

The Almanac

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

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Sunset magazine HQ advances toward historic status

Designation could complicate 665-unit development

By Arden Margulis

A new obstacle has emerged for the developers of the proposed Willow Park housing project at 80 Willow Road: a potential national historic designation for the site, which once housed the headquarters of Sunset magazine.

On Friday, May 9, the California State Historical Resources Commission unanimously determined that the former Sunset campus is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The decision advances

the nomination to the federal Keeper of the National Register, which will make a final determination within 45 days of receiving the submission.

The nomination was submitted by the Menlo Park Historical Association, which argued that the site meets the federal criteria for historic recognition based on its architectural significance and its role in the commercial history of the American West.

“The Menlo Park Historical Association, on its own and solely using its own funds, without any outside funding whatsoever, commissioned this

nomination,” said board member Karen Kitterman when presenting the nomination. “The association is a long-established nonprofit with an express mission of conducting historic preservation work. It is not an affordable housing opponent, and it has not nominated any other sites with proposed housing projects.”

The nomination argues the campus played a key role in the history of the American West. The Office of Historic Preservation highlighted that Sunset magazine made major contributions to the



Michelle Le

The historic nature of the old Sunset magazine site in Menlo Park is a matter of debate.

development and popularization of the “indoor-outdoor” California lifestyle from the Menlo Park campus, which it constructed in 1951.

The site also carries architectural significance. The building was the first commercial

See **SUNSET**, page 11

Community remembers coach and educator who died after crash

Taylor remembered as enthusiastic, able to connect with others

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

The community is mourning the death of Dylan Taylor, a well-known paraeducator and coach to Menlo Park and Atherton students. After a fatal collision with a GreenWaste truck on Middlefield Road killed Taylor on May 7, schools have been sharing messages of support for those dealing with the loss.

Taylor, who was riding a bicycle

at the time of the collision, worked as a paraeducator for Menlo Park City and Las Lomas Elementary school districts. He also coached Hillview Middle School students for flag football, track and field, and basketball and was the freshman football coach for Menlo-Atherton High School.

Aside from being an educator and coach, Taylor was viewed as a community leader and mentor.

MPCSD Superintendent Kristen Gracia said she had the

pleasure of being Taylor’s first grade teacher over 20 years ago. She remembers him as “a ball of energy,” enthusiastic and always with a smile on this face — which all remained true into his adulthood.

“I remember him giving hugs and wanting to be with his classmates and with his teachers — right there in the mix,” said Gracia. “It makes sense to me

See **M-A COACH**, page 14



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

A roadside memorial on Prior Lane in Atherton honors Dylan Taylor, a local educator and coach, who died in a fatal collision on May 7.

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"It's not just about the delicious meals; it's knowing that I have a community who cares and understands me." - Maggie

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Help protect local seniors no matter what changes occur around us.

PVI remains committed that no senior goes without the support they deserve. Right now, over **210 older adults are waiting for meals** across the counties we serve, with **over 40 additional** requests each week. We have the capacity and heart to support them all and more—we just need your help to close the funding gap. With increasing demand, your support is more vital than ever. **Less than 2% of institutional giving is focused on seniors' food and aging needs**, and **loneliness is a declared public health crisis**. The challenges seniors face are complex. Current economic uncertainty only adds to the urgency.

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While many worthy causes seek your attention and support, your generosity today directly impacts the care and support our senior community relies on. Together, we can strengthen the reliable foundation of care for our senior community, ensuring that needs are met no matter what changes occur around us. We are deeply grateful for your continued commitment so that our most vulnerable seniors like **Kenneth, Maggie, Pedro, and Shirley** are not forgotten.

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* \$500 provides PVI Meals on Wheels for two at-risk seniors for a month; \$700 supports a week of Adult Day Services; \$1,200 funds an annual premium membership at PVI's Adult Activity Center at Little House; \$2,000 funds 100 round-trip rides for seniors; \$2,500 funds an iPad and training for a year.

Peter Olson
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Georgie Gleim
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Courtesy San Mateo County

San Mateo County Health Chief Colleen Chawla, left, tours the Cordilleras Health and Healing Campus in Redwood City with Talisha Racy, deputy director of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services.

New San Mateo County health chief is 'pressure tested'

State, national changes to health policy, disease control top of mind for Colleen Chawla

By Angela Swartz

Colleen Chawla is settling into an important role for San Mateo County: as its chief health officer who manages 2,200 employees and a \$1.3 billion budget.

Chawla began in February, overlapping with her predecessor — Louise Rogers — for six weeks of training. Rogers served in the role for a decade. In her retirement, Rogers plans

to spend more time with family, draw and travel to places like Yellowstone National Park, according to the county. Rogers and Chawla navigated many of the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic together as Bay Area health directors, Rogers said.

"She was consistently calm and thoughtful in the face of everything coming our way," said Rogers of Chawla. "She also seems to find grace and a sense of humor, as so often is needed."

Chawla served as Alameda County Health's director from 2017 to 2025. She moved to the Bay Area in 1999 to work for the San Francisco Department of Public Health where she served in leadership and legislative roles. She holds a master's degree in public administration and health services administration from the University of San Francisco

See **HEALTH CHIEF**, page 12

East Palo Alto Academy charter renewed for five years

School sending more students to college

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

East Palo Alto Academy students and staff cheered after the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to renew the school's charter for a five-year term during a school board meeting on May 8.

"Many schools worry about being renewed but we never had that fear," said East Palo Alto Academy Principal Veronica Miranda-Pinkney. "I think we were assured from the very beginning from our superintendent that they were committed to our school and they wanted us to succeed."

East Palo Alto Academy is a dependent public charter school in the Sequoia Union High School District that serves about 300 students. While governed by a contract with the school district, it's exempt from most of the state's regulations. The district however is able to hold the school accountable for student achievements, budgets and compliance with state education requirements.

On the night of the meeting, students, parents and staff stood at the podium asking the Board of Trustees to consider the renewal of the charter. They emphasized the strong impact that the school and its teachers have on the community, culture

and wellbeing of students.

"The sense of belonging at East Palo Alto Academy from the dedicated staff to the vibrant student body to the engaging classes is something truly special," said graduating senior Samaya Norris. "The unwavering support of my peers and mentors have instilled in me a newfound confidence and a sense of value that is truly rare."

When East Palo Alto Academy was founded in 2001, it was the only public high school option in East Palo Alto in 25 years, said Kate Hyle, executive director of East Palo Alto Academy Foundation.

"It's incredibly important for kids to be able to access quality public education in their town and we have to keep working together to make sure that continues to be an option for this community," Hyle added.

Former East Palo Alto Academy Principal Amika Guillaume said throughout the last decade the school has been committed to changing the narrative about East Palo Alto Academy, making sure people understood it was a "college-going school, dedicated to first-generation low-income students."

"We went from 10 years ago, 23% persistence for our kids [to

See **EPAA CHARTER**, page 14

Menlo Park residents to launch ballot measure to stop housing on parking lots

Save Downtown Menlo has also filed suit

By Arden Margulis

Residents intend to notify the city of Menlo Park they will begin collecting signatures on a ballot measure that would force a citywide referendum on any proposal to lease, sell or repurpose any of the eight downtown parking lots.

Save Downtown Menlo will file a notice of intent to circulate the petition on May 15, after The Almanac's print deadline,

according to Menlo Park resident Alex Beltramo, an author of the initiative. He said the group will need to collect over 2,000 signatures from registered voters to qualify for the ballot.

The measure is being launched in hopes to block Menlo Park City Council's controversial plan to build affordable housing on some downtown parking lots. Proponents feel the voters should decide on changes to the parking lots.

"These parking lots aren't surplus land—they're essential public infrastructure. They were created for the community, and once they're gone, they're gone for good," Save Downtown Menlo's Statement of Reasons said. "The future of Downtown Menlo Park is too important to be decided without us."

Menlo Park Mayor Drew Combs said in an interview that he supports voters exercising their rights in petitioning for a ballot

measure. Combs did not take a side on the ballot measure itself.

"(A city-wide vote on the parking lots) certainly has an authority that a vote of city council does not have but obviously, not everything can go to the voters. There is an efficiency that you lose if you're going to a ballot measure every time," he said.

"(The petition) could be described as expected, given Menlo Park's history," Combs added.

The proposed measure, titled "Downtown Parking Plazas Ordinance," is similar to a previous effort to block a housing development. Measure V would have required a citywide referendum on any changes to "R1"

zoning. It failed with 38% of the vote on Nov. 8, 2022. The measure was also citizen-initiated and was in response to proposed teacher housing near Flood Park.

In addition to proposing a measure, Save Downtown Menlo has filed a lawsuit against the city, alleging the city does not have the authority to repurpose the parking lots since the lots were paid for by a special assessment district. The city disputes that claim. Save Downtown Menlo raised \$148,000 to fund the lawsuit.

Save Downtown Menlo claims to not be opposed to affordable housing, just objects to the loss of the parking lots. It has suggested

See **PARKING LOTS**, page 18

Notice of Public Hearings

The Las Lomas Elementary School District will hold two separate public hearings on the proposed Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), including the Budget Overview for Parents cover page, and the proposed Budget for fiscal year 2025-26.

Date and Time: June 4, 2025, at 7:00 pm

Location: La Entrada Middle School Atrium, 2200 Sharon Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Website: www.llesd.org. Copies of the LCAP and Budget will be available for review at the District office, 1011 Altschul Avenue, Menlo Park, from May 30 to June 4, 2025, between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm and will also be posted on the District website, www.llesd.org. To request a printed or electronic copy, please contact Mei Chan, mchan@llesd.org, 650 854-6311.

Public members or stakeholders who wish to comment on the LCAP and proposed budget or any item therein, may do so at the public hearing by following the instructions for public comment found on the District website.

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Notice of Public Hearings

The Menlo Park City School District will hold two separate public hearings on the proposed Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), including the Budget Overview for Parents cover page, and the proposed Budget for fiscal year 2025-26.

Date and Time: June 5, 2025, at 6:00 pm

Location: Menlo Park City School District, TERC, 181 Encinal Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027

Website: Zoom <https://mpcsd.zoom.us/j/97658957198>.

Copies of the LCAP and Budget are available for review at the District office from June 3 to June 6, 2024, between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm and posted on the District website, www.mpcsd.org.

To request a printed or electronic copy, contact Jammie Behrendt, jbehrendt@mpcsd.org, 650 321-7140.

Public members or stakeholders may request to comment at the public hearing on the LCAP and proposed budget or any item therein, by following the instructions for public comment found on the District website.

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Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Woodside Town Council presents outgoing Town Manager Kevin Bryant with proclamation during a meeting on May 13.

Woodside Town Manager bids farewell

Bryant had served for 17 years

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

After 17 years in Woodside, Town Manager Kevin Bryant will be retiring. The Town Council meeting on May 13 marked his final moments sitting along council members on the dais.

