

The Almanac

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Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Dog days of summer

Daphne, a third grader at Ormondale Elementary School in Portola Valley, pets Maple the therapy dog in the library on Aug. 25. See story, Page 5.

County sues state over \$38 million in funding

Problems stem from vehicle license fees

By Arden Margulis

San Mateo County has filed suit against the state of California, accusing state officials of shortchanging the county and its 20 cities nearly \$38 million in funding that local leaders say is essential for health care, housing and public safety.

The lawsuit, filed this week in the San Francisco Superior Court, alleges the state violated its own laws and a 2004 budget compromise known as the “VLF Swap,” which was designed to ensure counties would not lose out on vehicle license fee revenue.

“These funds are owed to

San Mateo County and our 20 cities,” County Executive Mike Callagy said in a statement. “And instead of living up to its obligations, the state wants us to absorb the cost.”

The arrangement traces back to the state’s 2003-04 fiscal crisis, when local governments gave up vehicle license fee revenue to help Sacramento balance its budget. In exchange, lawmakers promised ongoing replacement funds from the county’s Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund. The state would then provide the funds that school districts were missing from ERAF.

However, San Mateo County

is one of two counties where this system does not work. When a school district has enough funds from property tax, the district only gets “basic aid” from the state and the county takes additional funds from ERAF as “excess ERAF.” However, since so many school districts in the county are “basic aid” — meaning they do not receive funds from the state beyond the minimum required — there are not enough ERAF funds to cover the shortfall.

In previous years, the state would provide additional funds to San Mateo County but due to the state’s \$21 billion deficit, those additional funds were cut from

the budget. Last year, the state almost did the same but added the additional funds in a last minute adjustment to the budget.

The California Legislative Analyst’s Office warned legislators about this issue in 2012, when the shortfall was less than \$1 million, but no permanent solution was implemented.

The stakes are significant: vehicle license fee revenue accounts for about 18% of San Mateo County’s operating funds. County officials say losing tens of millions will strain budgets across all 20 cities, reducing funding for emergency response,

See **FUNDING**, page 19

Liccardo hears from Portola Valley

Questions about national, international troubles

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On Aug. 25, U.S. Rep. Sam Liccardo hosted a Town Hall in Portola Valley drawing over 200 people from across San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to the town’s Community Hall. He responded to questions pertaining to national concerns about Gaza, state redistricting and immigration.

Liccardo represents a long stretch of Silicon Valley including Mountain View, Palo Alto, Woodside and coastal communities such as Half Moon Bay and Pacifica. Formerly the mayor of San Jose, Liccardo is one of the newest members to the House of Representatives, taking over the seat long held by Anna Eshoo.

Portola Valley Mayor Judith Hasko thought that bringing Liccardo to a small town in the Peninsula would be beneficial for him to be in that environment and for the community to be able to share their concerns.

“It’s important for him to realize people here in our world are still thinking about big policy issues that are being set in Washington D.C. and giving him feedback...democracy, at the moment, needs more of the opportunity to be heard, and that’s part of what this was,” Hasko said.

The evening town hall was attended by residents from Portola Valley, Woodside, Los Altos, San Jose, Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

A year later, Menlo-Atherton basketball coach remains benched

Former M-A parents share gratitude for Molieri's support

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

It's been a week since students have returned to Menlo-Atherton High School, but one teacher remains absent from the classrooms — Mike Molieri, a varsity basketball coach and special education teacher who was placed on paid administrative leave in August 2024.

Molieri has been at home for over a year while the Sequoia Union High School District investigates allegations of misconduct. In the administrative leave notice sent to him on Aug. 5, 2024, the district stated it was investigating allegations involving a violation of student rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Act, student confidentiality and privacy laws. However, Molieri said the district's allegations are unclear and keep changing.

He said current allegations also involve his relationship with his brother and private investigator Dan Molieri and for welcoming students who were not supposed to be in his classroom. Dan Molieri is involved with the legal team representing the arrested Menlo-Atherton student in April 2023.

Before he was placed on leave, Molieri communicated to administrators his confidentiality concerns for the arrested student, referred to in the lawsuit as K.C. In 2023, the student's private records were allegedly released to the police by an undisclosed staff member without the student's permission. Molieri also said he heard of an audio tape being shared with people that contained the student's confidential information.

After missing an entire year of school and a season of basketball, Molieri said that he is hurting "emotionally and socially" after 22 years of working with M-A students, specifically students of color. At the beginning of the investigation, he started to develop symptoms of severe depression, which he said was a new experience.

"I got to a point where I was one day away from



Bob Dahlberg

Mike Molieri, a varsity basketball coach and special education teacher, was placed on paid administrative leave in August 2024.

being hospitalized with my first-ever clinical depression of five weeks, which can be described as hell," he said.

His experience is parallel to those of eight former Sequoia Union High School District staff of color who spoke to The Almanac in December 2024 alleging discriminatory behaviors from the district. Staff members shared their struggles with panic attacks, anxiety and depression after working in what they say is a hostile work environment.

Molieri said he is similarly dealing with chronic mental health struggles after a turn of events that

See **MOLIERI**, page 14

Portola Valley school's new therapy dog becomes campus celebrity

Eases young minds in new school year

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

When Maple walks out into the school yard, students flock to him. As Ormondale Elementary School's first therapy dog, he has quickly become the school's celebrity.

Maple is a 10-month-old goldendoodle that comes from a long line of service and therapy dogs. His siblings work for the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, Menlo Park City School District, a San Francisco school and more.

"The first day he was here, it was incredible," said Ormondale Principal Lynette Hovland. When Maple stepped out for his Ormondale debut, "All of a sudden everything stopped." Kids were seen coming down from the play structures, basketballs dropped and crowds ran toward Maple.

"It was hilarious just to see this mob of kids go see this dog. They had heard so much about him," Hovland added.

At Ormondale, Maple has been able to help young students transition into the new school year, a time that can often be nerve-racking for some children.

"On the first day of school, we were in the transitional kindergarten and kindergarten playground area as the kids arrived

and he had quite a few students petting him," said Sarah Vincenzo, Maple's owner and Ormondale school counselor. "It was almost like the perfect distraction to get them to separate from their parents and get into class without getting upset."

The idea for a campus therapy dog came from the success of PAWZitivity, a similar program at the Menlo Park City School District. After some quick discussions, it was an easy decision to move forward with a therapy dog for the Portola Valley School District, said Hovland.

The plan to have a therapy dog was in the works months before Maple was born. As soon as the district was on board with the idea, Vincenzo joined the waitlist for a puppy from Tricia Saldivar, breeder and trainer at Cali Pals Doodles and Service Dogs in Hollister. Maple spent the first seven months of his life with Saldivar, training and preparing to serve as a therapy dog.

By May, Maple was able to understand basic commands and had trained to be well-adjusted to loud environments, children and community gatherings. He joined the Vincenzos soon after and was introduced to Ormondale students near the end of the 2024-25 school year.

Every morning, Vincenzo and

See **THERAPY DOG**, page 14

Yellowjacket population increasing in San Mateo County

Mild weather may be the reason

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Experts say that across the Bay Area, yellowjackets can be spotted buzzing in larger numbers this year.

The San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District has received nearly double the amount of yellowjacket calls this year compared to prior years. Experts say the mild winters might be one of the leading factors.

As of Aug. 22, the vector

control district received over 1,060 calls about yellowjackets since January, said Rachel Curtis-Robles, communications director for San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District. The total is a major jump from the 549 calls it received in 2024 and 442 in 2022.

Recently, the San Mateo County Parks Department has been warning the public of increased yellowjacket populations in local parks including

Huddart, Junipero Serra, San Pedro Park and Pillar Point Bluff.

According to Curtis-Robles, the increase has also been witnessed in Marin County and Contra Costa County as well. In San Mateo County, calls about yellowjackets are more common from residents in the southern and eastern region such as San Mateo, Woodside, Portola Valley and Redwood City.

See **YELLOWJACKETS**, page 17



Courtesy Rachel Curtis-Robles

A well-behaved yellowjacket lands on the hand of Rachel Curtis-Robles, communications director for San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Controversial West Menlo Park 'gift store' closes for good

Landlord says he is cooperating with county

By Arden Margulis

A controversial store in West Menlo Park has officially closed less than a month after opening. Some neighbors and San Mateo County Supervisor Ray Mueller objected to the business, claiming its opening violated county laws about the sale of tobacco.

San Mateo County bans tobacco stores from opening within 1,000 feet of schools and certain other areas. While Blazzin Gifts owner Hussein Omar said the store did not sell tobacco, it sold items the county defines as "tobacco paraphernalia," classifying it as a tobacco retailer.

The shop at 3536 Alameda de Las Pulgas was within 1,000 feet of three schools and shared a lot with a dance studio.

The closure came after San

Mateo County sheriff's deputies reported finding evidence that the store sold tobacco, marijuana and psychedelic mushrooms. The San Mateo County District Attorney's Office is reviewing the case and has not yet filed charges against Omar.

Property manager Saam Sadghian told this news organization that Omar described the business as a gift store and did not inform him or the property owners about plans to sell tobacco paraphernalia.

"(The property's owner, Mostafa Ronaghi, and I) are living in the same community. As soon as I realized, I got involved with the county," Sadghian said.

