of me, that's the best thing."

*Email Staff Writer  
Simmerdeep Kaur at  
skaur@almanacnews.com.*

## AIRPORT

continued from page 9

and local partners to ensure this solution is a lasting one."

RVA could not be reached for comment. An FAA spokesperson did not share details of the contract, including when it was signed.

Bob Kearn, a pilot who's flown out of the airport for over 35 years and board member for the nonprofit San Carlos Airport Association, is pleased the staffing issue was put to bed for now.

"The airport will work more efficiently and safely with a staffed control tower," he said.

San Carlos is a small but busy airport. Its air space is congested during prime hours. The airport is host to over 500 aircraft and 25 aviation-related businesses, according to a February press release from Mueller's office. In 2024, the airport saw 90,000 operations, according to the county website.

San Mateo County owns and operates the airport, but the FAA oversees staffing it. The FAA, through a bid process, awarded RVA a contract to staff the tower, according to an FAA spokesperson. ■

*Angela Swartz is a  
Contributing Writer.*

## CHESS CHAMPIONS

continued from page 8

schools. One student, a third grader called it "the best day ever" after the tournament.

"They (the Connect kids) were nervous in the morning, but by the end of the day they were laughing, comparing medals, and asking when the next tournament was," said Shivakumar and Pilette. "For a lot of them, it was the first time they'd ever been part of a competitive academic experience — and walked away with something to show for it."

The M-A's chess club, the Menlo-Atherton Chess Community, itself won 12 awards at the competition.

### More information

This summer, Shivakumar and Pilette want to host chess lessons at other schools, but haven't yet confirmed plans. This coming fall, they'd also like to expand their programming to more schools.

The Menlo-Atherton Chess Community will host its third annual chess tournament at M-A, 555 Middlefield Road in Atherton, from May 19-23.

For more information on ChessGuru, go to chessguru.org and on Instagram under the handle chessguruhandle. ■

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## Town of Atherton

Planning Commission, April 23, 2025  
REGULAR MEETING, 6:00 P.M.

*This is meeting is held virtually and in-person at the Council Chambers  
80 Fair Oaks Lane*

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the **Atherton Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider the items listed below during their regular meeting.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that said application is set for hearing by the Planning Commission at its meeting on **April 23, 2025, at 6:00 PM** in-person and via teleconference accessible through the information provided below, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the projects listed in the public hearing section should or should not be approved. This meeting will be held via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The public may participate in the Planning Commission Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

**Topic:** Atherton Planning Commission Regular Meeting

**Time:** April 23, 2025, 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

**In person Option:** 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027

**Zoom Meeting Option and Details:**

<https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/j/84150249099>

Meeting ID: 841 5024 9099

One tap mobile:

+13017158592 (Washington DC)

+13052241968 (US)

Find your local number: <https://ciathertonca.zoom.us/j/84150249099>

**Remote Public Comments:**

Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. The following email will be monitored during the meeting and public comments received will be read into the record.

**Email:** [planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us)

**Projects under Public Hearing:**

1. Consideration of a **Tree Protection Zone Exception (PTPZ25-00002)** to accommodate a new detached garage and pool equipment building at **99 Edwards Lane (APN 070-211-180)**, an approximately 46,509 square foot site within the R-1A zoning district. Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Sections 8.10.050 (Request for exceptions to the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)) and 8.10.020 (Definitions) outline the requirements for construction activities within the TPZ. The Town of Atherton's *Heritage Tree Preservation Standards and Specifications* further describes that the Planning Commission may grant a Tree Protection Zone Exception (PTPZ) in the R-1A Zoning District for projects that are within a distance of a heritage tree less than 8 times the diameter of the trunk at breast height, noted as "8x." The PTPZ application requests that the Planning Commission consider approval for construction activities that are 6x from two Coast Live Oaks and will accommodate a detached garage and a pool equipment building. This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to AMC Section 15.32.100 and CEQA Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). If you have any questions on the item, please contact Gerry Martin, Assistant Planner, at [gmartin@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:gmartin@ci.atherton.ca.us) or (408) 809-9513.
2. Consideration of a **Heritage Tree Removal (HTR25-002)** request to remove five (5) Coast Live Oaks, Trees #3, #17, #19, #23 and #93, and accommodate the development of a single family dwelling and accessory buildings at **170 Atherton Avenue (APN 070-070-280)**, a 3.99 acre site within the R1-A zone. Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Sections 8.10.040 (Removal of and Damage to Heritage Trees, Permit Process) and 8.10.040 (Definitions) outline the requirements for heritage tree removal. Staff has determined the subject trees are not dead or dangerous; therefore, removal requires consideration and approval by the Planning Commission. This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to AMC Section 15.32.100 and CEQA Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) and 15311 (Accessory Structures) If you have any questions on the item please contact Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner, at [bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us).

The agenda for this meeting with links to related staff reports can be found online by **Friday, April 18, 2025**, here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

**IF YOU CHALLENGE** the listed projects in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing. Planning Commission decisions are appealable by any aggrieved person to the City Council within 10 days of the date of the decision. If you have any questions on an item, please contact the Planning Commission Contact: [planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us](mailto:planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us)

Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

ATHERTON PLANNING COMMISSION

/s/ Brittany Bendix  
Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner

### LIBRARIES

*continued from page 6*

day including Lego club, drop-in tech help, storytimes, basic sewing tutorials and salsa dancing.

The San Mateo County Libraries recently introduced field trips for individuals 55 years and older. At no cost, senior residents can venture to locations such as Filoli in Woodside, Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito and Pie Ranch in Pescadero. This is another way that libraries are offering unique experiences that maybe wouldn't be accessible if it were not offered by the libraries, said Woods.

For those who may mind the noise, Woods ensured that library locations also have private rooms that community members can reserve for meetings or a quieter space to focus on their studies.

"We're trying to have that balancing act of making sure that people can have a place where they can come together, socialize and make important connections so we're not going through life in an isolated state," she added.