This summer, Bryant and his family will be moving out of the Bay Area to be closer to family. Effective May 15, incoming Town Manager Jason Ledbetter will be taking over.

In honor of his tenure, Bryant was presented with a recognition and proclamation from county Supervisor Ray Mueller, state Sen. Josh Becker and state Assemblymember Marc Berman.

“There’s never been a story about where you haven’t comported yourself in the most professional light,” said Mueller. “I can tell you, as a supervisor from the county, how wonderful that it is to look at a city and know that it’s just being really well done.”

From the state’s proclamation, a humorous line was added in reference to notable moments in Woodside.

“You may find yourself living in an unpermitted ADU and you may find yourself in another sinkhole on Highway 84 and you may find yourself behind the wheel of a large Caltrans backhoe and you may find yourself in a beautiful town...” it said. “And you may ask yourself, ‘How did I get here and how the hell do I get out of here?’”

Bryant started working for the town in 2008 as the assistant town manager, working for former Town Manager Susan George. In 2012, he was chosen

to take over the town manager position from among 94 candidates and after a rigorous interview process. For 13 years, Bryant has led many initiatives guiding the town through challenging times.

Throughout his tenure, Bryant has worked with 18 different council members and attended a total of 333 special and regular Town Council meetings and committee meetings.

Community leaders described Bryant as professional, calm and steady.

The town’s proclamation presented by Mayor Brian Dombkowski recognized Bryant’s strong leadership during heavy rainstorms, the COVID-19 pandemic, closure of Highway 84 and state housing mandates while continuing to maintain the bucolic scenery and culture of Woodside.

“What people don’t see is when Kevin’s phone rings in the middle of the night, probably on a holiday weekend, and a highway has collapsed, or all hell breaks loose,” said Council member Paul Goeld. “And (he’s) standing out there in the rain with a phone and getting things done.”

Goeld commended Bryant’s success in shaping a town that is financially stable, well staffed and with a great successor in place.

On May 9, the town held a retirement party for Bryant inviting community members to celebrate his long career in Woodside and his commitment to nearly two decades of public service. ■

Email Staff Writer
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USDA cuts leave Second Harvest, local families with less food

Local food distributions see a reduction in quantity and variety

By Simmerdeep Kaur

Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, a food bank serving San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, is facing \$1 million in funding cuts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, resulting in the loss of 630,000 pounds of food from May through September, according to the organization.

"It makes it very hard to plan and to ensure that our community has all the food they need to thrive, so we are very much hoping that the federal government will increase their support again," said Tracy Weatherby, chief impact officer at Second Harvest.

The impact of these federal cuts is visible on the Peninsula, where local food distribution programs — from colleges to nonprofits — are seeing reduced quantities of staples like milk, eggs and chicken, even as more

families turn to them for help.

For Cañada College in Redwood City, which relies solely on Second Harvest, the impact of food insecurity has become increasingly visible.

The college has partnered with Second Harvest since 2014 to support both students and the broader community, said Adolfo Leiva, director of SparkPoint, a financial and basic needs resource center on campus.

Through the partnership, Cañada College operates an indoor food market and an outdoor food distribution program, both held on campus.

The indoor market is open Tuesdays through Thursdays from noon to 4 p.m. and serves about 150 families per week. The outdoor distribution, described by Leiva as a "free farmers market," runs Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and serves around 400 families in two and a half hours.

Leiva said food insecurity has

become more complicated due to rising food prices, USDA reductions, and funding cuts, which have led to decreased variety and consistency in available food. The college began noticing changes six to eight months ago, with official confirmation coming about four months later.

"We do see a reduction in regularity," Leiva said. "In other words, some of the items like milk, eggs and chicken, we only receive every other week, as opposed to before when we received them weekly."

Cañada's programs serve people from across the region, including East Palo Alto, San Carlos and San Mateo, Leiva said. He noted that food insecurity is also tied to immigration-related fears and that some of the most vulnerable are hesitant to access resources.

"Many of those who are in highest need may feel fearful of coming to get food," he said. "And when they do come, the food is no longer the same variety or quantity they once received."

According to a recent Second Harvest client survey released Thursday, nearly 9 in 10 parents said they worry they won't have enough nutritious food for their families.

Reuters reported that food banks nationwide are experiencing similar shortages due to \$1 billion in USDA funding cuts under the Trump administration, which has pledged to reduce government spending, including programs that previously helped food banks purchase food from local farms.

A similar story is playing out at Verbo, a nonprofit in Redwood City.

According to Patty Cardona, director of the program, Verbo distributes free food every Wednesday and Friday to about 400 families, using food from Second Harvest and donations from Costco, Target, Trader Joe's and Lucky.

The organization typically



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Marcos Fernandez, who has volunteered on and off for the last eight months, carries a box of food to a recipient on foot at the Verbo Food Pantry in North Fair Oaks on Oct. 16, 2024.

provides fruits, vegetables, rice, beans and pasta, but Cardona said key items like milk, eggs and chicken — once provided regularly — have been significantly reduced since mid-2024. For the first time in years, Verbo could not give out Thanksgiving turkeys last November.

Cardona said the shortage is deeply felt, particularly in a community already struggling with rising housing and living costs. Many of the families they serve live in overcrowded housing situations, she said, and the food boxes they receive are essential.

"We're really needed — and we know because they (families) are here every week," Cardona said.

Weatherby said Second Harvest had been relying on pandemic-era reserves and generous donations from the USDA and private donors to meet

demand. Last year, however, those reserves began running out, and the USDA had already started scaling back food allocations, even before the latest round of cuts was announced.

Government officials believed the end of the pandemic meant less emergency need, but food banks like Second Harvest continue to serve nearly the same number of people due to ongoing inflation and skyrocketing living costs, Weatherby said.

She added that the food bank receives about 10% of its food from the USDA. In 2023, Second Harvest provided 127 million pounds of food to the community through partnerships with 400 agencies that distribute meals at nearly 1,000 sites. Of that total, 13 million pounds came from USDA programs, she said.

The rest of the food is either

See **SECOND HARVEST**, page 18

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Woodside-Atherton Garden Club exhibit

The Woodside-Atherton Garden Club is inviting the community to "Simply Spring," an exhibit of original floral arrangements, homegrown flowers and potted plants. From 1 to 4 p.m. on May 17 at Woodside's Independence Hall, local club members will be showcasing their talents in the floral design, horticulture and photography competition.

The garden club is a charitable nonprofit organization and is dedicated to encouraging and sharing knowledge about horticulture, conservation and floral design.

For more information woodsideathertongardenclub.org.

Emergency evacuation tips

The Portola Valley Wildfire Preparedness Committee emphasizes the prioritization of the "5 P's" in an emergency evacuation: people, pets, prescriptions, photos and papers.

The committee recommends each person and pet to have a go bag with any medication that the person or pet needs. Photos and important documents should be uploaded to the cloud. It also advises homeowners to photograph and take videos of everything in their home for insurance purposes. Most important heirlooms, photo albums, artwork should also be identified if there is time and space to pack them. — Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Menlo Park seeking input on bike racks

The Menlo Park Complete Streets Commission is asking residents and community members to fill out a survey on where more bike racks are needed. The survey is 10 questions, all optional, that ask residents to share locations they would like to see more bike parking and provide input on citywide bike infrastructure.

The survey is available at bit.ly/42ZU3tG. The survey closes on May 31.

Nominate an Atherton tree

The Town of Atherton Tree Committee is asking community members to nominate trees in the city for a certificate of recognition in any of five categories: most unusual species, best cared for, largest, great beauty/specimen tree or old timer/survivor.

The committee, a nonprofit, hopes to encourage the care and nourishment of the town's heritage trees.

To nominate a tree, community members can fill out a form and send it to the town arborist by May 31. Learn more at athertonstaff.com/Tree-Award-Flyer. — Arden Margulis

LEHUA GREENMAN



"The quality, not the longevity of one's life is what is important."

650.245.1845 COMPASS

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

Development Plans and A Large Tree



Dear Monica: I want to build a new home on a lot with a large tree on the property line. What should I consider? Pam G.

Dear Pam: Cities have rules about dealing with large trees when building a home. To protect the roots, the guidelines usually require any new build to be 15 feet from the tree. If the lot is large it's easy to comply. If it is narrower, it can impact the width of what is built there, including basements. You should consult the city's arborist to understand general rules but you may need to submit a design in order to get specific information.

Contact me at monica@monicacorman.com: Office: 650-465-5971, COMPASS. WSJ Nationally Ranked. Real Trends Bay Area Top 100 Agents

East Palo Alto teacher up for 'All-Star' award

Nunez returned to community to help others succeed

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Laura Nunez, an East Palo Alto Academy math teacher, had just given birth to her daughter when she found out she had accomplished another great milestone — she was nominated and selected as a finalist for NBC Sports All-Star Teacher Award.

This award recognizes outstanding K-12 educators throughout the Bay Area and Sacramento region. The winning teacher will receive \$30,000 for their school.

As an East Palo Alto local, Nunez is no stranger to the community, the struggles and the unique culture of the city. After graduating from Eastside College Preparatory School, she attended Stanford University to study communications. Being a first-generation student, Nunez said her parents always pushed for education.

Growing up in East Palo Alto, Nunez said it was rare for her to see people grow up in the community and stay. When she went to Stanford, she felt like it was “far enough away” to get

out of the small bubble of East Palo Alto, but she realized that if everyone left to achieve “bigger and better” things, the community would never change.

While at Stanford, Nunez said she started to miss her hometown and began to appreciate it more. After graduating, she returned to the community and found her passion for teaching while working for a nonprofit that partnered with East Palo Alto Academy.

Nunez slowly moved up the ranks to become an instructional aide, substitute teacher and then finally a math teacher. Her entire teaching career has been at East Palo Alto Academy. Nunez is also a board member for Ravenswood Elementary School District.

“I went into teaching because of the community,” said Nunez. “I wanted to make a more personal impact.”

Reviving the athletics program

One of Nunez’s biggest accomplishments is admitting the school back into the sports league after it had been on

probation for seven years due to a history of bad sportsmanship and administrative difficulties.

As the athletic director, Nunez worked tirelessly to prove that the school’s culture, climate and leadership had changed. With her help, East Palo Alto Academy is now three years into the league with eight sports including basketball, volleyball and soccer.

Nunez said some students who might not have someone at home encouraging them to get good grades find motivation through sports. In order to participate as an athlete, students must maintain a 2.0 GPA. Nunez said she sees many students are driven to achieve academic success in order to continue playing in sports.

In support of the sports program, the school started athlete contracts, making students go to tutoring and holding them accountable for their grades. “By pushing academics over athletics, it’s using it as a motivator for students to come to school and to have their grades up if they want to play,” said East Palo Alto Academy Principal

Veronica Miranda-Pinkney.

“For a lot of students, they come away with a sense of belonging, building relationships, sportsmanship and lessons they can’t learn from the classroom. This is building character in students,” Nunez added.