The storefront has been controversial for more than a year. Last year, Hussein Omar's brother, Ahmed Omar, tried to open a tobacco store in the same space but was forced to shut



Arden Margulis

Blazzin Gifts in West Menlo Park has closed.

down by the county.

If the store did not close, the county was considering legal action.

Hussien Omar previously told

this news organization not to contact him further. ■

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

ICE arrest East Palo Alto woman, take her to Stanford Hospital

Local police departments were notified

By Lisa Moreno

The East Palo Alto woman who was arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Monday, remained at Stanford Hospital into Wednesday after suffering a medical emergency during her arrest, sparking concerns from local advocates and officials.

About a dozen people showed up at the hospital late Monday afternoon in support of the woman, who they said was denied visitation with family. The woman was one of two people who were arrested in East Palo Alto Monday morning, in an operation San Mateo County Rapid Response Network staff says was targeted.

The arrests were the first

of their kind in East Palo Alto under the current federal administration and police were unaware of arrests on Monday morning, police said.

"They only let us know when they are in town and when they leave," East Palo Alto Police Chief Jeff Liu wrote in a message. "We do not work with ICE."

The woman, an East Palo Alto mother, fainted during her arrest after being pulled out of her car by multiple people while attempting to leave to work, said Patti Regehr, rapid response network volunteer and former Palo Alto Humans Relations Commissioner. Videos of the arrest circulated on Facebook throughout the day. According to the volunteers with the

network, she is 48 years old.

"Her husband said they drove around with her for an hour before they took her to the hospital," Regehr said.

When Regehr learned of the arrests, she helped organize advocates to enter Stanford Hospital in support of the woman.

Michelle de Blank, attorney with the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, is not representing the patient but arrived at the hospital on Monday to help the woman locate an immigration lawyer and ensure her health is not further compromised.

"She's sick, so my priority was her health and well-being last night," De Blank said. "She came in unwell, and I wanted to make sure she stayed alive and I

wanted to help her family."

Stanford Health staff originally said the patient would be allowed visitors, De Blank said, but hours later, they changed their decision.

ICE reported that the woman is "not in distress," she said, but that information is unconfirmed.

"We'd like her to leave," De Blank said. "We want the family to gain access to her. We want them to know how she's doing, and we don't want any action taken until she's well."

Stanford Hospital staff declined to answer specific questions about the patient's visitation rights and current status.

See ICE ARREST, page 15

Menlo Park city manager's contract extended

Murphy has been with city since 1996

By Arden Margulis

The Menlo Park City Council unanimously voted Aug. 26 to renew City Manager Justin Murphy's contract for two more years, after which it will renew automatically.

Murphy became city manager in 2022 when the council approved a three-year contract after he served as interim city manager for six months while the



Justin Murphy

city searched for a replacement for former City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson.

Murphy joined the city in 1996 as an associate planner and later became deputy city manager before stepping into the interim role.

The contract, which would have expired Aug. 30, included an option to extend it for two years, after which it renews annually. Murphy is an at-will employee and can be terminated with 60 days' notice.

The council approved the extension without discussion on Aug. 26.

Murphy will earn \$332,500 annually after he receives an \$8,500 raise for the extension. The raise was added to his employment contract in May 2024 in case the council extended it. At that same meeting in 2024, the council gave Murphy a \$29,500 raise, a \$10,000 bonus and a \$15,000 contribution to his retirement account.

The council may also approve an annual bonus based on

positive performance.

The council conducted a closed-session performance evaluation of Murphy on Aug. 19 but reported no action.

According to the California Controller's Office, Murphy's total wages in 2024, which include retirement and health contributions, were in line with other cities in San Mateo County. His total compensation was \$334,335; the county average was \$346,895. ■

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The Almanac

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Sculpture makes an ‘impact’ at Menlo College

The school in Atherton adds a new David Middlebrook sculpture to its public art collection

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

If public art is your thing, you have a wealth of choices here on the Peninsula. The city of Palo Alto has a sizable collection, dotted all around the town. The Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University can boast of the largest collection of sculpture by Auguste Rodin outside of France — with many pieces displayed in its Rodin Sculpture Garden, a complement to the university’s own vast public art collection on display throughout the campus. Now Menlo College has emerged in recent years as another place to enjoy outdoor sculpture.

“Every piece in our collection has been donated or loaned,” said Menlo College President Steven Weiner, “and most are outdoor sculptures displayed across our 40 acres. Collectively, they tell a story about who we are and what we value.”

Locals may remember that Menlo College was the site for

the Silicon Valley Sculpture exhibitions, which ran from 2020 to 2022. The event was discontinued after the curator, Katharina Bernau, moved to the East Coast.

“The exhibitions were a joyful celebration of creativity, and we continue to see art as a catalyst for conversation, inspiration and connection,” Weiner said.

The college had another opportunity to enlarge its collection, thanks to the largesse of alumnus and trustee David Irmer. He was instrumental in the development of Arrillaga Hall, the newest residence hall on campus, and wanted to have a site-specific art work installed just outside of its entrance. He commissioned Los Gatos artist David Middlebrook to create a large-scale sculpture that would, according to a Menlo College press release, “enrich campus life and reflect the deepening integration of art and education.”

Middlebrook taught at San

Jose State University’s School of Art and Design for almost 40 years and was head of ceramics and later head of the school’s foundry. In an email interview, Middlebrook said that Irmer is not a collector of his work but was familiar with him from previous exhibitions.

“When he approached me about developing a concept to do a major sculpture in front of the residency hall, I was thrilled with the opportunity,” he said.

Middlebrook is a native of Jackson, Michigan, and earned his Master of Fine Arts from the University of Iowa. He was a pioneer of the ceramics movement in the 1970s and began teaching at San Jose State in 1974. His work underwent a dramatic change after a trip to Italy in 1983, where he was inspired to begin sculpting with stone and marble. Since then, he has maintained a professional relationship with a studio

See **SCULPTURE**, page 17



Courtesy Kayla Stuart/Menlo College

Artist David Middlebrook stands next to his sculpture, “Impact,” during a May 2025 dedication ceremony at Menlo College.

Dealing with drug resistance is ‘like Whac-A-Mole’

Diseases are a moving target because biology is constantly changing. Brian Hie, assistant professor of chemical engineering at Stanford, aims to flip that model using AI to predict how viruses, tumors, and other diseases will evolve. Hie’s group pursues two strategies: using machine learning to predict and simulate disease evolution, and developing improved models of biological systems to design and control therapeutics. By integrating forecasts with system-level models, they aim to anticipate resistance and create treatments that remain effective as pathogens or tumors rapidly change. **SCAN TO READ THE SPOTLIGHT**



PRESENTED BY  **Stanford University**

Young entrepreneurs gain real-world experiences

Event allows kids to succeed in their native language

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

On Saturday, Aug. 23, the Joy Culture Foundation hosted its Little Entrepreneur Fair at Menlo Church, featuring more than 40 young entrepreneurs between the ages of 5 and 12. The children were running businesses in Chinese, selling homemade slime, jewelry, artwork, succulents and running fair games such as ring toss and mini golf to over 500 attendees.

The foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping Chinese-speaking families build confidence, identity and community through educational and cultural programs.

"Our fair this year emphasized building confidence,

entrepreneurship, financial literacy and community for kids," said CEO of The Joy Culture Foundation Sandy Yu in a press release. "Money and entrepreneurship are concepts every child should have the chance to explore with their parents at an early age."

Through the event, the child entrepreneurs were able to experience real-world transactions and learn about money management. Participants of the fair were provided with monopoly-style money to engage in the interactive activities that were designed to promote financial literacy in children.

One of the most popular booths at the fair made over \$600 in sales.

Yu said what makes the fair

unique "is that it is one of the few opportunities in the Bay Area where kids can practice doing business in Chinese — giving families a meaningful cultural and linguistic experience."

Parents were proud to see their children transform in the setting of the fair. One mother shared that her child who was once shy, was able to confidently introduce her business idea to strangers. According to the Joy Culture Foundation, parents were excited to see their children be able to showcase their creativity, confidence and leadership skills through the fair. ■

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Courtesy Sandy Yu

More than 40 young entrepreneurs participated in a unique event at Menlo Church on Aug. 23.

Youth help 'cut through the noise' at town hall

Assembly member Marc Berman hears about sustainability, mental health from young constituents

By Lisa Moreno

On Aug. 23, dozens of residents from around the region shifted around in their seats in Palo Alto's City Council Chambers. Some shyly raised their hands to shout out answers to questions like "How many state assembly members are there?" and others scribbled in drawing applications.

It wasn't the typical crowd, but the children and teenagers were there for the same reason many residents attend City Council meetings — for a chance to express their concerns and be heard.

At Assembly member Marc Berman's sixth annual Youth Town Hall in Palo Alto, local students discussed concerns ranging from immigration, to environmental justice to mental health in a world increasingly dominated by technology use.

Berman began hosting the annual town hall when he realized that his bi-annual community coffee discussions didn't typically cater to youth because of timing conflicts with school hours. The town hall is an effort

to "talk a little bit and to listen a lot" regarding youth interests.

This year's town hall featured free pizza, tabling from local educational and youth-centered organizations, a Q&A session with Berman and, for the first time ever, a panel discussion with local students.

For many attendees, some as young as 10 years old, the opportunity to speak with Berman was a rare occasion where they felt their concerns might be taken seriously.