In addition to books, the Library of Things offers various items to be borrowed such as karaoke machines, hiking equipment, GoPro cameras, bicycles and blood pressure monitors.

Some locations also have a makerspace where the community can access 3D printers,

sewing machines and laser cutters. The goal for providing these spaces is to allow individuals to gain technology skills that they can utilize in different careers.

In order to provide these various programs, library staff have to play many different roles. Outside of regular librarian duties, some also serve as the community technology specialist to help patrons during 3D printing workshops or coding activities.

"One of the things I love the most when I go into our libraries is seeing the heartfelt connections that our staff have with our patrons," said Woods. "They know each other by first name basis and they know each other's kids by their names."

Every new addition to the San Mateo County Libraries is grown from staff and community feedback, she added.

To kick off National Library Week, the library will be hosting its first Library Night with the San Francisco Giants at China Basin Park in San Francisco located outside of Oracle Park. The event will feature giveaways, Giants-themed library cards, 3D printing demos and a reading garden.

For more information on daily events and activities hosted by the San Mateo County Libraries visit [smcl.bibliocommons.com/v2/events](http://smcl.bibliocommons.com/v2/events). ■

*Email Staff Writer  
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### MOUNTAIN LION

*continued from page 1*

learn about these amazing animals and their species, and we look forward to watching them thrive together at the Birmingham Zoo," said Chris Pefferkorn, president and CEO of the Birmingham Zoo.

Spruce and his siblings were part of the Oakland Zoo's 30th mountain lion rescue. Across California, mountain lions face many threats from car strikes, rodenticide and wildfires.

"We are excited that a wonderful home has been found for Spruce," said Nik Dehejia, CEO of Oakland Zoo. "Though we are quick to respond when called into action, we hope measures will be implemented to prevent Oakland Zoo from needing to rescue these animals so often in the future.

Coexistence is essential for the survival of this species."

According to the Oakland Zoo, on average, each rescued mountain lion cub spends about eight days under the care of staff and costs about \$18,000 monthly in veterinary and animal care. These efforts are funded by donations from the community, said the zoo. As of March 26, the community of Portola Valley donated over \$70,000 to support the Oakland Zoo's rescue program.

More updates on Spruce and Juniper are to come from the Birmingham and Oakland zoos through each organization's social media platforms. Follow @oaklandzoo and @bhmazoo on Instagram and Facebook to see how the cubs are settling into their new homes. ■

*Email Staff Writer  
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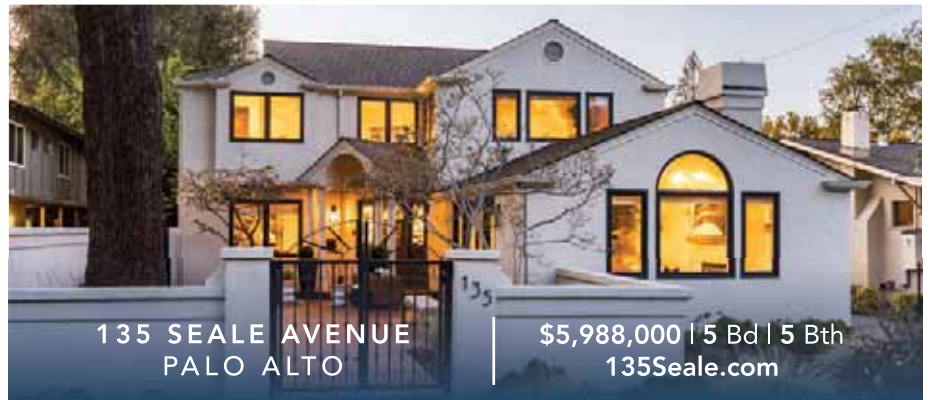
5 OAK FOREST COURT  
PORTOLA VALLEY | \$5,788,000 | 4 Bd | 5.5 Bth  
5OakForest.com



159 WAVERLEY STREET  
PALO ALTO | \$3,988,000 | 3 Bd | 2 Bth  
159Waverley.com



8 REYNA PLACE  
MENLO PARK | \$9,488,000 | 4 Bd | 7 Bth  
8Reyna.com



135 SEALE AVENUE  
PALO ALTO | \$5,988,000 | 5 Bd | 5 Bth  
135Seale.com



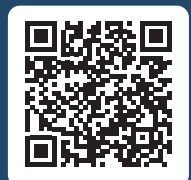
23171 MORA GLEN DRIVE  
LOS ALTOS | \$7,888,000 | 5 Bd | 5.5 Bth  
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## PROTESTS

continued from page 5

posting information about Trump's policies to educate their followers. However, 25-year-old protester Grey J. said her generation is also affected by misinformation while burning sage at the protest.

While hundreds of high schoolers in the mid-Peninsula organized a protest against anti-immigration laws in February, younger protesters were nearly absent from the scene. Some suspect that younger folks are attending larger demonstrations in San Francisco or Sacramento, while others may think the outreach about protests is not reaching them.

The event was strategically organized to be held in the middle of a busy roadway rather than city hall to reach "everybody in the mid-Peninsula," said Indivisible Portola Valley organizer JoAnn Loulan. "The people are the veto power because we cannot depend on anyone else to help us, so we have to be out here in the streets," she added.

Loulan said she started Protesters Unite, a political satire page on TikTok and Instagram, to reach younger demographics.

## Parallels in history

Loulan recalls her generation frequently protesting during the Vietnam War and sees parallels

in the current state of the nation to when Richard Nixon was elected in 1969.

"Fifty years ago, we were in our 20s, and our friends were getting drafted," said Loulan. "We knew boys who were killed, and we saw the Vietnam War on T.V. all the time."

Decades ago, anti-war protests grew to thousands over a couple of years, and Loulan believes that repeated exposure of local protests will bring in more people over time. In March, about 200 protesters attended the rally on Jefferson Avenue and El Camino Real. Now, thousands are participating.