Miranda-Pinkney said Nunez has already let her know that if she wins, she would like the \$30,000 to go towards purchasing vans for the sports teams.

Dedication to students

While Nunez is currently on maternity leave, Miranda-Pinkney said she won’t stop working. With a baby in her arms, Nunez is still involved in the school’s yearbook club, attends school events and sports.

Miranda-Pinkney said Nunez is like Superwoman. “Here is somebody from the community and being a mother is not stopping her. It’s pushing her to do even better, to be a better role model for her little girls,” she added.

When Nunez was a student, she said she didn’t have any role models in the community



Courtesy Laura Nunez

East Palo Alto Academy teacher Laura Nunez.

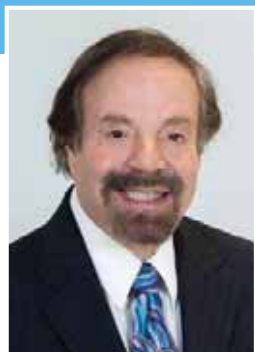
— someone who was from East Palo Alto, stayed and accomplished great things. Now, Nunez is serving as a mentor and prime example to her students that you don’t have to leave to do pursue success.

“There’s so many ways that the city has changed and there’s so many ways that you can make it and still be here,” she said. “There’s opportunity here and a lot of students and people that grew up here want to come back and stay here, because this is

See **TEACHER**, page 18



Dr. Hoffman joins Palo Alto Dermatology Institute!



Thomas Hoffman, MD

Board-certified dermatologist Thomas Hoffman, MD is thrilled to be brought out of retirement to join (left to right) Greg Morganroth, MD, Linda Sheu, MD, Michelle Quinn, NP, Chandni Patel, PA and Becca Chen, MD, at Palo Alto Dermatology Institute (PADI). PADI offers a one-of-a-kind dermatology practice combining nationally-recognized dermatology, skin cancer diagnosis, Mohs surgery and cosmetic dermatology combined with five-star hospitality in a 7,000 sqft building. Accepting most insurance plans.

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Teen critically hurt after driver runs red light, police say

The suspect was identified as a 64-year-old Menlo Park resident

By Simmerdeep Kaur

A 17-year-old is in critical condition after being struck by a driver who may have run a red light at about 12:10 p.m. May 5 on El Camino Real, Redwood City Police Department said on May 12.

Authorities said the teen was “lawfully in the crosswalk” and their “initial assessment” is that the driver ran a red light on El Camino Real and hit the pedestrian.

In a news release, police said the pedestrian, who suffered significant injuries, was taken to a local hospital after the Redwood City Fire Department and AMR medics responded to the scene. The teen remains in critical condition, police said.

The driver, a 64-year-old Menlo Park resident, remained at the scene and was also transported to a hospital for evaluation. Medical personnel at the

scene said the driver may have suffered a debilitating medical episode just before the collision, police said. There were no apparent signs of drug or alcohol impairment.

Police said several witnesses were interviewed at the scene and video evidence was collected. According to police, blood samples were collected in this case and will be processed for evaluation.

Several videos showing what police described as “a portion of this incident” have been circulating on social media. The Almanac has reviewed footage of the incident, but will not be publishing it due to its graphic nature. In the video, a person can be seen walking on a crosswalk when a driver in a vehicle drives through the crosswalk, hitting the person.

The incident remains under investigation. ■

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SUNSET

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project designed by Cliff May, often regarded as the creator of California ranch house style. The landscape design was crafted by “master landscaper” Thomas Church, a leading figure in modern California garden design.

The historical value of the property was even noted by Sunset magazine itself in a special issue on the Los Angeles fires, in which an editor urged readers to help protect the campus.

“Fires aren’t the only thing threatening the Western dream, and while we can’t control the wind or heat, we can protect what we love. One of those places is Sunset’s historic campus in Menlo Park, the former home of this storied publication... It’s where we tested recipes in the Test Kitchen, planted experimental gardens and built an indoor outdoor lifestyle that people across the country aspired to. We’ve lost too much already. Let’s save what we can.”

The commission received 617 letters of support and 12 letters of objection to the nomination.

The developer behind the Willow Park project, N17, has opposed the nomination.

Founder Oisín Heneghan framed the effort as a strategy to block housing in a region already facing a shortage.

“Everything in the world is historic. Everything is a story. But every building should not be elevated by the state and given the honor of historic designation,” he told the commission.

“A vacant, obsolete building is not historic, and it should not be found to be eligible for the National Registry,” Heneghan continued. “What’s truly historic is the housing crisis and the devastating effects it has on Californians. Our governor and state Legislature have repeatedly declared that we are in a housing emergency. The nomination of 80 Willow has been commissioned and paid for by anti-housing activists. They are doing this to interfere with housing. That’s the bottom line.”

N17 has proposed four high rise buildings on the 6.7-acre site with the tallest reaching 431 feet. The development would include 665 units with 155 being below market rate and over 500,000 square feet of commercial and office space.

Under federal law, the Office of Historic Preservation is not allowed to consider economic or development impacts when

evaluating nominations. State Historic Preservation Officer Julianne Polanco emphasized that point during the hearing.

“Our office, this commission, has a purview under federal law and an obligation, and it does not include the ability to make decisions that are based beyond the criteria of the National Register,” Polanco said. “It does not in any way mean that our office is unsympathetic to housing needs, to developer rights, or to any other public desire. I want to be clear that we are prohibited from considering those things... and to do so, in my opinion, as the head of the Office, would be violating the law.”

“At a time when somebody decides that we have a different purview, then we will take that seriously and implement it,” she added.

Heneghan also argued that the nomination misled the commission about the landscaping and building.

“When you read the nomination, it says everything (the landscaping and architecture) is all intact and original — that’s a complete fabrication,” he said. “Every picture the nomination showed does not exist now.”

Heneghan said that much of the landscaping and trees have been changed and the

interior has been significantly remodeled.

Heneghan added that it has been difficult to rent out the office building and the roof is damaged and needs to be replaced. He also said that it has been difficult to insure the property.

In response to his argument that the building’s architecture has been changed, state staff argued it did not change the building’s significance. “Properties are not expected to be preserved in amber. Buildings and landscapes are expected to experience change over time. A respected colleague described preservation as managed change. Integrity is evaluated for the property as a whole, not individual features such as paths, or separately for public and private views,” said state Historian Amy Crain. “In evaluating the property as a whole, it retains all aspects of integrity.”

If approved by the Keeper of the National Register, the Sunset campus would gain formal recognition as a historic site — potentially complicating or delaying any future redevelopment plans, regardless of California’s “builder’s remedy” housing provisions.

Listing on the register triggers an additional layer of

environmental review under both federal and state law. In particular, projects involving historically designated properties may be subject to additional California Environmental Quality Act requirements.

While listing does not prevent a private property owner from altering or demolishing the site, it can make it more difficult to obtain necessary approvals. For the proposed Willow Park development, this could lead to delays, increased costs or even substantial changes to the project’s design and scope.

Heneghan said he will still move forward with the development. The city council awarded a \$900,000 contract to create an environmental impact report for the project. N17 will have to reimburse the city the full cost. The report is expected to take 17 months.

In the meantime, at least some of the property has been leased to Workspace Strategies, a Kentucky-based coworking management company to operate a shared workspace, the firm announced in September 2024.

The space soft-launched on May 1, 2025, and will officially open on May 21. ■

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HEALTH CHIEF

continued from page 5

and a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Southern California. She started her career in health at AIDS Project Los Angeles.

"She is pressure tested," said San Mateo County Supervisor Ray Mueller, who served on the search committee, in a prepared statement. "She comes from a very challenging environment budget-wise, and at a time when every piece of health care is going to be under budget threat with federal support uncertain. To have someone like that here is incredibly important."

County Health is charged with inspecting food handlers and restaurants, monitoring and responding to disease outbreaks, conducting vaccination programs, providing health care for vulnerable residents and responding to emergencies.

This news organization spoke with Chawla about her past work experience, priorities for the county and how she is addressing challenges like the bird flu and measles outbreaks.

Q: What are your top priorities as health chief?

A: Behavioral health is a significant priority. ... There are a lot of state changes that are coming down as part of CalAIM

(a multi-year project focused on reforming the state's Medicaid system), and other state initiatives to improve behavioral health care for people with serious mental illness. ... We're in the process of implementing electronic health records. ... One of the county's top priorities is homelessness. ... And then, federal changes in the landscape that are signaled, but not yet really happening (yet) ... are on the radar too.

Q: Backing up a little bit with behavioral health care, what are some of the changes coming from the state?

A: We're more than halfway through the implementation of the CalAIM changes, and one of the most significant ones around behavioral health is payment reform. It's moving from cost-based reimbursement, meaning, the organization that we contract with had been paid based on the cost for running a program and will now be reimbursed a set amount for each client that they see. There's been a lot of work with the community-based organizations that we contract with to implement that. But it's not been without pain. It is coupled by the fact that a couple of our modalities of service have not gotten sufficient reimbursement rates from the state. Those two things have made it difficult for

community-based providers (like StarVista).

And then other changes include something called SB 43, which changes (72-hour) involuntary commitment, 5150 rules. It expands them, and in one of the most significant ways it expands that to add substance use disorder to the range of conditions that can cause a person to be 5150. The system that we have in place is really about people with mental illness or (in) mental crisis, not substance use crisis; that network of services really didn't exist already. You can't just turn on the same system for people with different needs. ... The implementation date for that is Jan. 1 of 2026.

Q: You mentioned that there have been signals of changes on the federal level. What are some of the things that could be coming up affecting the county?

A: There have been some things that happened already, but they've had very little impact on San Mateo County. The federal government has canceled a number of funding sources that ... came from COVID-relief actions. ... (Funding for) enhancing laboratory capacity, immunization, health disparities funding.

Fortunately, in San Mateo County, we spent those grants on the front end. ... So the impact on us was very minimal. (In) other

jurisdictions in California, that's not the case. They tried to make that money last as long as the grant was eligible.

Q: Do you know how much money was left for COVID in the account here?

A: It was almost all gone, like less than \$10,000.

And then the other things that are coming that were on the lookout for are changes to the Medicaid program. ... It's really too soon to know what they're (federal officials) planning to do. We're paying very, very close attention to what's being discussed. It seems like what's being discussed also changes quite quickly, so we're waiting for a little bit more clarity on what path they might go down.

Q: Do you have concerns about how the changes to the Medicaid program will impact residents in San Mateo County?

A: We're fortunate to be in San Mateo County and in California at a time like this. There is an ethos that is more supportive of everyone, regardless of economic status or documentation status. ... But it doesn't mean we're immune. It could mean that people lose their health care coverage. ... As a county health system, how do we support people to maintain access to health care services that they need? It could also mean reduced revenue for us for the services we provide already. The amount of that we're not really able to estimate right now.

Q: What are some of the services that the county provides through Medicaid?