"One of the main barriers to participation in government elections is that often our voices are undervalued or dismissed and that's because a lot of times representatives don't pay attention because we don't vote yet, we don't pay taxes, so they don't see us as a serious group of people," said youth panelist Amani Shroff, the chair of the San Mateo County Youth Commission.

For Shroff, one of the most prominent issues affecting youth today is political apathy.

Ahead of the event, Shroff conducted a casual lunch-time survey, where she learned her

peers were able to name each "Kardashian" but not their state senator.

"One day, we're going to inherit a world that we refuse to participate in," she said.

It's an issue that coincides with a lack of institutional trust as young people struggle to disseminate the truth on social media and keep up with information overload, said panelist Priscila de Franca Moreira, former student government president for West Valley Mission Community College.

Throughout panel discussions and the Q&A session, various students like Nueva School senior Colin Chu said climate change is of utmost concern for youth.

"It has been incredibly sad-denying to see a lot of the effects that pollution, climate degradation as a whole, has had on the environment," he said.

Berman urged youth to hold lawmakers accountable for following through with sustainability initiatives, like one he helped pass to ban the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers by 2028.

"It's important that we

actually, as they say, put our money where our mouths are, and make sure that we fund the programs as necessary, whether that's rebates for electric vehicles or ... our really world-leading cap-and-trade program that caps the amount of pollution

and greenhouse gas emissions that different industries can emit," he said.

Climate anxiety has also affected youth mental health, an issue that was brought up by numerous

See **TOWN HALL**, page 11

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Portola Valley Zott's to Tot's Fun Run

Portola Valley will be hosting its annual town picnic and Zott's to Tot's Fun Run on Saturday, Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The run will start at 10 a.m. and the picnic will begin at 11 a.m.

The event will feature a dunk tank, petting zoo, pony rides, face painting and bouncy houses. The Woodside Fire Protection District will also have one of its firetrucks on display and the local Cub Scouts will be hosting games. A local band, Up and To the Right, will be performing tunes for the picnic.

For more information visit portolavalley.net/community/town-sponsored-events/town-picnic.

Community Emergency Response Team Basic Training

The Woodside and Portola Valley Community Emergency Response Team will begin its basic training courses on Sept. 15. Sessions will continue through Oct. 27 and will be held every Monday evening from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. with one Saturday session on Oct. 25.

The training will teach local residents how to help themselves, their family, and neighborhood during emergencies. Sessions will cover disaster preparedness, fire safety, search and rescue and medical operations.

The registration fee costs \$35. Trainings will be held at the Ladera Recreation District, 150 Andetta Way in Portola Valley. For more information visit wpv-cert.org.

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

2026 Founders Cup in Menlo Park

The 2026 Fortinet Founders Cup ran by the Ladies Professional Golf Association will be played at Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club in Menlo Park from March 19 to March 22.

The Founders Cup is a women's professional golf tournament that celebrates the founders of LPGA, which was created 75 years ago. The 2026 tournament will be the 15th edition. There will be a total of \$3 million available for participants to win.

— Arden Margulis

Man arrested for alleged theft at Menlo Park construction site

\$5,000 in tools recovered by authorities

By Bay City News Service

Police arrested a Redwood City man on Aug. 21 after more than \$5,000 worth of tools were stolen from a construction site on Ringwood

Avenue, according to Menlo police.

Officers responded around 4:53 a.m. after a neighbor reported suspicious activity at the home under construction, police said.

Authorities said they found

the 25-year-old man reportedly in possession of the stolen items.

He was taken into custody without incident and booked into county jail. A second suspect fled and remains at large, police said. ■

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Health care workers want guidance on ICE in hospitals

HIPAA rules provide some leeway

By CalMatters

Federal immigration agents are more routinely showing up at California medical facilities as the Trump administration ramps up deportations.

They may come to the emergency room, bringing in someone who's suffering a medical crisis while being detained. They may wait in the lobby, as agents did for two weeks at an L.A.-area hospital waiting for a woman to be discharged. Or they may even chase people inside, as federal agents did at a Southern California surgical center.

The sight of these agents — often armed and with covered faces — makes many wary and may keep people from seeking care.

Existing hospital policies guide operations when law enforcement brings in a person under arrest, hospital officials say.

"This is nothing new to hospitals," said Lois Richardson, vice president and counsel at the California Hospital Association. "We get inmates, detainees, arrestees all the time, whether it's police, sheriff, highway patrol, ICE, whatever it is." The job for hospital workers remains to provide care, she added, and not to get involved in disputes over why a person is in custody.

Yet immigration attorneys, advocates and health workers have expressed concerns over the handling of some of these cases, both by immigration officers and by some administrators at medical facilities.

Specifically, they're worried about the application of protocols like visitation rules, about threats to patients' legal and privacy rights, and about risks to hospital workers themselves.

"We have a level of privacy that we owe to patients and their families, and that has just been completely demolished with all of the involvement of ICE coming into hospitals," said Kate Mobeen, an ICU nurse at John Muir Medical Center in Concord. "It creates just a huge sense of fear, not only in our patient population, but in our employee population and our nurses."

Patients' rights, policies face new tests

Sometimes when ICE has shown up at medical facilities with a detained patient, the result has been conflicting messaging about the rules.

On July 29, ICE agents took

a man to John Muir Medical Center in Concord because he suffered an unspecified medical emergency while being detained outside the Concord immigration court, according to Ali Saidi, an attorney and the director of Stand Together Contra Costa, a local rapid response and legal services organization.

When Saidi arrived at the hospital as part of the response network, he said hospital staff told him that he was not allowed to see the detained patient, but that the man's family would be allowed. Then, when the man's wife arrived, "The rules had somehow changed, and they said no family visit," Saidi said.

In a statement shared by the Contra Costa Immigrants Rights Alliance, the detained man's wife, who asked to be identified only by her middle name, Maria, said that when she later talked to her husband, he told her that he was so terrified that he passed out.

"My family and I went to the emergency room and we asked to see him and talk to him to make sure he was okay," Maria said, in the statement. "The hospital staff would not let us see him and they would not give us any information about what was happening to him. They wouldn't even answer my questions."

John Muir officials would not comment on the incident, citing privacy laws. But in an email, Ben Drew, a spokesperson for the hospital, said general policy is that "If a law enforcement agency indicates that visitation presents a safety or security concern, [the hospital] may limit or deny visitation to protect our patients, staff, and visitors."

Saidi said that when the wife insisted on getting information about the man's condition, hospital security called the police.

"We understand that emotions are high whenever a family member or friend is in the emergency department or hospital," said Drew. "The hospital only involves local police in circumstances when a patient or visitor's behavior becomes abusive, disruptive, or threatening, and cannot be resolved through our own security team."

Saidi denied that the family was being disruptive, saying that conversations with hospital staff and administration were respectful and no voices were raised.

"The atmosphere in that emergency bay was something like I've never seen before in my career," Saidi said. "There was a chilling effect. Everyone was

averting their eyes. You could tell the staff felt bad."

Multiple emergency department nurses told Mobeen, a local California Nurses Association leader at John Muir, that ICE officers were "very aggressive with staff" and staff were afterwards "emotionally and physically upset" by what happened, she said.

"It's horrifying to not be able to tell patients' family members how they are, what their status is," Mobeen said.

Part of the issue, Mobeen added, is training. Staff were not given adequate training on how to respond to any kind of immigration enforcement action that may occur at the hospital, she said.

Drew, the spokesman for John Muir, countered that the hospital has given guidance on its longstanding law enforcement policy and answered multiple questions since January about what to do if ICE agents show up at their facilities.

Limits for ICE access, sometimes murky

Last month, immigration agents occupied the lobby of Dignity Health's Glendale Memorial Hospital, even standing behind reception desks, as photos that circulated online showed. Protestors gathered outside the hospital hosting rallies and press conferences.

They were all there because agents had previously brought in Milagro Solis-Portillo, an immigrant from El Salvador, for medical care following her detention. They spent 15 days in the hospital waiting for Solis-Portillo's discharge before transferring her to another hospital and then taking her into custody, according to local news reports.

In a statement, officials from Dignity Memorial Hospital said they could not legally prohibit law enforcement from being in public areas.

That's true, say legal experts: Waiting rooms and lobbies are considered public spaces in hospitals. But agents cannot move through hospitals without limits. Law enforcement officials are not allowed to search for people in exam rooms or other private spaces without a federal court warrant.

When agents bring in someone who is in their custody and needs medical care, the application of the law can be more murky.

According to Richardson at the hospital association, how far an agent can go into treatment

areas with a detained patient may be decided on a case by case basis. In cases where a detained patient is struggling or resisting, that patient may need guarding, she explained.

And if law enforcement officers do go inside exam rooms, they may hear medical information while on guard. But that isn't necessarily a privacy violation, according to federal rules. The HIPAA Privacy Rule, the law that sets privacy standards for medical information, has a provision that allows for "incidental disclosures" of information as long as "reasonable safeguards" are applied.

"The hospital will, and the doctor will make reasonable attempts to protect the patient's privacy." "What is reasonable is going to depend, again, on what's wrong with the patient, how the patient is behaving, the nature of the circumstances," Richardson said.

HIPAA protects the disclosure of medical records, which include names, addresses and social security numbers along with health conditions. State law also requires health facilities to protect this information. According to guidance from the attorney general's office, health facilities should consider a patient's immigration status confidential.