A member of the Raging Grannies, a local activist group, said she feels like Trump is

following the "Nazi playbook."

"History doesn't always repeat itself, but it rhymes and we need to be on the lookout and pay attention," said Redwood City resident Christina Hoadley.

## Strength in local demonstrations

Local leaders, including San Mateo County District 2 Supervisor Noelia Corzo and South San Francisco Council member James Coleman, participated in the protest alongside the community.

"This is not just about sending a message to the federal administration," said Corzo. "It's also about people connecting with each other and using those connections to make

more local impacts as well."

Corzo added that she finds inspiration and strength from the community during these rallies and finds it important for leaders to stand with the people during difficult times.

"As elected officials, one of our responsibilities is to be a legislator in the halls of city hall, but we also have a responsibility to use our platform and our voice to speak out against what is wrong," said Coleman.

Indivisible Portola Valley, the group that organized the protest, is planning for another demonstration at the same location on May 1. ■

Email Staff Writer

Jennifer Yoshikoshi at [jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com](mailto:jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com).

## CESAR CHAVEZ

continued from page 5

Love Never Fails and more.

Through increased funding with a grant from the city's transient occupancy tax, the event was able to expand on a larger scale to bring youth, families and seniors together, said YCS Executive Director Mora Oommen.

The YCS has been working with Cesar Chavez Middle School students to educate them about the history of farmerworkers and took them to visit a farm

in East Palo Alto. After the trip, students reflected, shared their experiences and created posters with information about significant people in the farmworkers movement, said Oommen.

Student posters decorated the walls of Assisi Church. Community members could read about the work of civil rights leaders such as Dolores Huerta, Larry Itliong, Jessica Govea Thorbourne and Philip Vera Cruz.

Youth United for Community Action, a local grassroots organization, is educating young

people in East Palo Alto about how to become organizers and address issues within the community.

"One of the biggest issues right now is the lack of education around what fascism is," said YUCA organizer Fernanda Sandoval. She emphasized how important it is to teach young people of color how to stand up and fight for their communities.

During the event, Cesar Chavez's niece Barbara Medina-Aranda joined a Zoom session to thank the community of East Palo Alto for keeping the legacy

of farmerworkers, immigrants and people of color alive.

"The importance of standing up and supporting our community, you can't put a value on that," said District 4 Supervisor Lisa Gauthier. "As residents, we are going to continue to show up for those who are the most vulnerable in our communities and make sure they're being supported."

As the evening continued, local residents could be seen engaging with each other through laughter and song. Participants sang "De Colores," a popular

song that became the anthem for the United Farm Workers Movement in the 1960s.

According to Oommen, this is part of a series of cultural community events that will take place in East Palo Alto. The next event will celebrate the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community in a festival from 12 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 31, at Bell Street Park. For more information visit [@weareanamatangi](https://www.instagram.com/weareanamatangi) on Instagram. ■

Email Staff Writer

Jennifer Yoshikoshi at [jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com](mailto:jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com).

## EDUCATION CUTS

continued from page 1

"Our kids can't be collateral damage in the culture war," Becker said in an interview before the event. "We need stability in our schools, we need stability for teachers. We're already feeling the effects."

On Friday, the Supreme Court allowed the Department of Education to cancel more than \$148 million in grants for recruiting and training new teachers in California.

"It makes no sense," Menlo Park City School District board

member and Palo Alto teacher Josh Spira said about the canceling of the grant. "How are we going to recruit, train and support the next generation of teachers that our children deserve, that our local economy depends on if we're cutting funding?"

Becker said that federal programs such as Head Start, which provides children with free medical services and gives parents job training, school meals and student loans are some of the major programs that are at risk. California currently requires all schools to offer free lunch and breakfast to students. The

federal government reimburses schools for breakfast and lunch to some students. California provides reimbursements to cover meals for all students.

Becker emphasized that California is prioritizing education. Since he joined the state Senate, he said California has increased spending on education by \$35 billion a year. "When I came there, we did not have [free] school meals. We didn't have universal [transitional kindergarten]," he said.

Local and state governments largely handle education. Trump and other Republicans argue that by cutting the Department of Education, local governments will have more resources and less bureaucracy.

Becker has his doubts. "We just don't know. I don't think radical and reckless cuts and chaos and confusion are the way to do it. I'm open to anything, but I haven't seen a plan yet that says they are going to return money to the state," he said.

Trump says his cuts to the Department of Education, part of his broader Department of Government Efficiency initiative, are intended to reduce the federal budget deficit.

Becker doesn't buy it. "It's a charade to say this is about debt," he said. "We had

budget surpluses in the 90s. The Trump tax cuts for billionaires have cost us trillions of dollars. All nondefense discretionary spending is 3.1% of GDP. All this is a rounding error compared to, say, the defense budget."

"We're not going to let this misinformation go," Becker said.

Not all attendees support Becker. Members of the group Our Duty, which advocates against sex-change operations for minors and transgender participation in women's sports, also attended. They cited Gov. Gavin Newsom's recent statement on his podcast that transgender participation in sports is "deeply unfair."

When confronted by Our Duty activists, Berman firmly defended transgender students' participation in sports. "You're bullying a small group of kids when there is a bully in the White House," he said as he walked away.

When asked about Newsom's comments, Becker said: "I'll just say this is an emotional issue. We had people here on both sides of it. I have not yet had the chance to listen to the governor's remarks in full so I'm not going to comment. I do appreciate that he's reaching out to the other side." He declined to state his view. ■

Email Staff Writer

Arden Margulis at [amargulis@almanacnews.com](mailto:amargulis@almanacnews.com).