A: The services at San Mateo Medical Center in the hospital, in our clinics that are also part of the medical center, the behavioral health services that we provide. We run two managed care plans in our behavior health department that support people who are on Medi-Cal. One of the managed care plans is for people with severe mental illness, and the

other is for people with substance use disorders. Those are funded by federal Medicaid dollars. There are some other programs elsewhere too, but those are the two main ones.

Q: What were some of the lessons you are bringing to San Mateo from your previous roles?

A: My role in Alameda was very similar to my role here. So it's kind of nice to have some familiarity.

In San Francisco, the medical center is part of the health department. That's not true in Alameda County. (In) my last seven years, I wasn't working over the medical center in Alameda County.

I'm very familiar ... with all of the behavioral health changes that I just mentioned.


Also in Alameda County, the health department was the lead on homelessness response. ... Here the lead is really the human services agency. I feel like I am ready to be a good partner to the human services agency to help support people who are unhoused or unsheltered.

Q: I know that there's been cases of bird flu and measles in the county. How are you sort of approaching these issues?

A: We're definitely watching what's happening, watching our neighbors, watching the statewide trends. We've only had one confirmed case of measles here back in February, and that was a person who had traveled internationally and was exposed in the country that they had traveled from. And there were no additional cases that stem from that one.

As far as H5N1 (bird flu) goes, the risk is still very low. We don't have any major poultry or dairy farms in the county here, and no H5N1 has been detected in dairy cattle or humans in San Mateo County (it has been detected in backyard chickens). We continue to keep watch, but we are thankfully not heavily impacted here. ■

Angela Swartz is a Contributing Writer.




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OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Judith "Judy" (nee Kahn) Sadoff, 96, of Palo Alto, who worked as a "computer" (a la Hidden Figures) at NASA, and who was an assistant to the nurse manager of a biomedical space research program, died on April 14, 2025.

Jacqueline Jean Schatz, 96, of Palo Alto, died due to complications from a fall on April 20, 2025.

Shirley Zimmerman, 89, of Palo Alto, who worked as a middle school teacher for 49 years and would arrive at Jordan Middle School at 6 a.m., and who was known as a

stylish woman who had a taste for church music, who wore cashmere sweaters and sunglasses, died on April 29, 2025.

Ida Pryor, 76, of Redwood City, of Redwood City, who enjoyed playing bingo and crocheting, died on April 12, 2025.

Shirley Whaley Nanevicz, 93, of Palo Alto, who tutored children with reading difficulties and was especially proud of her work with the children of local farmworkers, died on Feb. 18, 2025.

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

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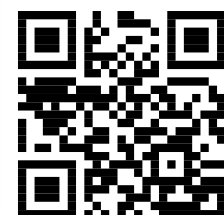
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M-A COACH

continued from page 1

that he was so well connected in the community.”

Nick Fogel, a P.E. teacher at Hillview Middle School, said Taylor had a special way of connecting with his students. He was known for giving each kid a nickname and adding a personal touch to the relationship he built with each and every student, he said.

“He was a unique guy himself and he had the ability to see that uniqueness in other kids,” Fogel added. “Dylan had a way about

him where he could connect to so many different personalities, relate to them and bring the best out of them.”

Behind Encinal Elementary School, a roadside memorial on the corner of Prior Lane in Atherton has bloomed in honor of Taylor with bouquets of flowers, photos and a white bicycle, serving as a symbol for the tragedy that took place. Messages on the photos read “More than a coach” and “We love you Dylan!”

In the days after his passing, Las Lomitas Elementary School District and Menlo-Atherton

High School shared a message with parents informing them about Taylor’s death. School administrators have offered additional counseling support available to students as well as resources on comforting grieving children.

To enhance safety, the Atherton Police Department announced it will have more enforcement efforts along Middlefield Road and will be conducting additional education around bicycle, pedestrian and driver safety.

Authorities are continuing the investigation into the deadly

crash. Police say the driver of the garbage truck was cooperative and they do not think that drugs or alcohol were factors in the At this time, the driver has not been arrested, said Atherton Police Commander Dan Larsen.

“GreenWaste is aware of the incident that occurred in Atherton involving one of our drivers. Our thoughts are with everyone impacted during this difficult time,” said Patrick Harbison, spokesperson for GreenWaste, a waste removal company with a contract to operate in Atherton. “The safety of the community

and our team members is central to GreenWaste’s values, and we are cooperating fully with local authorities as they continue their investigation.”

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 18 in the Sequoia Room at the Arrillaga Recreation Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park. Taylor’s family asks for the community to consider donating to the Reikes Center in Redwood City in Dylan’s name in lieu of flowers. ■

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EPAA CHARTER

continued from page 5

get into] college to 87% persistence,” Guillaume added.

East Palo Alto Academy parent Karla Facundo said the school prepares its students for college with its wide range of courses and also supports them socially and emotionally so that “they can be successful and fulfill their life goals.”

Miranda-Pinkney, who took over as principal in 2024, told this news organization that the charter renewal and recent visit from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, which grants accreditation for schools,

gave the campus community an opportunity to self-reflect and identify areas for improvements.

Teachers took the time to read through the charter and make comments on needed updates that reflected the initiatives and programs that were implemented over the past years, she said. The new charter includes details on the advisory program, school mission and graduate profiles. Miranda-Pinkney said she also wanted to highlight the foundation’s 10-year Promise, which supports students through high school, college and beyond.

Notable achievements for the school include rising test scores in English, math and for English

learner. In 2024, graduation rates were at 98% compared to the state average of 87% and students admitted to a four-year college nearly doubled from 30% with its first graduating class to 57% last year.

Trustee Mary Beth Thompson acknowledged that these improvements are “huge leaps.” She asked how the school would ensure that this progress will continue and be sustained.

Miranda-Pinkney explained that the school plans to continuously reflect on what works best and commit to making sure students have access to counseling, advisers for college and career readiness and maintaining a

strong relationship with the foundation.

Trustee Richard Ginn asked about the school’s strategies to achieve enrollment goals as school enrollment continues to decline in the community. Miranda-Pinkney said East Palo Alto Academy started recruitment at Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School earlier to form a better partnership there. Middle school students are invited to visit the high school campus and the team is also doing outreach within the community.

Trustee Amy Koo questioned how the school monitors physical wellness when East Palo Alto

Academy has waived the P.E. requirement.

According to Miranda-Pinkney, the school encourages students to participate in one or more of the eight sports offered and gives them the opportunity to be involved in the high school’s partnership with the Boys and Girls Club. She added that East Palo Alto Academy is looking to partner with a donor to get YMCA memberships for students as well.

Miranda-Pinkney was thrilled by the board’s unanimous vote. “They saw that it truly was a collaborative practice, that we are working to improve things and our kids are improving. It was just beautiful to see that,” she said. ■

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Approximately 3.8 serene acres with majestic oaks and multiple entertaining areas

Approximately 4,175 sq ft main home + 755 sq ft newly built ADU

5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms + private office, family room, and den

1-bedroom, 1-bath ADU with Bay views from expansive deck

Open floor plan with soaring beamed ceilings

Resort-style amenities include a pool, spa, fire pit, and gazebo

Gated driveway, tranquil setting, and sparkling nighttime vistas

Just minutes to Stanford, I-280, Ladera shops, and top-rated PV schools

Offered at \$8,875,000

Co-listed with Irene Reed, Sotheby's International Realty, DRE #01879122



Information deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice.



STEPHANIE ELKINS

STEPHANIE ELKINS VAN LINGE

650.400.2933

stephanie.elkins@cbnorcal.com

DRE #00897565

StephanieElkins.com





YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS



DeLeonRealty_USA



40 TAGUS COURT
PORTOLA VALLEY

\$6,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
40Tagus.com



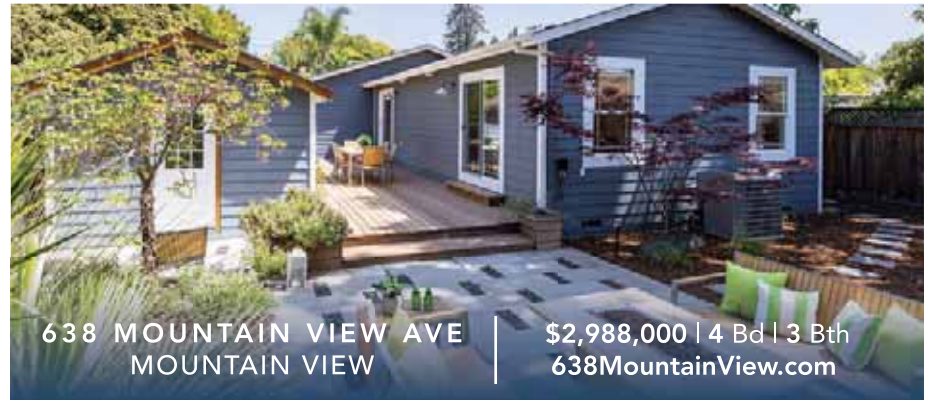
835 LA HONDA ROAD
WOODSIDE

\$7,988,000 | 5 Bd | 7 Bth
835LaHonda.com



590 MILITARY WAY
PALO ALTO

\$4,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
590Military.com



638 MOUNTAIN VIEW AVE
MOUNTAIN VIEW

\$2,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
638MountainView.com



27690 BRIONES COURT
LOS ALTOS HILLS

\$3,988,000 | 4 Bd | 2.5 Bth
27690Briones.com



1080 COTTON STREET
MENLO PARK

\$8,988,000 | 7 Bd | 8.5 Bth
1080Cotton.com



1715 BAY LAUREL DRIVE
MENLO PARK

\$7,988,000 | 4 Bd | 4.5 Bth
1715BayLaurel.com

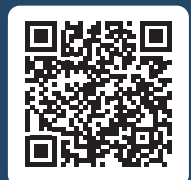


35 HESKETH DRIVE
MENLO PARK

\$8,988,000 | 5 Bd | 7 Bth
35Hesketh.com



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR
MORE DETAILS OR VISIT US
AT **DELEONREALTY.COM**



Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com
中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822
DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224





YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS



DeLeonRealty_USA



721 14TH AVENUE
MENLO PARK

\$1,988,000 | 3 Bd | 2 Bth
721Fourteenth.com



695 N CALIFORNIA AVE
PALO ALTO

\$3,988,000 | 4 Bd | 2 Bth
695NCalifornia.com



8 REYNA PLACE
MENLO PARK

\$8,988,000 | 4 Bd | 7 Bth
8Reyna.com



295 BAY ROAD
MENLO PARK

\$2,488,000 | 4 Bd | 2.5 Bth
295BayRd.com



12355 STONEBROOK COURT
LOS ALTOS HILLS

\$9,988,000 | 6 Bd | 9 Bth
12355StonebrookCt.com



119 KELLOGG AVENUE
PALO ALTO

\$3,988,000 | 5 Bd | 3 Bth
119Kellogg.com



5 OAK FOREST COURT
PORTOLA VALLEY

\$5,788,000 | 4 Bd | 5.5 Bth
5OakForest.com



1932 EMERSON STREET
PALO ALTO

\$10,500,000 | 6 Bd | 6 Bth
1932EmersonStreet.com



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR
MORE DETAILS OR VISIT US
AT **DELEONREALTY.COM**



Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com
中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822
DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224





Town of Atherton

Planning Commission, May 28, 2025
REGULAR MEETING 6:00 P.M.