At the same time, some disclosures are required if law enforcement can prove lawful custody or show an appropriate warrant. A federal court warrant signed by a judge grants law enforcement immediate access to information or to search a particular area, while an ICE administrative warrant does not require immediate compliance.

Health workers in 'precarious' situations

Health facilities generally direct frontline workers not to engage with immigration agents, but rather to immediately contact security or management.

One particular incident at a Southern California surgery center stands out, in conversation with health workers.

On July 8, federal agents targeted three landscapers who had parked outside of the Ontario Advanced Surgical Center. They chased one of the men inside on foot, according to a felony criminal complaint filed against two health care workers in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

In videos of the incident posted online, a masked agent wearing a vest labeled "POLICE ICE" on the back holds a weeping

man by the shoulder inside the center while several workers in scrubs stand by. At multiple points in the video workers ask the officer for identification; one worker says, "this is a private business."

Two workers, Danielle Davila and Jose Ortega, tell the officer to leave. Davila moves between the officer and the man, saying "Get your hands off of him. You don't even have a warrant."

Ortega puts an arm between Davila and the officer and says "You have no proper identification."

The officer says to both workers "You touched a federal agent." Then Davila responds, "I'm not touching you."

Davila and Ortega were later charged with two felony counts of assaulting a federal officer and conspiring to prevent a federal officer from performing their duties.

Last week the felony charges were dismissed and both Davila and Ortega pleaded not guilty to a subsequent misdemeanor assault charge. A spokesperson for the U.S. attorney's office declined to comment on the charges.

Davila's defense attorney Oliver Cleary said his client believed she was doing the right thing by asking for credentials and a warrant.

"You can't just come in where people are getting medical care and whisk them away," Cleary said. "She didn't know who these people were. They didn't tell her who they were, and as far as she knew this was a patient of the clinic."

Carlos Juárez, Ortega's defense attorney, said arresting and charging health workers with crimes for asking to see a warrant and identification puts them in a "precarious" and "dangerous situation."

"They did what they needed to do and what they had a right to do," Juárez said. "What I hope is it doesn't have a chilling effect on other health care workers."

Workers say additional training can help

Around the state, health workers say they'd like to see management provide additional guidance on how to respond to such scenarios if they were to play out in their workplace. Some workers are providing training themselves.

Adriana Rugeles-Ortiz, a licensed vocational nurse at Kaiser Permanente Modesto Medical Center, has been leading "Know

LICCARDO

continued from page 1

Liccardo's messaging

As the Republican Party holds a slight majority in the House of Representatives, Liccardo is focused on passing bills that address common concerns between Democrats and Republicans.

"We are not going to make America great or make America better, as long as we continue to believe that the only way we're going to win is by conquering the other half of America," he said. "I firmly believe that, and as divided as we are, we've got to find better ways to communicate."

At this time, Liccardo said he and other congressmen are working on "legislating, litigating and communication," attempting to overcome the challenges of reaching a broader audience.

Liccardo said he has been traveling to conservative regions to share messages about how communities are currently being affected by the administration with a strong focus on one thing: how families are struggling to pay bills and what needs to be done to help them.

His tactic for communicating with Republican voters is to be strategic and focused on how the Democratic Party communicates with opposing voters and to focus on issues that they care about such as high cost of living.

Local people, national concerns

A Los Altos Hills resident questioned Liccardo's approach, explaining that his message needs to be sold with a more



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

U.S. Rep. Sam Liccardo welcomes attendees to his Town Hall event hosted in Portola Valley's Community Hall on Aug. 25.

emotional angle rather than pointing out surface level concerns.

Liccardo responded that with the recent passing of Trump's budget bill, it's important to be having discussions about the suffering of families through loss of health care, access to food and increasing costs of groceries.

"We're just telling you now, so there'll be a lot of suffering as a result of these actions, and we need to present a counter case about what we need to be doing to address that," said Liccardo. "I know that doesn't necessarily have emotional appeal, but it matters a lot when you're struggling like hell to pay rent."

He acknowledged that

Democrats have failed to convey the message that "America needs to win," not just as a country but in the widespread battle against climate change, economic divide and job insecurity and displacement by technology.

A 13-year-old stepped forward to ask Liccardo questions about his thoughts on Gov. Gavin Newsom's approach to fighting the gerrymandering in Texas by proposing the redistricting of California.

In response to Texas Republicans' proposed redistricting map, the California Legislature approved Newsom's proposal for a special election to place a ballot measure that would redraw congressional districts to add five more seats

to California on Aug. 21.

Liccardo said although he hates the idea of gerrymandering and redistricting, he believes that this is a necessary approach for the entire country that will be temporary for the duration of Trump's presidency.

"I understand that this is a necessary step we have to take when confronted with what I regard as an autocratic takeover of the Legislature, because these maps that they're drawing in Texas were literally redrawn in the White House and the executive office," he said.

Town hall attendees also attempted to gauge Liccardo's stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict, as one resident asked what bills he would be

supporting to block the sale of weapons to Israel.

Liccardo said he is currently supporting the Silver Shield Act, an existing law that he sees as not being upheld by the federal government. The Silver Shield Act monitors and ensures that the country's use of arms and military aid are not being misused in violation of human rights.

Rather than proposing new laws, Liccardo believes that a more effective approach would be to point out that an existing law is not being enforced.

A San Jose resident asked Liccardo if he recognizes the genocide in Gaza and the white supremacy inherent in the U.S. Liccardo responded that although he condemns the actions of the Israeli and U.S. government's failure to support Palestinians, he would not use the term genocide to accurately describe the situation. He expressed his beliefs that recognizing it as a genocide is also not effective in bridging the political divide.

"What's important to me is what works, and it doesn't save a single life in Gaza to simply label folks as purveyors of genocide when there's absolutely nothing that happens except the deepening of a division," Liccardo said.

As the town hall came to an end, many hands remained up as residents attempted to continue the ongoing discussion with the congressman. He took the conversation outside of Community Hall to answer further questions. ■

Email Staff Writer

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TOWN HALL

continued from page 8

speakers at the Saturday event. One student speaker who asked how law makers can make school "less stressful," and another who

asked how politicians could better address students who are in alternative school environments due to mental health complications.

"Less than a third of Palo Alto teens are actually utilizing

mental health resources, even though 50% say that they are struggling with mental health," said panelist and Palo Alto Youth Council member Maddie Park. "And what I thought was even more astonishing was the fact that 40% of these teens started struggling since they were in sixth grade.

Mental health is an issue, especially in Palo Alto, Berman said, that he hopes to prioritize.

"I've told groups, if you have a good idea around youth mental health every year, every year I'll introduce a bill in the youth mental health space," he said.

Various other youth attendees asked how to better engage with government officials in order to make change — to which Berman recommended speaking at local government meetings like the City Council.

"When youth show up, adults shut up," he said, reflecting on his years as a city council member in Palo Alto.

Panelists like Franca Moreira also encouraged youth interested in making change to "start small" by joining their student government and learning about state agencies like school boards.

"To all the young people out there, believe that when you show up to articulate your concerns or your beliefs or your positions on things, it really cuts through a lot of the noise to us elected officials," Berman said. "Don't hesitate to use that power." ■

Email Staff Writer Lisa Moreno at lmoreno@almanacnews.com.



Lisa Moreno

Zoe Frank, who interned for Assemblymember Marc Berman, speaks at his annual Youth Town Hall at Palo Alto City Hall on Aug. 23.

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Sonia Gay Shepherd, 89, of Atherton, who lost her parents in a plane crash when she was 2, who graduated from Stanford University, who was an intrepid traveler who led family horse pack trips in the High Sierras, who was a founding board member of the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and who was an avid skier, gardener and fine art photographer, died on Aug. 19, 2025.

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

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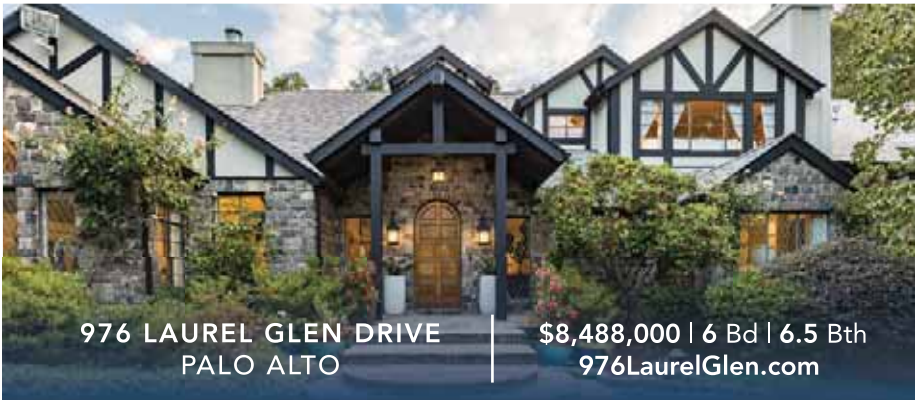
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11722Putter.com



976 LAUREL GLEN DRIVE
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976LaurelGlen.com



1730 GUINDA STREET
PALO ALTO | \$3,988,000 | 3 Bd | 3 Bth
1730Guinda.com



1220 PAYNE DRIVE
LOS ALTOS | \$3,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
1220Payne.com



40 TAGUS COURT
PORTOLA VALLEY | \$6,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
40Tagus.com



5 OAK FOREST COURT
PORTOLA VALLEY | \$5,488,000 | 4 Bd | 5.5 Bth
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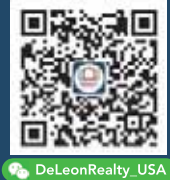
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706NSanAntonio.com



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PALO ALTO

\$5,488,000 | 5 Bd | 4 Bth
789University.com



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PALO ALTO

\$9,988,000 | 6 Bd | 6 Bth
1932EmersonStreet.com



23171 MORA GLEN DRIVE
LOS ALTOS

\$7,500,000 | 5 Bd | 5.5 Bth
23171MoraGlen.com



579 GLENBROOK DRIVE
PALO ALTO

\$5,988,000 | 6 Bd | 4 Bth
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MOLIERI*continued from page 5*

he believes is motivated by his Latino heritage and his actions to protect students of color. Over the past year, he has been receiving treatment from a psychiatrist and has been prescribed medication.