# Employment

**Quantitative Analyst at MadKudu Inc.** (Menlo Park, CA). Use programming languages & query data tables to gather, filter & organize data from several source systems. Req. Masters in Bus. Analytics, Statistics or rel. & 2 yrs exp. in bus. analytics, value eng. or rel. quantitative role. Position may be performed from home in the San Francisco-San Jose, CA area. Travel to attend company meetings in normal commuting distance 1-3 days/month. \$205,000 - \$225,000 per year. Apply: [jobs@madkudu.com](mailto:jobs@madkudu.com) (Ref. Job DLOLOA333)

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Arden Margulis

State Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, poses with members of the teachers union.

# Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
File No. M-298300

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):  
SUPER CLEAN SERVICES & MORE  
373 3rd Ave Apt 4  
Redwood City CA, 94063  
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:  
08/21/2024

REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):  
SIMON HERIBALDO RAMIREZ SALGUERO  
373 3rd Ave Apt 4  
Redwood City CA 94063  
JUANA ISABEL PENA ALVAREZ  
373 3rd Ave Apt 4  
Redwood city CA 94063  
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY A Married Couple.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on February 27 2025.  
(ALM Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

CLAU THERAPY  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300076

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) CLAU THERAPY , located at 2027 Dumbarton Ave, E Palo Alto, CA, 94303.  
Registered owner(s):  
CLAUDIA CATTANEO AUXIER  
2027 Dumbarton Ave.  
E. Palo Alto, 94303  
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 March 11, 2025.  
(ALM Apr 11, 18, 25 and May 2, 2025)

HAVEN WINE & CHEESE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300127

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) HAVEN WINE & CHEESE , located at 1925 MENALTO AVENUE, MENLO PARK, CA, 94025.  
Mailing Address: PO BOX 389 MENLO PARK, CA 94025.  
Registered owner(s):  
ERE VINO, LLC  
PO BOX 389  
MENLO PARK, CA 94025  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
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 March 17, 2025.  
(ALM Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

HIGHWAY 1 FITNESS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300300

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) HIGHWAY 1 FITNESS , located at 225 Cabrillo Highway Suite 104B, HALF MOON BAY, CA 94019.  
Registered owner(s):  
WOOSHIFIT LLC  
515 EL GRANADA BLVD  
HALF MOON BAY, CA 94019  
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 01/01/2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 03, 2025.  
(ALM Apr 11, 18, 25 and May 2, 2025)

PACIFIC TRUST REAL ESTATE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300140

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) PACIFIC TRUST REAL ESTATE , located at 1300 El Camino Real #100, Menlo Park CA 94025, San Mateo County.  
Registered owner(s):  
DAVID WEIL HOMES, LLC  
1350 Cloud Ave.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
BRIK HOUSE, INC.  
2920 Juniper St.  
San Mateo, CA 94403  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Joint Venture.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on March 17 2025.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 18, 2025.  
(ALM Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

D & V CLEANING LLC  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300315

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) D & V CLEANING LLC , located at 222 88th St APT 202 , Daly City, CA 94015.  
Registered owner(s):  
D & V CLEANING LLC  
222 88th St APT 202  
Daly City, CA 94015  
State of Incorporation/Organization: California  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/10/2025.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 04, 2025.  
(ALM Apr 11, 18, 25 and May 2, 2025)

APARTMENT HOUSE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-299930

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) APARTMENT HOUSE , located at 318 Redwood Ave, Redwood City, CA 94061.  
Mailing Address: 373 3rd Avenue Redwood City, CA 94063.  
Registered owner(s):  
CARLOS PENA SALGADO  
373 3rd Ave  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
MARIA TERESA PENA  
373 3rd Ave  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.  
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 February 27, 2025.  
(ALM Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

RG GOLFING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300012

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) RG GOLFING , located at 235 Westlake Center #215, Daly City, CA 94015.  
Registered owner(s):  
GO CLR, LLC  
235 WESTLAKE CENTER #215  
DALY CITY, CA 94015  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
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 March 05, 2025.  
(ALM Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

FORD AVIATION CONSULTING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300068

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) FORD AVIATION CONSULTING , located at 360 Bowsprit Dr, Redwood City, CA 94065.  
Registered owner(s):  
CAROL MARY FORD  
360 Bowsprit Drive  
Redwood City, CA, 94065  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on January 1, 2025.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 10, 2025.  
(ALM Apr 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025)

MANY LIVES CHINESE MEDICINE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-299820

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) MANY LIVES CHINESE MEDICINE , located at 499 Seaport Ct. #101, Redwood City, CA 94063. Mailing Address: 3600 Page Street Redwood City, CA 94063.  
Registered owner(s):  
MLCM, INC.  
3600 Page Street  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/01/1999.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 14, 2025.  
(ALM Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

JPM COUNSEL  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300120

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) JPM COUNSEL , located at 3604 Oak Knoll Drive Emerald Hills, CA 94062, Emerald Hills.  
Registered owner(s):  
JENNIFER PRENTISS MORRILL  
3604 Oak Knoll Drive  
Emerald Hills, CA 94062  
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 March 14, 2025.  
(ALM Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

TERE'S BOUTIQUE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-299929

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) TERE'S BOUTIQUE , located at 3270 Middlefield Rd, Menlo Park, CA 94025 .  
Mailing Address: 373 3rd Ave Apt 1 Redwood City, CA 94063.  
Registered owner(s):  
CARLOS PENA SALGADO  
373 3rd Ave Apt 1  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
MARIA TERESA PENA  
373 3rd Ave Apt 1  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.  
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 February 27, 2025.  
(ALM Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

SILVER OAKS MEMORY CARE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-299925

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) SILVER OAKS MEMORY CARE , located at 16 Coleman Place, Menlo Park, CA 94025.  
Registered owner(s):  
FOX OPS LLC  
355 Main Street  
Vacaville, CA 95688  
State of Incorporation/Organization: California  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/1/2018.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 27, 2025.  
(ALM Apr 11, 18, 25 and May 2, 2025)