This is meeting is held virtually and in-person at the
Council Chambers 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027

N E W S

SECOND HARVEST

continued from page 7

fresh produce — much of it donated or rescued from California farms — or items recovered from grocery retailers and wholesalers, Weatherby said.

Individuals or organizations that serve low-income residents can apply to become a partner agency and, if approved, receive food at no cost, she said.

She added that Second Harvest receives only about 1% of its funding from the government. More than 75% of its donations come from individuals, corporations and foundations.

“It’s really the individuals in the community that help us make this happen,” she said. ■

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

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 **May 28, 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: May 28, 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

PARKING LOTS

continued from page 5

affordable housing in the civic center instead of downtown.

“The measure would not restrict short-term community uses like farmers markets or improvements that enhance or expand parking for downtown customers, workers, and visitors,” said Beltramo.

A previous Change.org petition started by the group received 3,600 signatures, although those will not count towards the measure.

This news organization reached out to the San Mateo County Office of Elections to learn more about the process but did not hear back in time for publication. ■

Email Staff Writer Arden Margulis at amargulis@almanacnews.com.

TEACHER

continued from page 8

home, and they don’t want to see it change.

Nunez’s passion for the community is evident and she said she does not see herself ever leaving East Palo Alto.

Award information

The All-Star Teacher Award is given to the finalist who has collected the most amount of votes. Nunez is among five teachers who are up for the grand prize of \$30,000. Voters must be 18 years old and all votes must be made by June 2 at 11:59 p.m.. One vote can be submitted per person per day.

Visit nbcspportsbayarea.com/ast to cast your vote. ■

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

Projects under Public Hearing:

- Request for a Heritage Tree Removal (HTR25-003)** of (1) one Coast Live Oak for a first and second floor addition/remodel to an existing one-story residence at **98 Maple Avenue (APN 060-331-250)**, an approximately 6,026 square foot site within the R-1B zoning district. 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 removals. Staff has determined the subject tree is 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 Gerry Martin, Consulting Assistant Planner, at gmartin@ci.atherton.ca.us or (408) 809-9513.
- Request for Heritage Tree Removals (HTR25-001)** to remove five (5) heritage trees, consisting of two Coast Live Oaks and three Trident Maple trees, at **18 Faxon Forest Road (APN 070-180-360)**. The subject property is approximately 1.33 acres, within the R-1A zoning district, and developed with a single-family dwelling. The request for heritage tree removals facilitates rehabilitation of damaged hardscape and foundation, and the construction of new proposed hardscape and landscaping. Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Sections 8.10.040 (Removal of and Damage to Heritage Trees, Permit Process) and 8.10.020 (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 15301 (Existing Facilities). If you have any questions on the item, please contact Laylonni Laster, Consulting Assistant Planner, at llaster@ci.atherton.ca.us or (408) 628-1259.
- Requests for **Accessory Structure and Fencing Variances (VAR25-001)** from Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Sections 17.40.040 Development Standards for Accessory Buildings and Structures and 17.46.030 Development Standards for Fences, to construct play and landscaping structures for the Atherton Library’s Children’s Garden project at **2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane (APN 060-321-220)** and within the Public Facilities and Schools District Zone (PFS). AMC Section 17.40.040 requires accessory structures to be located 10 feet from the south property line and 8 feet from any main building on the subject property. The project proposes accessory structures that have minimum distances from the south side property line and main building of 1-foot 7-inches and 1-foot 8-inches, respectively. Additionally, AMC Section 17.46.030 requires that property line fencing is uniform in design and appearance and buffered with landscaping. The project includes fencing along the south property line with heights ranging from 6 to 8 feet with intermittent lattice screening and landscaping. These variations from the development standards in the AMC require approval by the Planning Commission. This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to: CEQA Sections 15303 (New Construction) and 15311 (Accessory Structures). Additionally, the library garden was analyzed in the approved 2015 Civic Center Master Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR). If you have any questions on the item please contact Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner, at bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us or (408) 688-2432.
- Request for **Front and Rear Setback Variances (VAR24-003)** and **Tree Protection Zone Exceptions (PTPZ25-00002)** to construct a new single-family dwelling with an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) at **94 Palmer Lane (APN 060-163-290)**. The subject property was established in 2023 as an urban lot split, is approximately 0.32 acres and within the R-1A zoning district. Per Atherton Municipal Code Section 17.53.050, any proposed single-family dwelling greater than 800 square-feet is subject to the R-1A setback requirements that require 60-foot front and rear setbacks for the main building. The project provides front and rear setbacks of 37-feet 4.75-inches, which require approval of a variance by the Planning Commission. 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 from a heritage tree that is 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 of a new 12-foot wide gravel driveway that is up to 3.7x from a stand of Coast Live Oaks. 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 Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner, at bbendix@ci.atherton.ca.us or (408) 688-2432.

The agenda for this meeting with links to related staff reports can be found online by **Friday, May 23, 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

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

JUST LISTED

COMPASS

Compass is the brand name used for services provided by one or more of the Compass group of subsidiary companies. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and operates under Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number: 01797095. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in prices, conditions, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.



OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY, May 17 & 18, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

1310 BAY LAUREL DRIVE MENLO PARK

- Exceptional, just-completed home at the corner of Menlo Park's most coveted streets, Bay Laurel and Hermosa
- Architecture by renowned firm, Jim Maliksi & Associates
- Three levels with approximately 6,300 square feet
- 7 bedrooms and 6.5 baths, including main-level ADU with full kitchen
- Premium finishes throughout, including beautiful engineered wood floors in every room
- Accessible bonus space
- Landscaped, corner lot of approximately 10,300 square feet
- Professionally landscaped grounds with room for a pool, if desired
- Excellent Menlo Park schools

Offered at \$11,495,000 | www.1310BayLaurel.com



CAITLIN DARKE

650.388.8449

caitlin@caitlindarke.com

License# 01332161





Seller's Bill of Rights



At DeLeon Realty, we believe sellers deserve better. Better marketing, better support, and better results, without any Realtor® games or hidden agendas. Further, sellers should not be coerced or persuaded to offer their homes only to buyers represented by that listing brokerage (where they would get double commission) – whether in advance of all the other interested buyers or instead of them.

This *Seller's Bill of Rights* lays out what you can expect from us, in plain terms. These aren't nice-to-haves or vague promises. They're real, concrete commitments we make to every seller with whom we work.

I. The Right to Fair Representation

DeLeon Realty will never accept commission from both sides of any transaction. We will also provide and fully compensate a qualified agent to represent any unrepresented buyers on DeLeon listings at no cost to the buyer OR the seller.

II. The Right to Legal and Tax Guidance

DeLeon sellers will have access to a licensed California attorney to address any legal or tax questions related to the sale of their home, free of charge.

III. The Right to Industry-Leading Marketing

DeLeon sellers will receive more marketing and better marketing than any other comparable property on the market (excluding other DeLeon listings).

IV. The Right to Maximum Exposure

All DeLeon listings will be featured on the MLS, Zillow, Redfin, and other top platforms, unless the seller opts for an unrecommended off-market strategy with full understanding that it will likely yield a lower price due to reduced exposure and competition.

V. The Right to Print and Digital Visibility

Your home will appear in at least one newspaper advertisement every week it's on the market and will include a custom video, 3D tour, and professional photography, all featured on a dedicated micro website specific to your home.

VI. The Right to Guided Preparation

Every DeLeon seller benefits from access to an experienced interior designer and handyman to oversee the home preparation process, including selecting a stager whose vision aligns with the property and marketing strategy.

VII. The Right to Complimentary Staging

DeLeon sellers will never pay for staging – ever.

VIII. The Right to Covered Inspections

All property and pest inspections arranged by DeLeon are covered at no cost to the seller.

IX. The Right to Flexibility

Listing agreements automatically expire 39 days after the home goes live on the MLS, unless the seller chooses to extend. We believe listing agents should have to earn that extension.

X. The Right to a Team That Works for You

Michael Repka, and our sellers, benefit from the most robust group of professionals in the real estate industry, all working in unison to achieve the best result possible. From interior designers, handymen, and a licensed contractor, to highly specialized marketing professionals, and attorneys, DeLeon Realty delivers a level of service and results unattainable by any individual agent or small team.

If you are thinking of listing your home, meet with Michael Repka to learn how a recent court case and massive settlement has brought down the cost to sell a home.

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880
650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com
DELEON REALTY, INC. | DRE #01903224





40 TAGUS COURT PORTOLA VALLEY



RUSTIC ELEGANCE & SWEEPING VIEWS IN PORTOLA VALLEY

Tucked away on nearly 2 acres at the end of a lush Portola Valley cul-de-sac, this thoughtfully updated contemporary home offers a rare blend of privacy, natural beauty, and effortless livability. Bright and airy interiors reflect a rustic elegance with high ceilings and a mix of travertine and oak floors that add warmth, texture, and depth. The spacious living areas are designed for comfort and flow, with a large great room and a chef's kitchen that combines top-tier appliances with a welcoming, open layout. Creating a seamless connection to the home's natural surroundings, expansive glass doors open to a fully equipped outdoor kitchen with BBQ and pizza oven, an infinity-edge pool and spa, and wide-open views of Windy Hill Preserve. The single-level layout wraps around a tranquil open-air courtyard with a built-in fire pit, with four bedrooms – including one currently used as an office – offering flexibility and space. Solar panels and central A/C add year-round comfort, while the setting places you close to Stanford, top-rated schools, and miles of scenic trails that define the Portola Valley lifestyle.

OPEN HOUSE

SAT & SUN 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

40Tagus.com

Offered at \$6,988,000

Notice to Buyers:

Although a good buyer's agent can add significant insight and value, you are not required to use one to purchase a DeLeon listing. If you would like to submit an offer to us directly, please contact the DeLeon Buyer's Team at **650.543.8528** and we will waive 100% of the buyer's-side commission.

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com | Equal Housing Opportunity
Francis Lopez, DRE #02119541 | 650.397,8988 | francis@deleonrealty.com | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. M-298564

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): ANNA BEA PHOTO
1 Devonshire Blvd Apt 2
San Carlos, Ca 94070

FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON: 09/20/2024

REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):

ANNA REINKE

1 Devonshire Blvd Apt 2

San Carlos, Ca 94070

THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY An Individual.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on May 01 2025.