'Shining star on the hill'

Parents and students who have worked with Molieri refer to him as "Coach Mo," someone whom they recognize as family. Several parents who spoke to The Almanac said their kids wouldn't have graduated without his support.

When Michelle and Alfred Frazier's daughter was procrastinating with schoolwork, acting up in class and not turning in assignments, Molieri took it upon himself to call the Fraziers to let them know what was happening and offered his help. He "pushed us to push her (to succeed)," Alfred Frazier said.

Molieri said he has been supporting disadvantaged students throughout his career, offering his classroom as a safe space for all students but primarily for African American and Pacific Islander students. The M-A 2024-25 school profile reports that 4% of students are African American and 4% are Pacific Islander.

According to Molieri, school administrators would often send at-risk students to his classroom because they knew he would be able to help them. He told The Almanac that without his support there would be many students who would be "another statistic, another African American student not graduated."

"Having a door open for all students of color when they need safety or they may need just a little sleep before they go to their first class, all of a sudden, those activities have become allegations," he said.

Tamica Garner, a mother of a former M-A student, lived

in Stockton while her son was enrolled at M-A. She and her son would leave their house at 5 a.m. in order for her to get to work, leaving her son extremely fatigued and on campus before school hours.

"(Molieri) would get to school early to unlock his door so that (my son) could rest before school would start," she said. "I don't know if you've ever met a tired teenager, but it's horrible. And so it would be hard for him to get through the days."

Garner said Molieri also spoke to each of her son's teachers to explain his situation and help other educators understand why he may be acting a certain way. Her son has since graduated from high school and is now playing football at Oregon State University.

Another parent, Virginia Davis, said Molieri was "a shining star on the hill." He was her son's case worker through the special education program.

He was known for giving the kids "tough love," she explained. Molieri would hold students accountable for their actions, push them to reach their potential and show compassion for everyone, Davis added.

"I could just see the interaction of how much the kids loved him, looked up to him, respected him, and that's a hard thing to garner nowadays with kids," said Davis. "Unless there's people like Mike (Molieri) in that school district, it's going to fail."

These parents and others would like to know why the district has

kept Molieri at home.

"If he's getting punished for going over and beyond, that's a shame," said Alfred Frazier. "When Menlo-Atherton didn't support us, Mr. Mo did."

Lack of obvious progress in investigation

When Molieri reaches out to the district for an update on his case, he said he always receives the same "copy and paste response" from the district's attorney — ongoing interview processes and evidence gathering.

After receiving the administrative leave notice, the district provided a vague list of allegations. Specific information could not be provided by the district upon request, said the Sequoia District Teachers Association in a letter to the district on Aug. 6.

By September 2024, the union and California Teachers Association filed a charge with the Public Employment Relations Board alleging that the district did not provide sufficient information for Molieri to prepare for an interview on the investigation. A timeline within the letter states that the interview continued to be delayed by the district and was scheduled for June 2025 — eight months after he was placed on leave.

The SDTA's letter requests that Molieri be reinstated to his position as a special education teacher and varsity basketball coach. "It is unconscionable that the district has had Mr. Molieri out of work for a full year and with no indication of a date for his return,"

writes SDTA President Edith Salvatore.

"It can feel like the district can put you on leave because they don't like you and they can make up their mind on what the allegations are later," said Salvatore to the Board of Trustees during a meeting on Aug. 20.

The school district did not respond to a request for comment on Molieri's investigation.

A retaliation and discrimination claim that Molieri filed against the district in April has gone unanswered. When no action is taken on a government claim within 45 days, the claim is rejected and the individual can then file a lawsuit.

"This is a disturbing and unique case. I can't for the life of me figure out why the district would want to deprive students of a man who has taught, coached and mentored so many," said Harry Stern, Molieri's attorney. "They have subjected him to administrative purgatory in an apparent attempt to punish and silence him for his previous whistleblower activities."

Stern and his legal team are currently collaborating with the district's teacher union in hopes that Molieri will be able to return to his classroom, but "when it is absolutely clear that our collective efforts are futile, we will be forced to sue," said Stern. He expects they will reach this point in the next month. ■

Email Staff Writer

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James Kenneth MacKenzie

1945 – 2025

It is with sadness that the family of Jim MacKenzie shares the news of his passing on July 13 at his High Sierra cabin. Jim had recently celebrated his 80th birthday and marked 57 years of marriage with his wife, Jan.

A lifelong educator, he taught at San Carlos High School and for many years at Menlo-Atherton High School. As a student at M-A, he was an All-American water polo player, graduating in 1963. Jim loved his Scottish heritage, teaching history, economics, and psychology, and forged lasting bonds with students and athletes during his coaching years.

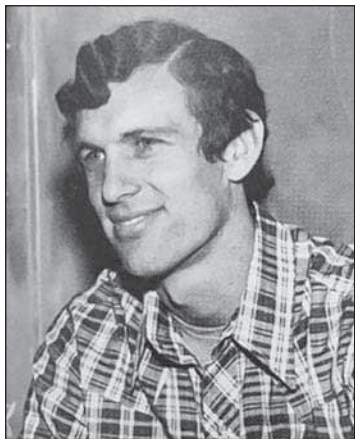
Born April 8, 1945, to Miriam Roth MacKenzie and Dr. Alexander Scott Gray MacKenzie, Jim grew up in Menlo Park. A natural athlete, he attended Oak Knoll Elementary and M-A, where he enjoyed award-winning swimming and water polo under his beloved coach, Bob Gaughran. He went on to the University of the Pacific on an athletic scholarship.

Jim and Jan raised their son, Ken, and daughter, Jean. After retiring, he spent 14 years in the Sierras with his dog Blayne, named for the meadow near his campsite on the San Joaquin River. He worked with the M-A Alumni Association, and helped organize the Athletic Hall of Fame, into which he was later inducted.

Jim is survived by his wife, Janet Hanbery MacKenzie; son Kenneth Lyon MacKenzie (Paulina); daughter Jean Elizabeth MacKenzie-Peters (David); three cherished granddaughters, Maisie MacKenzie Gordinier, Mila Sofia MacKenzie, and Mara Grace MacKenzie; and two Scottish step-grandsons, Andrew and Adam Peters of the Edinburgh area. He is also survived by his five siblings: his best friend and sister, Alexandra Standing (Douglas), and brothers David (Helen), William, Duncan (Phyllis), and Donald (Janice).

He treasured his teaching colleagues, some of whom he played poker with for over fifty years, and valued his lifelong mountain friends, who even recorded his helicopter exit above Blayne Meadow. The family is forever grateful to them.

Donations in Jim's memory may be made to the Academy Scholarship Fund at tinyurl.com/academyscholarships.



PAID OBITUARY

THERAPY DOG*continued from page 5*

Maple will greet the students by the school office as students walk in. The duo will then walk through classrooms as Vincenzo checks in to make sure students are settling into their classes. If they find that a student is having a hard time, Maple is there to support them.

Studies show that therapy dogs in classrooms can help reduce stress, ease anxiety and lower blood pressure. A 2019 study published by the National Institutes of Health found that dogs in classrooms also had a positive effect on empathy, learning, reduction of aggressive behavior and social integration.

As the year progresses, he will also be present for group and individual counseling sessions with Vincenzo. Maple has become her shadow, she said.

His presence on campus is also teaching students about concentration and cleanliness, said Hovland.

Students are being taught to be careful about dropping food and picking up trash because

Maple might eat it. Since Maple has joined the Ormondale staff, Hovland said she's noticed less food waste on the floor.

When students start to get distracted by a dog in the classroom, teachers tell students they need to focus on their work or else Maple will leave. "They will actually pull it together and do what they're supposed to do," said Vincenzo.

Maple is gaining experience on the job but his training still continues as he and Vincenzo

prepare to take the therapy dog test to receive official certification in the future. He follows in the footsteps of his sister Daisy, a therapy dog at a school in San Francisco and his brothers, Ben, Teddy and Maverick that serve the local community as therapy K-9s with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. ■

Email Staff Writer

*Jennifer Yoshikoshi at
jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.*



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Maple the therapy dog has been an instant hit at Ormondale Elementary School in Portola Valley.

ICE ARREST

continued from page 6

“Stanford Health Care, in accordance with our current policies and in compliance with federal agencies, is providing the needed care for this patient,” wrote hospital spokesperson Lisa Kim in an email to the Weekly.

Palo Alto Councilmember Julie Lythcott-Haims was among the people who entered Stanford Hospital to support the woman and witnessed the “masked, badgeless” federal officers guard her door, she said.