SEQPRO  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-300080

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) SEQPRO , located at 348 Hatch Drive, Foster City, CA 94404.  
Registered owner(s):  
MEDGENOME INC  
348 Hatch Drive  
Foster City, CA 94404  
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 March 12, 2025.  
(ALM Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 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-01566  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Krzysztof Gruca filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
KRZYSZTOF GRUCA TO KRZYSZTOF LYSZCZARZ  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
NOTICE OF HEARING: 04/28/2025, 09:00AM, Southern Branch: Hall of Justice and Records of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, California 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: 03/03/2025  
Stephanie Garratt  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Mar 21, 28, Apr 4 and 11, 2025)

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

Case No.: 25CIV01858  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Jo Ellen Johnson filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
JO ELLEN JOHNSON TO JO ELLEN WILLIAMS  
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: May 12, 2025, 9:00 AM, 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: March 14, 2025  
Hon. Stephanie G. Garratt  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

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

Case No.: 25CIV01930  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Lea-Ann Hutter filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
LEA-ANN HUTTER TO LEA ANN HUTTER  
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: May 19, 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: March 20,2025  
Stephanie Garratt  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Mar 28, Apr 4, 11 and 18, 2025)

**The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.**

- Fictitious Business Name
- Abandonment of Fictitious Business Name
- Name Change
- Partnership Withdrawal or Dissolution
- Petition to Administer Estate - Probate Hearing
- Notice of Bulk Sale
- Legal Summons
- Trustee Sale

**The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm. Visit [AlmanacNews.com/legal\\_notices/](https://www.almanacnews.com/legal_notices/) For assistance email [LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com).**

# Sickly animals reveal poison threatens Midpeninsula wildlife

By Margaret Abe-Koga  
and Curt Riffle

## GUEST OPINION

Spring is one of the best times to immerse yourself in the outdoors and feel the rejuvenating power of nature. The air is warm, a smattering of orange, yellow and pink wildflowers begin to bloom. You may hear birdsong ring out and catch the rolling hills sporting their punchy spring green coat.

Unfortunately, at the same time you may notice sickly bobcats and coyotes, their fur matted and patchy, eyes dull. It is a heartbreaking sight, a stark reminder of the devastating impact of mange, a disease often exacerbated by ingesting rat poison, also known as rodenticides.

Tragically, the use of rodenticides by local residents unintentionally poses a significant threat to our wildlife in our open space preserves. Predators there like coyotes, bobcats and birds of prey such as owls, hawks and other raptors are essential to keeping rodent populations in check and are especially vulnerable to secondary poisoning. When they consume rodents that have ingested poison, they

become poisoned themselves.

The irony is devastating: Rat poisons hurt the very wildlife that naturally control rodent populations. A family of barn owls can consume up to 3,000 mice in a single season. But when these predators are poisoned, that balance is thrown off.

A recent study in Southern California focused on bobcats, coyotes and mountain lions found alarming rates of exposure to rodenticides. A staggering 92% of bobcats and 94% of mountain lions tested positive for these poisons, with exposure even found in a 3-month-old cub. In coyotes, 83% were exposed, making rodenticides the second leading cause of death during the study period. A necropsy revealed the famed Los Angeles mountain lion, P-22 had been exposed to five anticoagulant rodenticides compounds in his lifetime.

Accidental ingestion of rat poison poses risk to children, pets and domestic livestock. In 2021, 3,000 such human poisonings were reported, with

2,300 involving children. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates roughly 100 fatal pet poisonings annually.

Let's work to stop or dramatically reduce the use of rodenticides for the sake of public and wildlife health. It's important to fully understand the nature of these poisons. It can take up to 10 days for a poisoned rodent to die, making it easy prey for pets and native predators. Some poisons can persist in an animal's liver for up to 100 days. The toxins accumulate in a predator's body, weakening its immune system and increasing susceptibility to diseases like mange. In large enough quantities, these poisons can be fatal.

Fortunately, we have alternatives.

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has taken proactive steps to reduce rodenticide use, implementing an award-winning Integrated Pest Management program that prioritizes non-chemical pest control techniques. This aligns with Midpen's mission to protect and restore the natural environment by promoting the use of safer, non-toxic alternatives. And Midpen actively supports legislation aimed at

reducing the harmful impacts of rodenticides on wildlife, including California Ecosystems Protection Act of 2020 (AB 1788), the 2023 California Ecosystems Protection Act (AB 1322) and the 2024 Poison-Free Wildlife Act (AB 2552). These bills expand restrictions on rodenticides.

Now we need the help of our neighbors and nearby communities. In addition to stopping the use of rodenticides, we can employ effective, non-chemical rodent control methods in and around our homes.

Proactive steps like sealing openings in our homes, maintaining our landscapes, removing food sources like pet food and installing owl boxes or raptor perches can make a significant difference. If you use a pest control company, tell them to not use any poisons and only set manual or electronic traps in locations that minimize the potential to trap birds and other wildlife. There is even a non-toxic rat fertility management product that can be used to decrease rodent offspring you can ask they use. Contact your local and state legislators to urge their support for the restrictions

on rodenticide.

We are privileged to live amidst this natural splendor and serve the surrounding community that values care of our open space preserves. At Midpen, we believe in caring for the land that cares for us, and that includes all its inhabitants. Let's care for our wildlife, our four-legged and winged neighbors, by not using rat poison. Let's join together to protect our shared backyard, ensuring nature's harmony endures.

Learn more at [openspace.org/rodenticides](https://openspace.org/rodenticides). ■

*Margaret Abe-Koga is the Santa Clara County Supervisor for District 5, which stretches from Palo Alto in the north to Almaden Valley in the south. She can be reached at [District5@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:District5@bos.sccgov.org)*

*Curt Riffle is a Los Altos resident and represents Cupertino, Los Altos, Sunnyvale and Mountain View on the board of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District where he also serves as a volunteer trail patrol. He can be reached at [openspace.org/who-we-are/board-member-contact-form](https://openspace.org/who-we-are/board-member-contact-form).*

## Call for Entries

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PENINSULA

2025

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presented by Palo Alto Weekly & Palo Alto Art Center

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# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## SPRING *in their* STEPS

**Peninsula Ballet Theatre stages a high-spirited repertory program suited for the season with world premieres and a reimagined classic**

By Heather Zimmerman



This month, Peninsula Ballet Theatre is staging a heavy hitter — and not just because the title character famously takes big swings at windmills. The headliner of the company's spring repertory program is a reimagining of the ballet "Don Quixote" by one of the biggest names in classical ballet, Marius Petipa.