(ALM May 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2025)

THE DERMAL FORMULA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300488

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

1.) THE DERMAL FORMULA , located at 70 N El Camino Real, Suite B, San Mateo, CA, 94401. Mailing Address: 815 N Humboldt St. Apt 404, San Mateo, CA 94401.

Registered owner(s):

THE DERMAL FORMULA INC.

70 N El Camino Real, Suite B

San Mateo, CA, 94401

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 02/18/2025.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 29, 2025.

(ALM May 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2025)

FLEET FEET MENLO PARK FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300245

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

1.) FLEET FEET MENLO PARK , located at 859 Santa Cruz Ave, Menlo Park CA 94025.

Registered owner(s):

ORANGE RED BLUE FAMCO LLC

505 Homer Ave

Palo Alto, CA 94301

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 11/13/2017.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 26, 2025.

(ALM May 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2025)

JDM ICONS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300472

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

1.) JDM ICONS , located at 557 Grand Street, Redwood City, CA 94062.

Registered owner(s):

JP FAMILY HOLDINGS, LLC

557 Grand Street

Redwood City, CA 94062

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 April 25, 2025.

(ALM May 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2025)

SOULBRIDGE THERAPY TRANSMUTATION OF LIGHT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300538

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

1.) SOULBRIDGE THERAPY , 2.)

TRANSMUTATION OF LIGHT , located at 1900

S. Norfolk St. #350, San Mateo, CA 94403.

Registered owner(s):

AARON NICOLE ALLENDORF

1900 S. Norfolk St. #350

San Mateo, CA 94403

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed

above on May 5, 2025.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 05, 2025.

(ALM May 16, 23, 30 and Jun 6, 2025)

DRIFTWOOD COTTAGE WINES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300454

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

1.) DRIFTWOOD COTTAGE WINES , located at

819 11th Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063.

Registered owner(s):

KATHERINE HUSHER

819 11th Ave.

Redwood City, CA 94063

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed

above on 03/22/2025.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 24, 2025.

(ALM May 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2025)

GENEDGE GENEDEGE STUDIO GENEDEGE DIGITAL GENEDEGE TRAINING GENEDEGE CONSULTING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300594

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

1.) GENEDEGE , 2.) GENEDEGE STUDIO , 3.)

GENEDEGE DIGITAL , 4.) GENEDEGE TRAINING ,

5.) GENEDEGE CONSULTING , located at 286

Loma Rd, San Carlos, CA 94070.

Registered owner(s):

THE LAMBERT GROUP LLC

286 Loma Rd

San Carlos, CA 94070

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 May 09, 2025.

(ALM May 16, 23, 30 and Jun 6, 2025)

MY GYM SAN CARLOS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300196

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

1.) MY GYM SAN CARLOS , located at 189 El

Camino Real, San Carlos, CA 94070. Mailing

Address: 2329 Ensenada Way San Mateo, CA

94403.

Registered owner(s):

ROSEK ANDERSEN FITNESS LLC

2329 Ensenada Way

San Mateo, CA 94403

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 24, 2025.

(ALM May 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2025)

SMALL BITES & BOARDS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300512

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

1.) SMALL BITES AND BOARDS , located at

3956 PASADENA DR, SAN MATEO CA 94403.

Registered owner(s):

NIKA DAVID MANABAT

3956 PASADENA DR

SAN MATEO, CA 94403

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 May 01, 2025.

(ALM May 16, 23, 30 and Jun 6, 2025)

JUNK KING SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300341

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

1.) JUNK KING SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO ,

located at 863 Malcolm Road , Burlingame,

CA 94010. Mailing Address: PO BOX 1486 San

Bruno, CA 94066

Registered owner(s):

FLAGSHIP JKBAY INC

2108 N St Ste N

Sacramento, CA 95816

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact

business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 09, 2025.

(ALM Apr 25, May 2, 9 and 16, 2025)

PRESTIGE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300317

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

1.) PRESTIGE , located at 1300 Industrial Road

#15, San Carlos, CA 94070.

Registered owner(s):

PRESTIGE ENTERPRISES LLC

1300 Cotton Street

Menlo Park, CA 94025

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 03/04/2025.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 04, 2025.

(ALM Apr 25, May 2, 9 and 16, 2025)

ALEX THE LOCKSMITH FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300201

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

1.) ALEX THE LOCKSMITH , located at 2302

Carlmont Drive Apt 5, Belmont, CA 94002.

Registered owner(s):

OLEKSANDR PEREPELTSIA

2302 Carlmont Drive Apt 5

Belmont, CA 94002

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 24, 2025.

(ALM Apr 25, May 2, 9 and 16, 2025)

PAC PRIME MORTGAGE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300555

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

1.) PAC PRIME MORTGAGE , located at 1350

Old Bayshore Hwy Ste 520, Burlingame, CA

94010. Mailing Address: 1501 Alice Street #

606, Oakland, CA 94612

Registered owner(s):

PAC PRIME PROPERTIES

1350 Old Bayshore Hwy Ste 520

Burlingame, CA 94010

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact

business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 06, 2025.

(ALM May 16, 23, 30 and Jun 6, 2025)

BIO:LOGIC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300578

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

1.) BIO:LOGIC , located at 565 Canyon Rd,

Redwood City, CA 94062. Mailing Address: PO

BOX 620572 Woodside, CA 94062.

Registered owner(s):

DR. TOBI SCHMIDT LLC

PO BOX 620572

Woodside, CA 94062

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 03/01/2025.

This statement was filed with the County

Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May

08, 2025.

(ALM May 16, 23, 30 and Jun 6, 2025)

ANNALEIA FLORAL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO.: M-300285

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

1.) ANNALEIA FLORAL , located at 1305 Speers

Ave, San Mateo, CA 94403.

Registered owner(s):

ANNALEIA HAMILL

1305 Speers Ave.

San Mateo, CA 94403

State of Incorporation/Organization: California

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has begun to transact business

under the fictitious business name(s) listed

above on 3/21/2025.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 02, 2025.

(ALM May 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2025)

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

Case No.: 25CIV02600

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Gloria Falcinelli Eldredge filed a

petition with this court for a decree changing

names as follows:

GLORIA ANN FALCINELLI to GLORIA

FALCINELLI ELDRIDGE

GLORIA ANNE FALCINELLI to GLORIA

FALCINELLI ELDRIDGE

GLORIA FALCINELLI ELDRIDGE to GLORIA

FALCINELLI ELDRIDGE

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: 6/18/2025, 9:00 AM, Civil

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: 4/23/2025

Nancy L. Fineman

JUDGE OF THE

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

Navigating Silicon Valley as first-generation, low-income student requires determination

Don't be afraid to try new things, meet new people

By Akemi Kwan

GUEST OPINION

Every weekend up until my freshman year of high school, I accompanied my mom to Chinatown. But rather than entering the enclave's renowned dumpling restaurants and brightly lit gift shops, we would enter an aged three-story flat with no name: an underground Mahjong casino.

About 20 stairs below a run-down house, through an extra locked door below the stairs, I ate, played and napped alone till late at night, while my mom played Mahjong amid a fog of cigarette smoke. At this mysterious building with rooms locked from the outside, my younger self observed the same racial group and socioeconomic class enter and exit.

I was 12 when I began to realize the low social capital of my family.

Chinatown had exposed me to my mom's inner circle of waitresses, restaurant cooks and cleaners with blank degrees. Seeing my neighbors, uncles and aunties with the same blue-collar careers, it felt like those professions were the only ones out there for me.

Then, I felt unworthy of pursuing 'bigger things' and my future felt un-carvable from the repetitive lifestyles my environment produced. I was scared of being limited to the same blue-collar professions that I saw in the Mahjong casino.

I was always first-generation and low-income, but that experience marked the beginning of the realization of this background of mine — like how writing this article marks my acceptance

and pride in my identity.

As a child, I followed my single mom around her part-time jobs — whether that be sitting on lounge chairs at Supercuts or waiting hours at dining tables in the multiple restaurants where she waitressed. Until then, I felt embarrassed to host hangouts at my house in fear that people would see family pictures that contained only one parent.

My struggle with school began as soon as I moved to Menlo Park in fifth grade, with a reading score on the state tests that was 400 points below the school's average. Having to skip recess to retake this assessment, I remember feeling tired of being left out. Though at the time it seemed like just 30 minutes without my friends, I knew that this feeling of being left behind due to my underperformance wouldn't stop at recess. It would follow me through lunch periods in high school, and eventually into college thereafter.

My time isolated from others in the Mahjong casino pushed me to seek out extracurriculars where I can be hands-on, and build my own community through helping students like myself. Now, I'm dedicated to empowering other first-generation and low-income students with my tutoring business, resume webinars featuring personal templates, and my



Akemi Kwan

college and career library workshops where I share with them a curated list of scholarships.

If you are a student in a similar situation reading this, I applaud you for reading this far. You've demonstrated your interest in beginning your journey, so now all there is to do is take action. A great way to get started is to throw yourself into situations and learn from your mistakes as I did with the internship I had the summer after my freshman year at an HIV research nonprofit, where I found my interest in public speaking, rather than the actual research itself.

Unfortunately, I realized too late that there was never a reason to be embarrassed about my first-generation and low-income background. The very circumstances I once believed were holding me back from prestigious careers and connection with classmates ultimately fueled my determination to push forward — and to build a network of initiatives that make higher education more accessible for students like me. ■

Akemi Kwan is a rising senior attending Menlo-Atherton High School who was recently awarded the Horatio Alger \$10,000 State Scholarship, an award given to 15 impact-driven high school students in every state among over 25,000 applicants. Since her time away from the Mahjong casino, Kwan has gained experience interning at the San Francisco District Attorney's Office and now serves as a scholar within Yale's Women in Economics program.

Notice of Public Hearings

The Portola Valley School District will hold two separate public hearings on the proposed Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), including the Budget Overview for Parents cover page, and the proposed Budget for fiscal year 2025-26.

Date and Time: June 5, 2025, at 7:00 pm

Location: District Annex, 4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028

Copies of the LCAP and Budget are available for review at the District office noted above from June 2 to June 5, 2025, between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm and posted on the District website, www.pvsd.net.

To request a printed or electronic copy, contact Connie Ngo, cngo@pvsd.net, or 650 529-2560. Public members or stakeholders may request to comment at the public hearing on the LCAP and proposed budget or any item therein, by following the instructions for public comment found on the District website.

5/16/25

CNS-3923436#
THE ALMANAC

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5/16/25

CNS-3921548#
THE ALMANAC

What's on your mind?

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

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

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

You can also submit a longer piece of 450 to 600 words for consideration to publish as a guest opinion column.