“A patient’s rights were completely ignored by ICE and we were watching the Stanford decision-making process, which originally asserted that family and the lawyer would be allowed in,” Lythcott-Haims said. “We watched them succumb to ICE.”

U.S. Representative Sam Liccardo was in conversations with Stanford Health staff and immigration officers, according to Lythcott-Haims. Liccardo’s office didn’t immediately respond to questions about the ICE operation.

Stanford staff have conveyed to local officials that they are “working on” connecting the woman with her family, de Blank said.

The local presence of immigration agents comes at a time when California medical staff are grappling with how to deal with federal law enforcement inside hospitals. As Calmatters reported this week, immigration attorneys and advocates have been increasingly concerned about uncertain protocols, conflicting messages and potential threats to patients’ legal and privacy rights.

In the Stanford case, nurses had to act as intermediaries between the woman and her family members, according to Lythcott-Haims. “One positive thing is that [the patient’s] father asked the nurse to go in and tell his daughter that he’s there, that people are here on the outside working to support her, and she’s not alone,” Lythcott-Haims said. “And the nurse did convey that to her.” ■

Email Staff Writer Lisa Moreno at lmoreno@almanacnews.com.

LEHUA GREENMAN



“No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”

650.245.1845 COMPASS

Patricia Jane Bredehoft

August 8, 1927 – August 3, 2025



Patricia Jane Bredehoft died in Palo Alto, California on August 3, 2025, five days short of her 98th birthday. Many fondly knew her as Pat or Aunt Pat and some as Pattie. A lifelong natural redhead, she fit the stereotype: talkative, energetic and a risk-taker with an occasional fiery temperament. She was a 50-year breast cancer survivor and a fighter to the end. Pat was fun to be around, whether while socializing with work colleagues over lunchtime martinis, entertaining her grand-niece and -nephews, joking with the staff at Trader Joe’s or charming her health care teams.

The youngest child of Katherine Vincent Ross and Henry Mauss, Pat was delivered by a midwife August 8, 1927 on a 920-acre farm, homesteaded by her grandfather in Climax Springs, Missouri. She was adored by her brothers Ray and Bob and some would say pampered as the only girl and youngest child. During the financial challenges of the Depression, her mother dreamed of a better life in California, hoping to make it to San Francisco. When Pat was 8, she and her mother secretly left the farm, gradually making their way to Bakersfield, California. To support them, her mother worked as a seamstress and boarding house cook, always assuring that Pat was well tended. Pat proudly reported that because of her mother’s sewing skills, she was one of the best-dressed children in school. She maintained that fashion consciousness into adulthood.

Pat actually made it to San Francisco before her mother. As a junior high school graduation treat, her mother arranged for Pat and a girlfriend to travel unaccompanied by train from Bakersfield to Oakland, then by ferry to San Francisco, where they were met at the dock by her Aunt Irene and Uncle Ray.

A natural athlete, Pat played basketball and swam competitively in high school. Later it was pick-up softball with her grand-niece and -nephews and golf in retirement.

Pat enjoyed a 20-year career in personnel at Libby, McNeil and Libby. In the 1960s, while based in the corporate offices in San Francisco and San Mateo, she organized club sports leagues for employees. Later she moved to the Libby cannery in Sunnyvale, which shut down in 1980, prompting her retirement.

After retirement, Pat volunteered at Filoli where she formed lasting friendships while creating items from the garden harvest for sale in the gift shop, laughing during bow-tying parties and taking a lead role for some of the annual Christmas events.

Pat was married three times: after a short war-time marriage dissolved, she had long, loving marriages to Chris Bredehoft (1958 to his death in 1984) and Roger Witte (January 2, 2000 to her death). Preferring spontaneity over tradition or elaborate planning, she and Chris eloped to Reno. Pat and Roger’s marriage was a spur-of-the-moment decision one Sunday after church with two friends as witnesses. Fortunately, the minister was free and there was enough time for Roger to change from white to dark socks.

Pat is survived by her husband Roger and his children Cheryl Witte-Haedt and Greg Witte (wife Stacey); niece Nancy Clum and her children Dane, Alicia and Brad (wife Kelila); sister Sharon Wallace and family; and nephew Ron Bredehoft (wife Sue). She was preceded in death by her husband Chris, baby brother Vincent and older brothers Ray and Bob.

PAID OBITUARY

Sonia Gay Shepard

October 27, 1935 – August 18, 2025

We celebrate the life of Sonia Gay Shepard, a fourth generation Californian, who passed away peacefully at her home in Atherton, California, on August 18, 2025, surrounded by her family, gardens, dogs, and devoted caregivers.

Born in Visalia, California, on October 27, 1935, to Otto and Carol Lambert, Sonia’s early life was marked by both tragedy and resilience. Orphaned at the age of two when her parents were lost in a plane crash, she was raised in Los Angeles by her aunt and uncle, Marguerite and George Wakefield.

A bright student, Sonia was a proud recipient of the American Legion Award at Hamilton High School, recognizing her for courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship, and service — an honor she shared with her lifelong friend, Kay Stoevers.

A member of Stanford University’s Class of 1957, Sonia remained intellectually and artistically curious throughout her life, a quality that shaped her passions, pursuits, and relationships. In 1955, she married Jack L. Shepard (deceased 1994), and together they raised four boys. A true “Boy Mom”, Sonia moved to Atherton in 1965, where she created a warm and welcoming home for family and friends alike.

In 2002, Sonia married Edgar (Bud) McLellan (deceased 2022), a lifelong friend, who had been a groomsman in her wedding to Jack. They found joy and companionship in family, travel, and shared memories for two decades.

Her love of nature and adventure flourished in the High Sierras, where for 40 years she led family horse pack trips — most often in Sequoia or Kings Canyon National Park — introducing her children and grandchildren to the same wilderness her grandfather had once shared with her. An intrepid traveler, Sonia journeyed to Iran, Mongolia, China, Russia, Iceland, Europe, Japan, Kenya, and beyond.

Sonia’s life was defined by her generosity of spirit and commitment to community. She was a founding board member of the Lucile Salter Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford, a sustaining member of the Junior League of Palo Alto, and served on the boards of Mid-Peninsula Family Service, the Sequoia Fund, Delta Society, St. Elizabeth Seton School, and the Peninsula Ball. She maintained a lifelong connection to Stanford University and, beginning in 1965, opened her home to Stanford students, interns and other visiting students — ultimately welcoming 25 young people into her family circle.

An accomplished fine arts photographer, Sonia captured still-life images from around the world. She was also an enthusiastic skier, a devoted gardener, a member of the Atherton Garden Guild, a member of the Menlo Circus Club and the Town and Country Club. Her home was a gathering place, where she joyfully cooked, hosted, and welcomed friends from all walks of life — executives, academics, artists, tradespeople, and the friends of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sonia is survived by her sons Roderick (Laurie) of Atherton, CA, Christopher “Kip” (Kimberly) of Portola Valley, CA, and David (Jan) of Folsom, CA; her daughter-in-law Laura of Carson City, NV; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her first husband Jack, her second husband Bud, and her eldest son Bradford. Her warmth, wisdom, and zest for life will be forever remembered and deeply missed. Her life was a testament to resilience, curiosity, and love — rooted in family, enriched by friendship, and brightened by adventure. Her legacy will live on in all who were fortunate enough to know her.

A private celebration of Sonia’s life will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Stanford University to benefit Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital, reflecting Sonia’s lifelong commitment to giving back.



PAID OBITUARY

Public Notices

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. **CA-24-1001234-SH** Order No.: **240595917-CA-VOI YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11/13/2019. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.** A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. **BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.** Trustor(s): **CHAD J. CORRIVEAU, AN UNMARRIED MAN AND STEPHANIE L. NASH, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN, EACH AS TO AN UNDIVIDED 1/2 INTEREST, AS TENANTS IN COMMON** Recorded: **11/19/2019** as Instrument No. **2019-097515** of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of **SAN MATEO** County, California; Date of Sale: **10/8/2025** at **01:00 PM** Place of Sale: **At the Marshall Street entrance to the Hall of Justice located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063** Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$1,226,744.45** The purported property address is: **1330 REDWOOD TERRACE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062** Assessor's Parcel No.: **067-080-220** **NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call **916-939-0772** for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website **http://www.qualityloan.com** , using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-24-1001234-SH** . Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the

property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call **619-645-7711** , or visit this internet website **http://www.qualityloan.com** , using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-24-1001234-SH** to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT:** Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE POST-SALE OVER BIDDERS:** For post-sale information in accordance with Section 2924m(e) of the California Civil Code, use file number CA-24-1001234-SH and call (866) 645-7711 or login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com>. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: **QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 916-939-0772 Or Login to: http://www.qualityloan.com Post-Sale Information (CCC 2924m(e)): (866) 645-7711 Reinstatement or Payoff Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318** QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION TS No.: **CA-24-1001234-SH** IDSPub #0249768 8/22/2025 8/29/2025 9/5/2025 (ALM Aug 22, 29 and Sep 5, 2025)

CLAY'S HAULING
CLAY'S HAULING & JUNK REMOVAL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-301331
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CLAY'S HAULING , 2.) CLAY'S HAULING & JUNK REMOVAL , located at 784 ALTA VISTA DR, PACIFICA, CA 94044.
Registered owner(s):
CLAYTON RUSSELL TALLMAN
784 ALTA VISTA DR
PACIFICA, CA 94044
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/08/2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 11, 2025.
(ALM Aug 29, Sep 5, 12 and 19, 2025)