"Don Quixote" anchors the program, which also features the world premieres of three dance works: "Slant of the Earth" by London-based choreographer Marika Brussel; "Tis But a Jest" by choreographer Naomi Sailors, also a Peninsula Ballet Theatre company member; and "In This Light" by Peninsula Ballet Theatre Artistic Director Gregory Amato. Performances take place April 11-12 and at the Woodside Performing Arts Center.

"We've been wanting to do contemporary rep that highlighted female choreographers and the strength of women in dance, as dancers, as choreographers, as collaborators, as my muse. Then we wanted to bring the audience in with our classical side by using one of the most well known classical dances of 'Don Quixote,' usually a three-act ballet, but we've condensed it into one act, and we call it 'Kitri's Wedding,'" Amato said.

Peninsula Ballet Theatre's reimagining, choreographed by Amato and the company's ballet mistress, Nina Amato, focuses on the wedding scene for the principal character Kitri and her beau, Basilio.

"It's iconic because it's been performed in every country in the world. Every ballet company that's ever done ballet has done 'Don Quixote,'" Amato said, noting that the technically demanding wedding scene is also frequently performed by dancers at competitions.

"There's so much great music from Ludwig Minkus, an Austrian composer, music that is just meant to dance to. It's full, it's vibrant, it's alive, and it's a great showpiece for the individual talents of dancers, especially the principal dancers. All the best dancers in the world, they're all judged and compared by 'Well, how did they do 'Don Quixote?'"

That may sound like serious stuff, but on the contrary, Amato emphasized the ballet's joyful spirit, which finds the artists dancing with fans, tambourines, and unusually, even features the dancers vocalizing. This grand classical ballet can sometimes lend itself to over-the-top stagings — some productions have even brought horses onstage, he said. Despite the production taking

place in horse-friendly Woodside, there won't be equine co-stars, but Peninsula Ballet Theatre's "Don Quixote" captures the tale's high spirits.

"There's a lot of comedy in it, which is great for ballet. Nobody dies, nobody has a broken heart. Nobody's cheating. It's really just great fun," he said.

Another light-hearted piece that takes influence from the courtly past is "Tis But a Jest" by company member Naomi Sailors. The new piece, one of the program's three world premieres, is centered on an escalating showdown between entertainers at a royal court and treats the audience like a king.

"It's about a court jester and four court ladies, and the sixth character is actually the audience. The audience is the character of the king. A court jester has his weekly performance for the king, and four of the court ladies have decided that they want in on it. So they're crashing his performance," Sailors said of the story behind the piece.

"The idea is that he has coached (each of) them through a different skill. So one is drama, one is poetry, one is music, and one is comedy. They try to one up each other a little bit, or find ways to mess up the other person's performance."

Sailors was inspired to create the piece by Léo Delibes' bright



Above: Dancers Kelley Hashemi and Juan Carlos Magacho perform in Gregory Amato's "In This Light." Courtesy Peninsula Ballet Theatre. Top: Dancer Lena Alvino performs in "Don Quixote," part of Peninsula Ballet Theatre's spring repertory program. Courtesy V Eiamvuthikorn/ Peninsula Ballet Theatre.

and bounding composition "Le roi s'amuse" (the king amuses himself), to which the piece is set.

"It started with the music. With my choreographic process, I pretty much always start with music, and it'll usually be a piece of music that I've just listened

to for a while, or I come across, and then the story forms itself the more I listen to the piece of music. Where this started was I really loved 'Le roi s'amuse'. It's just been a favorite of mine for a

See **SPRING IN THEIR STEPS**, page 22

## SPRING IN THEIR STEPS

continued from page 21

while, and I started listening to it again last year and decided, 'this needs movement.' From there, the story just came into being," Sailors said.

Visually, the piece draws on medieval imagery, with the dancers sometimes moving in symmetrical or circular formations and making long, angular deliberately affected poses, suggesting the pomp of a royal court.

"I was really inspired by those weird medieval paintings of cats wearing clothes, dancing with bagpipes. I looked at a lot of those images, and tried to derive some of the movement from what I saw in that, so a lot of circles, just a lot of the angular shapes of the body," Sailors said, "and a few things that are drawn from ballet, what we call character dance, which is like folk dancing, just to give it a little bit more of that old European element."

Sailors will dance in every piece on the spring repertory program except her own. That includes a new work by Amato that has particular personal inspiration for him.

"In This Light" is set to music by Italian pianist and composer Ezio Bosso, who Amato describes as a favorite of his. Bosso, who had a

neurodegenerative disease, lost feeling in his fingers and could no longer play, but still composed and conducted until his death at age 48 in 2020, which coincided with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Amato had begun to work on a piece based on Bosso's music when the pandemic disrupted it.

"I was really inspired that he continued to work through adversities in life. During that lockdown period of COVID, which is why I call it 'In This Light,' there was only a few dancers I worked with because of masking and (distancing), and one of them was Chloe Watson, who was one of my lead principal dancers, and this is her farewell performance," Amato said.

"It's really a big thing in the dance world when a ballerina retires, and Chloe's been dancing professionally for 20 years, and I've known her for eight years. She not only is an incredible dancer, she's also helped me bring (Peninsula Ballet Theatre's) school through COVID. She helped me build the company. And because I've choreographed a lot of things on Chloe, I wanted to do this as her last show."

Using Bosso's piece "Rain, in your black eyes," the piece is set on nine dancers and highlights Watson.