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

The Almanac

STANFORD JAZZ FESTIVAL 2025
JUN 22 - AUG 1
AT DINKELSPIEL AUDITORIUM

JOHN PIZZARELLI
JUL 12

JUN 22	INDIAN JAZZ JOURNEY FEAT. MAHESH KALE & GEORGE BROOKS
JUN 27	FRED HERSCH
JUN 28	JEREMY PELT
JUN 29	TIFFANY AUSTIN
JUL 13	SAM REIDER
JUL 14	CAILI O'DOHERTY
JUL 19	ANAT COHEN AND MARCELLO GONÇALVES
JUL 20	YILIAN CAÑIZARES
JUL 24	JOEL ROSS
JUL 27	PAUL CORNISH
JUL 29	GEORGE CABLES
JUL 31	TAYLOR EIGSTI

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Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team

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Figuratively speaking

Pamela Walsh Gallery celebrates California artists' historic resistance to abstract art

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

There are art movements that are so inextricably linked to a place, like impressionism to Paris and abstract expressionism to New York City, that they are melded together in the annals of art history. But what about the San Francisco Bay Area? The region can also boast a home-grown artistic revolution in the form of the Bay Area figurative school and it is impressively represented in a group show now on view at the Pamela Walsh Gallery.

Titled “Concentric Circles: Tracing the Radiance of Bay Area Figuration,” the show presents museum-caliber works of art by most of the famous proponents of the style, including Richard Diebenkorn, Elmer Bischoff, Nathan Oliveira, Manuel Neri and Joan Brown. Even more notable is the fact that all of the art is for sale.

“It’s truly remarkable to consider that works by these artists — many of which can be found in major museums across the country and around the world — are still accessible through a gallery exhibition. That’s part of what makes this show so exciting; it offers collectors and viewers alike a rare opportunity to engage directly with important pieces of art history,” said Walsh.

The exhibition reflects a departure for Walsh, who for the last six years has mainly displayed work from the gallery’s own roster of artists. The inspiration for this show came from a collaboration with a fellow gallerist, Jenny Wilson. Wilson, like Walsh, loved the figurative school artists and had developed a wide network of contacts with collectors, families of the artists and artist estates. Over the last year, the network grew until Walsh felt she had enough inventory to present an exhibition. Sadly, Wilson died last fall, but Walsh decided to proceed and present the show as a tribute to her colleague and friend.

“Moving forward without her was incredibly difficult, especially without access to her extensive network, but I trusted the process,” said Walsh. “Once I committed, the most remarkable things began to unfold.”

Walsh said that, like the “concentric circles” of the title, connections among the artists’ families, friends and estates began to grow and expand. “Their stories brought the artworks to life and created a special bond between me and each piece.”

Her respect and care for each piece is evident in the show’s thoughtful installation. White walls provide a neutral background for color-saturated works like Nathan Oliveira’s “Twins” and each piece has enough room to breathe and be enjoyed. The natural California sunlight from the skylights softly bathes these paintings and sculptures, which seems most appropriate since all of the work was created in the Bay Area.

A short art history background might be helpful to understanding the importance of these artists, although one can certainly appreciate them just on the basis of aesthetics. After World War II, the center of art tipped from Paris to New York City, where many European artists fled in order to escape persecution. They brought avant-garde ideas about painting and sculpture and mixed with the city’s growing artist population. Together they reacted against the horrors of world conflict with non-representational work like the gestural drip paintings of Jackson Pollock. The abstract expressionist movement was born and held sway through the late 1940s and ‘50s.

But all art is reflective of the time, place and the culture in which it finds itself. It is also always a reaction to what came before and, in the case of Bay Area artists, a reaction against working only in an abstract manner.

David Park is credited with initiating a return to the figure, which his fellow San Franciscans soon followed. “These artists pushed beyond the dominance of abstract expressionism by reengaging with the figure — not in rejection of abstraction — but in expansion of it,” Walsh said. “That’s the enduring power of art — it teaches us how to see in new ways.”

A section in the back of the gallery features several examples of this radical (at the time) return to the studio and to working

from the nude model. There are wonderfully spare, direct and dramatic versions of this genre by Frank Lobdell, Nathan Oliveira and Elmer Bischoff, mainly done in ink or charcoal. Then, as if to say, “look at how the female gaze takes on the subject,” there is a lovely mixed-media piece by Joan Brown. Her model stares right at the viewer, voluptuous and at ease with herself.

Having now established the importance of the figure, the show evolves into more “circles” of figuration. Paul Wonner’s “Boy with Flower” is a good example of how these artists approached the human body not in a precise, realistic manner but rather with room for expression and symbolism. The boy occupies the foreground and is rendered in a generalized manner while our eyes are drawn, via the strong diagonal in the center, to the horizon behind him. Wonner’s attention to surface, painted in a thick impasto applied in energetic, horizontal strokes, is the stand-out here.

The influence of Park and his solid, blocky figures can clearly be seen in James Weeks’ “Two Children with a Ball.” Even without facial details, this is a sweet representation of a brother and sister captured not in a pose but just being themselves.

Theophilus Brown’s take on the male body, “Bather,” is large, imposing and enigmatic. The full-frontal nudity captures the attention first but, upon further inspection, it is obvious that this is a highly personal portrait of a friend or lover.

Fans of Manuel Neri will expect to see his usual plaster and bronze figures, and there are several, but his two-dimensional works on paper are stunning. Executed using water-based pigments and charcoal, these pieces show an obvious affinity for the human form. “Amante Drawing I” could be a master class example of rendering the female body in stillness. In contrast, “Mary Julia’s Arabesque” captures joyous movement with just a few strokes of the brush.

In addition to these well-known proponents of the figurative group, whose members not only knew one another but were also fellow instructors at



Courtesy Pamela Walsh Gallery

“Concentric Circles” features works by some of the Bay Area figurative school’s most well-known names, including Nathan Oliveira, whose untitled bronze sculpture is seen with his painting, “Cobalt Figure,” in the background.

the California School of Fine Arts, Walsh has managed to find examples of work by a lesser-known artist, Henrietta Berk. As Steven Nash points out in the exhibition catalog, Berk was an early member of the group whose work was unappreciated for decades. The influence of her teacher, Diebenkorn, is evident in “Excavators” in which two children play at the beach. They are depicted with a minimal amount of loose, energetic brush strokes while broad bands of tan and royal blue represent the sand and sea.

Because most of these artists were also teachers, their impact continued on via their students, like Berk. A second generation of artists — Neri, Brown and Oliveira — perpetuated the movement with subsequent artists making their own stamp on working with the figure.

Noted Walsh, “Though they resisted the idea of being labeled a movement, their camaraderie was undeniable. They drew from the same live models, taught in the same institutions, and even played jazz together. Their kind of shared creative ecosystem is rare and invaluable.”

Continuing with the idea of the concentric circles of influence, Walsh has included several artists who came later, chronologically, but whose art certainly benefited from the freedom of expression established by the figurative movement. There are several black and white confectionary delights by Wayne Thiebaud, a

colorful landscape by Raimonds Staprans, and a blend of abstraction/figuration by Kim Froshin entitled “Modernity.”

End the gallery visit by closely examining the very large and colorful painting, “Woman Holding Umbrella” (2009) by Roland Peterson. This cheerful scene is an amalgamation of so many influences, from the impressionist fondness for social groups, to Park’s solid figures, to Diebenkorn’s planes of color, to Oliveira’s sense of stillness and isolation. Peterson makes his own mark via bold, high-key colors and a profusion of geometric shapes; it’s a bright and fun coda to this celebration of California’s unique contribution to American art history.

“The Bay Area has always been fertile soil for creativity and ingenuity,” said Walsh. “Whether in art, literature, science or technology, this region has long been a place where bold ideas flourish. It’s no surprise that a group of artists here found synergy, inspiration and the freedom to invent a new language of figuration. Their legacy mirrors the spirit of this place: collaborative, innovative and deeply human.” ■

Email Contributing Writer
Sheryl Nonnenberg at
nonnenberg@aol.com.

Concentric Circles is on view until June 14. Pamela Walsh Gallery is located at 540 Ramona St., Palo Alto. pamelawalshgallery.com.



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Peninsula-raised physician and writer publishes first novel

Christine Henneberg's 'I Trust Her Completely' explores reproductive health, motherhood, friendship and hard choices

By Karla Kane

Bay Area physician and writer Christine Henneberg released her first book, the autobiographical "Boundless," in late 2022. That book, which was the grand prize winner of the 2022 Book-Life Prize Nonfiction Contest, reflected on Henneberg's journey through medical school, her reproductive care career, and becoming a parent for the first time. After she wrote her memoir, she found she wanted to continue exploring "the very conflicted ambitions I felt between wanting to be a mother, wanting to be a writer, wanting to be a doctor," she said. Beyond her own personal experience, she was also pondering "ideas and problems I could work out in fiction that I couldn't in nonfiction. They needed to be dramatized and told in a certain way," she said.

Henneberg, whose writing has been published in high-profile publications including *The Atlantic* and *The New York Times*, has now published her first novel. "I Trust Her Completely" is the story of an intense friendship, set against the backdrop of the Bay Area during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There were so many different ways people responded to the constraints on our lives, how that amplified the ways that women, in particular mothers, can judge each other," Henneberg said of life during lockdown. "I wanted to put that kind of friendship under the spotlight of a story."

"I Trust Her Completely" is told from the perspective of Josie, a queer woman and writer living in San Francisco who's recently decided to pursue motherhood as a single parent. By chance, she runs into Radhika, a friend from college whom she hasn't seen in nearly 20 years. Radhika is as dazzling to Josie in adulthood as she was in their university days. After battling cancer as a young adult, she's a successful physician who specializes in abortion and miscarriage care, living in a luxurious Laurel Heights home with a loving spouse and two adorable young children (although, Josie sometimes thinks, she doesn't seem to particularly enjoy the demands of parenting). Radhika is also a gifted writer, with a book deal and deadline rapidly approaching. As she did back in college, Radhika takes Josie under her wing, suggesting they workshop each other's manuscripts,



Courtesy Christine Henneberg

Physician and writer Christine Henneberg, who grew up in Palo Alto, has published her first novel, "I Trust Her Completely."

encouraging Josie to finish the novel she's long been working on. As their lives become more closely intertwined, they reckon with ambition, motherhood, choice and trust, with sometimes devastating results.

Josie and Radhika, though fully fictional, are not only drawn from some of Henneberg's own feelings and experiences, but also serve to represent what she called the "inherent conflicts" that sometimes arise when people are making complex decisions about their health, about motherhood, and in life in general.

"There are moments where it's about choice and plenty of moments where it's about just choosing from the options that are available to you, and it doesn't necessarily feel like a choice," she said.

Working in health care, Henneberg meets people from many backgrounds and walks of life. She chose to make her protagonist a queer character in part to challenge stereotypes about who needs and receives reproductive care.

"I see that silencing of queer pregnancy, queer abortion, queer miscarriage," she said. "Maybe for people who don't live in that world or are not living in a queer community, it may not have occurred to them. It's an unexplored dimension of women's health and abortion care."

As a doctor, Henneberg emphasizes her patients' rights to make decisions that they feel are right for them, and she strives to give her fictional characters the same respect, even though

they're the products of her own imagination.