PRO CLEANING BAY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-301258
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PRO CLEANING BAY , located at 832 6th Avenue, Redwood City. CA 94063.
Registered owner(s):
PRO CLEANING BAY LLC
832 6th Avenue
Redwood City, CA 94063
State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA
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 July 31, 2025.
(ALM Aug 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2025)

JB TILE & STONE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-301343
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) JB TILE & STONE , located at 509 Howland St., Redwood City, CA 94063.
Registered owner(s):
JB TILE AND STONE LLC
509 Howland St.
Redwood City, CA 94063
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 August 11, 2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 12, 2025.
(ALM Aug 22, 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

BAYFRONT LANDSCAPE INC.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-301349
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) BAYFRONT LANDSCAPE INC. , located at 2795 Hunter Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303.
Registered owner(s):
BAYFRONT LANDSCAPE INC.
2795 Hunter Street
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
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 08/29/2023.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 12, 2025.
(ALM Aug 22, 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

TASTEBUDS LECHON
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-301333
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) TASTEBUDS LECHON , located at 169 San Bruno Ave, San Bruno, CA 94066.
Mailing Address: 2321 Oakmont Drive San Bruno, CA 94066.
Registered owner(s):
CHON LE INC.
2321 Oakmont Drive
San Bruno, CA 94066
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 August 11, 2025.
(ALM Aug 29, Sep 5, 12 and 19, 2025)

INTEGRAND PRESS
KATIE ANDERSON CONSULTING
KBJ ANDERSON CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-301303
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) INTEGRAND PRESS , 2.) KATIE ANDERSON CONSULTING , 3.) KBJ ANDERSON CONSULTING , located at 231 CANYON DRIVE, PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028.
Registered owner(s):

INTEGRAND LLC
231 CANYON DRIVE
PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028
State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Partnership.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on JUNE 1 2020.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 06, 2025.
(ALM Aug 22, 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

SQA SOLUTION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-301275
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SQA SOLUTION , located at 140 San Pedro Rd, Daly City, CA 94014.
Registered owner(s):
ASIAN INVESTMENT CORPORATION
140 San Pedro Rd
Daly City, CA 94014
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 07/01/2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 01, 2025.
(ALM Aug 22, 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

SAVERS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-301254
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SAVERS , located at 875 Main Street, Redwood City, CA 94063. Mailing Address: 11400 SE 6th St., Suite 125 Bellevue, WA 98004.
Registered owner(s):
TVI, INC.
11400 SE 6th St., Suite 125
Bellevue, WA 98004
State of Incorporation/Organization: WA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/30/1967.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 31, 2025.
(ALM Aug 15, 22, 29 and Sep 5, 2025)

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY OF PALO ALTO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-301267
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY OF PALO ALTO , located at 325 Sharon Park Dr, #D3, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
J. M. HURNG, DDS, MPH, INC.
2081 Camino Al Lago
Atherton, CA 94027
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 05/19/2025.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on August 01, 2025.
(ALM Aug 22, 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 25CIV05788
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Kristine Cam-Tu Luong filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
KRISTINE CAM-TU LUONG to KRISTINE CAM BRADOCK
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: 10/09/2025, 9:00am, Southern Branch of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: ALMANAC
Date: 08/06/2025
Stephanie Garratt
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Aug 22, 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 25CIV05630
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Rebecca Miranda Remmer filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
REBECCA MIRANDA REMMER to MIRANDA REMMER TANOUS
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: 10/2/2025, 9am, M/C 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: 7/29/25
Stephanie G. Garratt
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Aug 22, 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 25-CIV-04072
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Eden Noelle Cahill filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
EDEN NOELLE CAHILL to EDEN NOELLE KINSELLA
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: 09/29/2025, 9:00 A.M., Southern Branch: Hall of Justice and Records 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: July 24, 2025
Stephanie G. Garratt
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Aug 22, 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

Continued on next page

Public Notices

Continued from previous page

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
JANE WONG, JANE DEBORAH WONG, JANE D. WONG, JANE DEBORAH LAULUSA, JANE D. LAULUSA, JANE LAULUSA
Case No.: 25PRO01151
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JANE WONG, JANE DEBORAH WONG, JANE D. WONG, JANE DEBORAH LAULUSA, JANE D. LAULUSA, JANE LAULUSA. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: BRENT LAULUSA in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.
The Petition for Probate requests that: BRENT LAULUSA be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on September 23 2025 at 9:00 AM in Dept 3 of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Petitioner in Pro Per:
Brent Laulusa
118 Hillside Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
801-949-0757
(ALM Aug 29, Sep 5 and 12, 2025)

CENTURY 21 MASTERS LUXURY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-301137
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CENTURY 21 MASTERS LUXURY , located at 26305 Jefferson Ave, Suite G&H, Murrieta, CA 92562.
Registered owner(s):
FULL REALTY SERVICES, INC.
26305 Jefferson Ave, Suite G&H
Murrieta, CA 92562
State of Incorporation/Organization:
California
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 July 17, 2025.
(ALM Aug 29, Sep 5, 12 and 19, 2025)

AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/

YELLOWJACKETS

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The buzzing insect thrives in warmer weather and climate change could mean that increased yellowjacket activity could become year-round, according to Lynn Kimsey, professor emerita of entomology at the University of California, Davis.

Typically, yellowjackets create annual colonies — founding new nests every spring, but with warmer winters, colonies that would usually die from colder weather are surviving and continuing to grow throughout the year. Now, colonies are perennial, surviving through all seasons, Kimsey said.

Communities along the Southern California coast are already seeing perennial yellowjackets, she added.

“We’re just seeing this happen in more and more places now in California, because they just don’t get cold enough to shut down during the winter,” said Kimsey.

In temperatures below 60 degrees, yellowjackets aren’t able to fly. She explained that warmer winters allow them a greater chance of survival and

the ability to continue to forage for food to feed the nest.

Yellowjackets create nests underground or in protected areas such as utility boxes, attics and between walls. An average nest can house up to 30,000 yellowjackets, according to Kimsey.

She added that humans make it easy for the insects by providing food through garbage and roadside waste.

“Yellowjackets will scavenge anything,” said Kimsey. “They like sugar, protein and dog food.”

As warmer temperatures persist, Kimsey confirmed that increased yellowjacket activity will have an effect on the ecosystem. Although frequently seen buzzing around trash, picnics and barbecues, yellowjackets also provide a service in regulating pest populations.

They are a predator to other insects, often catching and eating house flies, honey bees, flower flies and crickets, according to Kinsey.

But more yellowjackets can also mean an increase in the chances of pets and humans getting stung. Unlike a honey bee, which loses its stinger after attacking once, yellowjackets

are able to sting multiple times. Its stinger carries a venom that immobilizes its prey and allows the insects to carry it back to its colony.

Kinsey said however that yellowjacket stings are less painful than honey bee stings which have a venom designed to hurt and last — tailored to defend its nest from animals like bears, she explained.

Staying safe

The San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District is able to help residents who need yellowjacket nests removed, free of cost. Curtis-Robles warns however that technicians will only be sent out if individuals know where the nest is generally located. She recommends looking for an “airport” of yellowjackets flying in and out of the same area.

If a yellowjacket is flying around you, she recommends staying calm, still and not to swat. They are usually just curious to see whether there is a food source nearby, she said.

When picnicking outside, covering your food can help keep yellowjackets away. Before taking a sip from a soda can or sweet drink, it is recommended to check the top of the can or

bottle to prevent an accidental sting.

If you are stung by a yellowjacket, the county parks recommends removing the stinger, if it was left in the skin, and to apply cold water or ice in a wet cloth. Individuals allergic to yellowjacket venom should seek medical attention immediately.

The use of hanging traps is also a common method of yellowjacket removal however the district advises that traps be hung on the perimeter of the property rather than in areas where people are eating and cooking. Inside the traps are a sweet scented lure that attracts yellowjackets, so placing them on the edges of the property will draw them away from human activity and also catch yellowjackets that are flying toward the area.

Curtis-Robles said that when the vector control district is called, a technician will typically be able to help within the next business day.

For more information on yellowjackets visit smcmvcd.org/yellowjacket-nest-treatment. ■

Email Staff Writer

Jennifer Yoshikoshi at jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com.

SCULPTURE

continued from page 7

in Pietrasanta, an Italian town with centuries-old marble quarries. Middlebrook’s predilection for materials played a big part in his creation of Impact, the sculpture on the Menlo College camps.

The sculpture is large and imposing and holds its own next to the multi-story residence hall. It consists of a canoe that is balanced atop a hand-carved Italian Carrara marble column that is believed to have been carved in 1519. Next to it lies another column that has been broken into several pieces. There are two conquistador helmets on

the sculpture, one crushed and placed on the broken column while the other, intact, sits atop the vertical column.

Middlebrook explained that the idea for the piece grew from his long interest in the plight of Native Americans.

“The Native American handcrafted canoe was the perfect universal symbol of both Native American culture and the issue of transportation for survival and escape,” he said.

Using the old marble, which is a creamy off-white with grey variegations, was a conscious choice, Middlebrook said.