Courtesy Peninsula Ballet Theatre

Peninsula Ballet Theatre company member Naomi Sailors choreographed the piece "Tis But a Jest" and will also be seen performing the other pieces featured in the company's spring repertory program.

"(Chloe) really shines in it. It's about personal transformation, transcending all these things that happen to us and then renewal, and Chloe is moving into the next part of her life. So she's moving into a new light," Amato said. ■

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at [hzimmerman@almanacnews.com](mailto:hzimmerman@almanacnews.com).

Performances take place April 11, 7 p.m., and April 12, 2 p.m., at Woodside Performing Arts Center, 199 Churchill Ave., Woodside. \$40-\$60. [peninsulalivelyarts.org/don-quixote](http://peninsulalivelyarts.org/don-quixote).

## Worth a Look



Courtesy Evelyn Huynh/Los Altos Stage Company

Maria Giere Marquis as Cyrano in Los Altos Stage Company's new adaptation of the play "Cyrano de Bergerac."

## 'Cyrano'

The story of "Cyrano de Bergerac" has been around for a long time (Edmond Rostand wrote the play back in 1897). This spring, Los Altos Theatre Company is taking on the French love-triangle classic and giving it a fresh update. Devised by Maria Giere Marquis, Max Tachis and Jeffrey Lo, "Cyrano" is a new, contemporary adaptation in which the titular character is reimagined as a woman.

April 10-May 4, Thursdays-Saturdays (and select Wednesdays) at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m., 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos; \$28-\$51; [losaltosstage.org/cyrano](http://losaltosstage.org/cyrano).

## Bia Ferreira

Brazilian singer-songwriter, anti-racist activist and LGBTQ advocate Bia Ferreira describes her music as MMP: Música de Mulher Preta (Black Woman Music), and her engaging songs cover topics including feminism and love, blending reggae, groovy soul sounds and funky beats. Her song "Cota Não Esmola" has garnered millions of online streams, according to Stanford Live. Ferreira comes to Stanford for an intimate concert in the Studio at Bing Concert Hall, the last stop on a spring tour of France and the U.S.

April 11, 7 p.m., The Studio, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford; \$30-\$45; [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu).

## 'The Cleaving: Vietnamese Writers in the Diaspora'

"The Cleaving: Vietnamese Writers in the Diaspora" brings together the voices of acclaimed Vietnamese diasporic authors from around the world in a landmark collection, which features 18 dialogues between 37 artists and writers. To celebrate the book's launch, Kepler's Literary Foundation and the Diasporic Vietnamese Artists Network (DVAN) are co-presenting an event featuring the book's editors.

April 11, 6:30 p.m., Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real #100, Menlo Park; \$11.49-\$38.79 depending on ticket option; [tinyurl.com/CleavingatKeplers](http://tinyurl.com/CleavingatKeplers).

## Ariel Quartet

The Ariel Quartet (featuring Alexandra Kazovsky and Gershon Gerchikovon on violin, Jan Grüning on viola and Amit Even-Tov on cello) has been making music for more than 25 years, starting back when its members were teenage students in Israel, and earning acclaim internationally for its fiery performances and virtuosity. The quartet performs locally as part of the Music at Kohl Mansion series, with a planned program including works by Felix Mendelssohn, Lera Auerbach and Benjamin Britten. Christopher Costanza, cellist of the St. Lawrence String Quartet and lecturer at Stanford University, will offer a pre-concert talk, and wine and dessert will follow the performance.

April 13, talk at 6 p.m., concert at 7 p.m.; Kohl Mansion, 2750 Adeline Drive, Burlingame; \$30-\$62; [musicatkohl.org](http://musicatkohl.org).

## Menlo Park Quarterly Market Report

January 1, 2025 - March 31, 2025

TOP 10 SALES*					
1. \$9,000,000	2. \$6,825,000	3. \$6,600,000	4. \$6,020,000	5. \$5,888,888	6. \$5,250,000
1265 Bay Laurel Drive	450 Hermosa Way	1000 Hermosa Way	2190 Sharon Road	1318 Bellair Way	1045 Atkinson Lane
7. \$5,000,000	8. \$4,800,000	9. \$4,800,000	10. \$4,740,822		
1301 Hobart Street	2141 Mills Avenue	1160 Tristry Drive	740 San Mateo Drive		

<b>ACTIVE LISTING</b> Q1 25: 110 (-13%) Q1 24: 127	<b>AVERAGE SALES PRICE</b> Q1 25: \$3,476,140 (+15%) Q1 24: \$3,022,102	<b>AVERAGE SALES PRICE/SQ FT</b> Q1 25: \$1,602 (+13%) Q1 24: \$1,418
<b>PENDING LISTING</b> Q1 25: 66 (-21%) Q1 24: 84	<b>AVERAGE SOLD DAYS ON MARKET</b> Q1 25: 14 (-59%) Q1 24: 34	<b>MONTHS OF INVENTORY</b> Q1 25: 1.70 (+55%) Q1 24: 1.10
<b>SOLD LISTING</b> Q1 25: 50 (-30%) Q1 24: 71	<b>SALE/LIST PRICE</b> Q1 25: 105.30% (+3%) Q1 24: 101.90%	<b>30 YEAR MORTGAGE RATE</b> Q1 25: 6.78% (-3%) Q1 24: 7.01%

\*Q1 2025 compared to Q1 2024. Source: MLS Listings for Single Family Properties | ToplistHome | Comlist

### Making A Move?

Sellers Start Here: [RosettiHomeValue.com](http://RosettiHomeValue.com)

Buyers Start here: [RosettiPropertyFinders.com](http://RosettiPropertyFinders.com)

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# Food & Drink

## SHOPPING WITH A CHEF

Here's what a highly acclaimed Korean chef would buy from Jagalchi, the Bay Area's newest Korean food complex

Story by Adrienne Mitchel  
Photos by Anna Hoch-Kenney

Shopping at Jagalchi isn't a casual excursion — the lines are long, the crowds are huge and the square footage can be overwhelming, especially for those not well-versed in Korean cooking.