"I tried to strike a relationship where I could let her make choices that didn't feel comfortable to me," she said of Josie's journey. "That makes it a stronger story." The same goes for the character Radhika, who also faces difficult choices. Henneberg hopes the questions raised by their stories will prove thought-provoking.

"Who does a woman have to make decisions for when she's making decisions about her body and her health?" she said.

While reproductive rights remain a difficult, sometimes contentious topic, especially in the wake of the 2022 U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* and the current political climate, Henneberg said she has in recent years noticed a slight shift.

"I do feel like women come into the clinic and, because they've read or heard more stories about abortion in the news, they know that they're not alone," she said. "Shame and guilt are still rampant but I just hear more women expressing a feeling that they're not the only ones who have come to me for this problem. Maybe they don't feel quite so alone or as invisible as before."

Henneberg grew up in Palo Alto, and as a young teen won the Palo Alto Weekly's Short Story Contest, with a story about junior high social dynamics. She'll return to the Peninsula for a brunch event in Atherton on May 18, through Happy Women Dinners, among a few other events scheduled around the Bay Area in conjunction with her novel's launch.

She said that she hopes readers who pick up the book will understand that while the characters are fictional, their experiences represent "stories that could and do really happen. That anyone could read them and think, 'Oh god, these decisions are never simple, they're always complicated, they're almost always very hard,'" she said. "That's not necessarily a good thing, but I think it's a good thing for all women to know and recognize when they have to make hard decisions of their own." ■

Email Assistant Lifestyle Editor Karla Kane at kkane@almanacnews.com.

More information is available at christinehenneberg.com

Worth a Look



Courtesy Dario Acosta

Pianist Bernadene Blaha joins cellist Luigi Piovano and violinist Livia Sohn in a program of Beethoven and Brahms on May 17 at Coast Live Music. Courtesy Dario Acosta.

Luigi Piovano, Bernadene Blaha and Livia Sohn

Coast Live Music presents a concert by cellist Luigi Piovano, pianist Bernadene Blaha and violinist and Coast Live Music Founder and Artistic Director Livia Sohn for a performance of Beethoven's Cello Sonata No. 3 A major, op. 69 and Brahms' Piano Trio No. 2 in C major, op. 87. Coast Live Music is a local nonprofit organization that brings musical experiences to the community.

May 17, reception at 6:15 p.m. and concert at 7 p.m., 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley; \$75; coastlivemusic.com.

James House

Grammy and County Music Award-nominated songwriter and singer James House comes to Redwood City's Sound Union to host a songwriting workshop, followed by a performance. House's songs have been recorded by artists including The Mavericks, Tina Turner, Rod Stewart, Olivia Newton-John, Bonnie Tyler and many others, the event listing states. His most recent project is "Lost in Laurel Canyon," an album and audiobook about his 50-year musical career.

May 17, workshop 3-5 p.m., concert 8-9:30 p.m., Sound Union, 2625 Broadway St., Redwood City; \$75.88 for workshop and concert or \$33.32 for concert alone; tinyurl.com/HouseSoundUnion.

SciSci Science Theater

Science from Scientists (SciSci), a nonprofit that brings scientists into classrooms to give hands-on lessons, offers a STEM-themed science theater show, featuring demonstrations of scientific experiments such as "elephant toothpaste, chemiluminescence, the invisible giant, and a bed of nails," according to the event listing. Monkey Business Productions will also be a part of the show, offering educational and interactive appearances by live animals including a capuchin monkey, an alligator, snakes and a baboon.

May 18, 3 p.m., the Fox Theatre, 2221 Broadway St., Redwood City; \$38-\$48 (\$10 discount for kids up to age 13); tinyurl.com/SciSciFox.

Find more things to do at almanacnews.com/arts-culture.

Food & Drink

Seaweed season

Tanya Stiller leads foraging classes on the San Mateo County coast

BY KARLA KANE

Most of us probably get our seaweed by ordering rolls at a sushi restaurant or in packaged-snack form from the grocery store. But if you head out to the Coastside, you can find it straight from the source. The area is home to quite an array of seaweed varieties, many of which can be delicious and nutritious, according to Tanya Stiller, director and instructor for the nonprofit Healing Tide.

Stiller has been teaching people how to forage for seaweed sustainably for around 15 years and has been passing on her knowledge of herbalism, gardening, botany and more for more than two decades. She's based in Berkeley, but during the seaweed foraging season — late spring and early summer — she leads foraging trips on the coast, educating participants about local seaweed species and offering tips on how to utilize them responsibly.

Stiller, who has a degree in environmental studies and a botanical medicine certificate, forages in several parts of the Bay Area and said each area has its specialties. In the Half Moon Bay region, for example, she's found a particularly tender

variety of kombu that she hasn't seen on other parts of the coast. Kombu is a type of brown seaweed often used to make dashi broths, and Stiller said the local variety has thinner blades than those she sees in stores.

"I will dehydrate them, I'll sprinkle them with garlic powder and smoked paprika and they literally taste like barbecue potato chips," she said.

Seaweeds are algae classified by color — red (rhodophyta), green (chlorophyta) and brown (phaeophyceae). Brown seaweeds tend to be Stiller's favorites because they contain alginates, which she said are full of health benefits.

The floatation bulbs of feather boa, another brown seaweed, can be pickled and make a great hors d'oeuvre, Stiller said.

"A lot of people equate seaweed with slimy," Stiller said, but a common reaction upon trying it is, "Oh wow, that's crunchy! I wasn't expecting that." "People are really surprised at the diversity of the seaweed," she added.

You may be familiar with the brown seaweed wakame, which is a popular salad staple in Japanese cuisine and is found locally. Bladderwrack, another local brown seaweed, is also

high in iodine, which is helpful for those with certain thyroid disorders, she said.

Nori varieties — red seaweeds commonly eaten as dried, salty snacks or as part of sushi rolls and rice balls — are found in the region, along with so many others. Many red seaweeds contain agar or carrageenan, which are useful thickening agents.

"People sometimes make chocolate 'ocean pudding' out of the red seaweeds," Stiller noted.

Diving into ecology and history

Stiller leads private foraging expeditions and group experiences, such as those arranged through ForageSF, with May and June being the prime season for seaweed harvesting. She offers both day trips and select weekend campouts for a more in-depth experience (costs vary from around \$100-\$300 per person depending on the experience.) From June 11-12, for example, there will be a full moon seaweed camp overnight at Pescadero's Pie Ranch, which will cover sustainable harvesting, preparation and some of Stiller's favorite recipes.

Much of her class time is dedicated to finding and safely



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Tanya Stiller pulls an already detached sea palm out of the water on a beach south of Half Moon Bay on May 2. Stiller leads seaweed foraging and medicinal seaweed classes, and holds a commercial kelp harvester license.

harvesting seaweeds and introducing students to different types and how to use them. But Stiller also devotes time to discussing ecology and cultural history, recognizing that seaweed is just one part of the complex marine ecosystem and an important resource for Indigenous coastal cultures.

"I always do a land acknowledgement," Stiller said. "I do a lot of educational stuff around the history of coastal California, from the last 200 years to what's caused the kelp collapse."

Climate change has caused the Pacific Ocean to warm, changing the ecosystem, and leading to "urchin barrens," areas where overpopulation of sea urchins has destroyed kelp beds. Stiller emphasizes the need to be good stewards and harvest sustainably, with an emphasis on harvesting invasive species when possible.

"We only take what we need," she said. "That's kind of my prayer and blessing when we get to the ocean."

Seaweed foraging tips and precautions

The expeditions take place in the early morning, at minus tide (tides that are lower than average), which typically occurs around the new and full moon phases.

Stiller has a license for commercial harvesting of kelp and marine algae from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This allows her to forage for certain species, such as sea palm, that are otherwise off limits. She makes a tasty sea palm fettuccine, and typically only those who participate in her campouts get the opportunity to try it. Recreational harvesting of

most seaweeds is allowed in California, with some restrictions. The daily per person limit is 10 pounds wet, according to the Department of Fish and Wildlife's website. Foragers should also steer clear of state marine protected areas, marine recreational management areas, special closures and state marine parks.

No local seaweed species are poisonous, but there are still some hazards and safety tips to be aware of, Stiller said, such as wearing sturdy shoes to mitigate slippery conditions and sharp rocks, as well as paying attention to when the tide rises to avoid getting caught in the water.

"You really have to know your tides," she said. "There can be some waves, that can be an issue too. There are very specific safety concerns being on the edge of the ocean."

It's also important to be mindful of all the other wildlife.

"It's a tender environment. There are so many living critters," she said.

Stiller hopes her students come away from her classes not only with a new appreciation for seaweed as a tasty and nutritious resource, but also for forging a stronger bond with the natural world and understanding where our food comes from.

"The heart-mind-body connection is really important when we're harvesting food for ourselves and our loved ones," she said. ■

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More information is available at healingtide.org.

Curious about seaweed?

Stiller saves her more elaborate recipes for her classes, but she's shared some beginner-friendly instructions for making fried and roasted nori below (they have been lightly edited for style and space.)

Fried nori

Wild-harvested nori right off our California coast has a much richer and nutrient-dense, mineral-rich flavor than the store-bought sheets or heavily packaged "seaweed snacks." This is a great crowd-pleaser, but doesn't store for long.

1. Tear dried, wild-harvested nori into silver dollar-sized pieces.
2. You can easily make fried nori by gently warming olive oil, coconut oil or non-toasted sesame oil in the smallest pan you have. I usually use about a quarter of an inch. Before it gets to a smoking temperature, toss in the pieces of nori and they should sizzle a little. Pull them out before they burn, between 5-10 seconds. Do this in several small batches.
3. I like to sprinkle crushed toasted sesame seeds on top.

Roasted nori

An alternative that is not fried (and has less oil) is to roast the nori. Here's a recipe that is adapted from emilypicure.com.

1. Preheat the oven to a low temperature, typically between 275°F (135°C) and 300°F (150°C). Lower temperatures prevent the nori from burning and ensure even roasting.
2. If desired, lightly brush or spray the nori with sesame oil or a mixture of tamari and water. This step is optional but adds flavor and helps the nori crisp up more evenly. If using seasonings like salt and pepper, sprinkle them lightly over the nori sheets at this stage.
3. Arrange the nori sheets in a single layer on the baking sheet. Avoid overlapping, as this will prevent them from roasting evenly.
4. Place the baking sheet in the preheated oven and roast for 2-5 minutes. The exact roasting time will vary depending on the oven and the desired level of crispness. Monitor the nori closely, as it can burn quickly.
5. After 2 minutes, check the nori for crispness. It should be firm to the touch. If the nori is not yet crisp, continue roasting for another minute or two, checking frequently.
6. Once the nori is crisp, remove the baking sheet from the oven.
7. Allow the roasted nori to cool completely on the baking sheet before transferring it to an airtight container. This prevents the nori from becoming soggy. Store the roasted nori in a cool, dry place for up to a week.



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