The 75,000-square-foot Korean food complex opened with much anticipation March 28 in Daly City's Serramonte Center. Jagalchi is owned by international Korean supermarket chain Mega Mart, which has Bay Area locations in Sunnyvale and Fremont. Inside, shoppers do laps around the central restaurant Pogu, perusing snack aisles, a butcher section, a seafood market with an oyster bar, a bakery, a produce section, Korean pantry staples and a ready-made and freshly prepared food section.

With so much to explore, I asked chef Michael Kim — previously of the former Michelin-starred Palo Alto restaurant Maum — to come with me and give his opinions on how Jagalchi compares to nearby Korean supermarkets and stores in Korea, as well as what products he personally would pick up.

Kim and his wife Meichih Kim are opening a Menlo Park restaurant called Yeobo, Darling next month. His new upscale casual restaurant will highlight his Korean roots and his wife's Taiwanese heritage. Kim and I spent almost two hours looking around Jagalchi and discussing the various food and drink products.

On a Tuesday afternoon, I figured prospective shoppers would be at work or school. I assumed incorrectly: I waited in a 10-minute line to enter Jagalchi, and once inside, it was clear much of the stock had been completely wiped and it was difficult not to accidentally bump into other people.

### SNACKS

We started in the snacks and frozen foods section, located on the left when entering Jagalchi through the mall. Snack culture is big in Korea, Kim said, with common snack flavors including milk, seaweed, pizza and fried chicken. One popular subset of snacking in Korea is almonds, Kim noted, pointing out a pack of HBAF hot and spicy chicken flavored almonds (\$4.50).

"We were just in Korea in January, and there was this big store that was dedicated to flavored almonds...it's a

very big touristy thing where people take it back for souvenirs and gifts for their families," he said.

### ALCOHOL

One section of Jagalchi that Kim was particularly impressed with was the alcohol section, which he said had "a nice array of traditional sool," a Korean word for various alcohols including soju and rice wines.

Out of the makgeolli, a subcategory of rice wine, Kim was most interested in the Red Monkey (\$18), a 10.8% ABV makgeolli colored with red rice yeast.

"This is something that I don't really see often," he said. "It's my first time seeing it in the markets in the States."

Kim ultimately decided to add Seoul Night soju (\$17.50), a 25% ABV soju with floral plum flavors, to his basket.

"We need to recipe test for our bar program (at Yeobo, Darling)," he said. "I've tried this one before, and it's somewhat neutral, and it's slightly aromatic, so I think it'll mix well with the cocktails."

### SEAFOOD AND SEAWEED

While Kim thought the butcher section and the fresh fish section were comparable to other Asian markets in the area, he was particularly interested in the selection of dried fish, which featured anchovies of different sizes.

"If you go to the open air markets in Korea, there's a dried fish dealer that deals with all these kinds of things all in one stall, like all these seaweeds, kelps, anchovies," Kim said. "It's pretty cool to see this. This kind of stuff is exciting."

The larger anchovies typically are used to make stock, and the smaller anchovies are usually fried, seasoned with soy sauce and sugar and eaten as a side dish.

Located near the dried fish was a selection of dried roasted seaweed (\$20). Kim was so excited about it that he took a pack home with him.

"These specialty seaweeds are the kind of things that you don't find normally in your normal Korean market," he said. "It's a little bit thicker, it's a little bit more textured, it's less manipulated."

He recommends rubbing the seaweed with sesame or canola oil, pan frying it with a bit of salt and eating it with a meal, or pureeing it with sesame oil and vinegar to make a seaweed sauce.

"These are the things that's the foundation of food," he said. "Stock making,

Jagalchi, 63 Serramonte Center, Daly City; Instagram: @jagalchi\_official. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

these kinds of things, that's what excites me. Not all the flashy chips and all that, but it's more of the natural products."

### DESSERT

Over in the dessert section, Kim took particular interest in the udo-peanut chaltteok pie (\$5), which he added to his basket.

"I've never seen it," he said. "I really like chaltteok — this is kind of like mochi. I really like that texture. That chewy, mushy texture."

When asked if Yeobo, Darling will have chaltteok on the dessert menu, he said his restaurant will have "different versions of (chaltteok), especially in the savory portion."

### PRODUCE

The product that stood out most to Kim in the produce section was the Jeju oranges, which came in boxes with nine pieces (\$24.50) and two pieces (\$5.50).

"These are famous citrus," he said. "They're equivalent to a sumo tangerine, but it's very prevalent, especially during the winter time in Jeju. They're really known for that. I haven't seen this here, which is cool."

He added the two-piece box, another two-piece box of a different orange variety — labeled Cheon-Hye-Hyang (\$4.50) — and a pair of Korean pears (\$2.50 a pound) to his basket.

### JANGS

By far, the product Kim spent the majority of his time looking at was artisanal jangs (\$9-\$10), fermented sauces that are "the foundations of Korean cuisine," Kim said.

Kim hadn't seen this brand, labeled Sunchang Moon Okrye, of jangs before, but he added a jar of doenjang (soybean paste) to his basket.

### BIG PICTURE

Overall, Jagalchi has a better selection of artisanal products than other nearby Korean markets, particularly in the jang, alcohol and dried fish sections, Kim said. Compared to markets in Korea, he thinks Jagalchi is similar to a mid- to higher-end market, like the equivalent of Whole Foods. ■



Clockwise from the top: Red Monkey makgeolli. Peninsula Foodist Adrienne Mitchel, left, chats with acclaimed Korean chef Michael Kim, right, as they browse the new Jagalchi Supermarket in Daly City. A tower of flavored almonds, a popular treat in Korea. Marinated bulgogi meat at the butcher section. Injeolmi custards in the bakery.

# TIMELESS MONTEREY COLONIAL WITH ENDLESS POTENTIAL



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