“Cortez landed in South America in 1519, the same year the column was carved. It’s a valuable authentic Italian

marble artifact older than our country. It’s the beginning of white man’s invasion on Native American soil. It’s the story of us.”

Middlebrook used clay and wax to fabricate the other objects in the sculpture. The canoe and the fallen column were then heat baked using sustainable polymer and high-temperature automotive paints. The helmets were also hand fabricated. Middlebrook said that Impact took a little over a year and half to create, from concept to final execution and installation.

“The story of this piece is a reminder of not only the truth of history but the mistakes that have also been made in the past. It is a beautiful group of materials that tells the truth to those who care to inquire,” he said.

Viewers whose education included the history of the explorations of the Americas will most likely recognize the distinctive helmets that are so prominently placed on the sculpture. The canoe, with its precariously balanced oar attached to the side, will also be a familiar Native American object. But what about those who will be perplexed by the combination of forms?

“I think it’s important to execute work that challenges the viewer visually and intellectually. Some people have no problem immediately recognizing the issues presented and many

others will enjoy background information,” said Middlebrook.

He said that there will be an informational plaque installed near the sculpture but that he hopes the piece will attract interest just on the basis of aesthetics.

“It is important to me that the work is seen as beautiful and precarious, which seems to draw people into further inquiry.”

On the day of my visit, student athletes were arriving on campus and several were willing to stop and take a closer look at Impact. One student seemed mystified by the piece while another thought for several minutes before responding, “I think it’s about embarking on a new journey — sort of like we are here at college.”

That response may be lacking in historical reference, but Middlebrook would likely appreciate the analysis.

“I hope the students, faculty and visitors enjoy Impact as a culturally stimulating part of the university environment. It’s a big monument and an even bigger teaching tool,” he said. ■

Email Contributing Writer

Sheryl Nonnenberg at nonnenberg@aol.com.

Impact is on view outside Arril-laga Hall at Menlo College, 1000 El Camino Real, Atherton. menlo.edu/monumental-sculpture-impact-installed-at-menlo-college

Employment

Senior Quantitative Precious Metals Analyst, Merk Investments, LLC, Menlo Park, California

Responsible as senior analyst of Portfolio Management team for performing research & financial analytics w/ respect to investments in precious metals including providing leadership for operational & process controls for Merk Gold ETF, a closed end precious metals fund managed by Merk and related investments. Req: Master's (or equiv foreign degree) in Management Sci, Finance, or closely related field & 5 yrs experience as Financial Analyst. Salary range is \$190,000 to \$200,000 per year. Interested applicants should submit their resume to careers@merkinvestments.com with the subject of “Senior Quantitative Precious Metals Analyst”

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Public Notices

FL-116 SUMMONS (Family Law)		CITACIÓN (Derecho familiar)	
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Name): RONALD LEE O'BRIEN VS. ALICE KIT HA WU		Electronically FILED In and out of court on the County of San Mateo ON 1/29/2025 10:20 AM By JV Christina Delibers Deputy Clerk	
You have been sued. Read the information below and on the next page. Tú has demandado. Lee la información a continuación y en la página siguiente.			
Petitioner's name is: ALICE KIT HA WU Nombre del demandante:			
DEFENDANT'S NAME:		DEFENDANT'S NAME:	
You have 30 calendar days after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response form (FL-120) of this court and have it filed in court with the petitioner. A letter, phone call, or court appearance will not protect you.		Tienes 30 días de calendario después de haber recibido este sumario legal de esta Citación y Petición para presentar una Respuesta (Formulario FL-120) ante la corte y efectuar la entrega legal de una copia al demandante. Una carta o llamada telefónica o una asistencia de la corte no te da protección.	
If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs.		Si no presentas tu Respuesta a tiempo, la corte puede dar órdenes que afecten tu matrimonio o pareja de hecho, tus bienes y la custodia de tus hijos. La corte también te puede ordenar que pagues manutención, y honorarios y costos legales.	
For legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California Courts Online Help (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp) or by contacting your local county bar association.		Para asesoramiento legal, contacta a un abogado inmediatamente. Obtén ayuda para encontrar un abogado en el Centro de Ayuda de los Cortes de California (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp) o por teléfono al 800-785-2048 o en tu oficina de abogados.	
NOTICE—RESTRAINING ORDERS ARE ON PAGE 2. These restraining orders are effective against both spouses of domestic partners and the petitioner is requested, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. These orders are enforceable under the California Family Law Enforcement Act (FLEA) or by contacting your local county bar association.		AVISO—LAS ÓRDENES DE RESTRICCIÓN SE ENCUENTRAN EN LA PÁGINA 2. Las órdenes de restricción están en vigencia en contra de ambos cónyuges o miembros de la pareja de hecho (según sea el caso) de la petición, se emite un fallo o se hacen otras órdenes. Estas órdenes son aplicables de acuerdo con la Ley de Ejecución de las Órdenes de la Corte Familiar (FLEA) o al contactar al abogado de la corte local.	
FEES WAIVER: If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. The court may, upon good cause shown, waive all or part of the filing fee and costs, but the court cannot waive the fee for the other party.		EXENCIÓN DE COTAS: Si no puedes pagar la cuota de presentación, pide al secretario de la corte un formulario de exención de cotas. La corte puede ordenar que se libere todo o parte de la cuota de presentación, pero no puede eximir a la petición de la cuota de presentación.	
1. The name and address of the court are 255 North Main Street, San Jose, CA 95131.		1. El nombre y dirección de la corte es 255 North Main Street, San Jose, CA 95131.	
2. The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney, are: (If a member, attorney, or member of the bar, do not include the name of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney, in the summons.) Law Office of Hongxue Tang 255 North Main Street, Suite 200 San Jose, CA 95131 (408) 283-1234		2. El nombre, dirección y número telefónico de la abogada del demandante, o el demandante sin abogado, son: (Si eres un miembro, abogado o miembro de la barra, no incluyas el nombre de la abogada del demandante, o el demandante sin abogado, en el sumario.) Law Office of Hongxue Tang 255 North Main Street, Suite 200 San Jose, CA 95131 (408) 283-1234	
Date of filing: 1/29/2025 10:20 AM Filed by: (Petitioner) or (Deputy Clerk) or (Deputy Clerk)		Date of filing: 1/29/2025 10:20 AM Filed by: (Petitioner) or (Deputy Clerk) or (Deputy Clerk)	
SUMMONS (Family Law)		SUMMONS (Family Law)	

FL-120 PETITION—MARRIAGE/DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP (Family Law)	
PETITIONER: ALICE KIT HA WU RESPONDENT: RONALD LEE O'BRIEN CASE NUMBER: 25-FAM-00165	
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Local Court Form FL-120 (1/2025) Page 1 of 3 www.courtinfo.ca.gov

FL-116 STANDARD FAMILY LAW RESTRAINING ORDERS	
Starting immediately, you and your spouse or domestic partner are restrained from:	
1. removing the minor children of the parties from the state or leaving for a state or jurisdiction where the minor children without the prior written consent of the other party or an order of the court.	
2. seeking, bringing against, obtaining, or enforcing, or attempting to obtain, any order of the court for any reason, including the right, custody, visitation, and custody, right to the benefit of the parties, and any other order.	
3. transferring, encumbering, hypothecating, mortgaging, or in any way disposing of any property, real or personal, whether community, quasi-community, or separate, without the written consent of the other party or an order of the court, except in the usual course of business or for the necessities of life, and;	
4. creating a nonexclusive transfer of real property or nonexclusive transfer of a portion of the real property of the other party or an order of the court, except in the usual course of business or for the necessities of life, and;	
You must notify each other of any proposed extraordinary expenditures at least five business days prior to incurring these extraordinary expenditures and account to the court for all extraordinary expenditures made. Other than restrictions which are effective, however, you may use community property, quasi-community property, or any other separate property to pay an attorney to file and to file this court order.	
NOTICE—ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE: Do you, or someone in your household need affordable health insurance? If so, you should apply for Covered California. Covered California is a state-run health insurance marketplace. For more information, visit www.coveredca.com. (If you are a Covered California member, call 1-800-330-1000).	
WARNING—IMPORTANT INFORMATION: California law provides that, for purposes of division of property upon dissolution of a marriage or domestic partnership or upon legal separation, property acquired by the parties during marriage or domestic partnership in joint tenancy is presumed to be community property. If either party to this action disputes the community property presumption, the party should contact an attorney. If you want the community property presumption to be waived, you must file a written declaration with the court.	
ADVERTENCIA—INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE: De acuerdo a la ley de California, las propiedades adquiridas por las partes durante su matrimonio o pareja de hecho en forma conjunta se presumen propiedad comunitaria. Si alguna de las partes de esta acción disputa la presunción de propiedad comunitaria, debe contactar a un abogado. Si desea que se presuma la propiedad comunitaria, debe registrar en la escritura de la propiedad, debiendo registrar en el juzgado.	
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FL-120 PETITION—MARRIAGE/DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP (Family Law)	
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Local Court Form FL-120 (1/2025) Page 1 of 3 www.courtinfo.ca.gov

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FL-120 PETITION—MARRIAGE/DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP (Family Law)	
PETITIONER: ALICE KIT HA WU RESPONDENT: RONALD LEE O'BRIEN CASE NUMBER: 25-FAM-00165	
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The court strongly encourages the use of ADR but does not favor any particular form of ADR, endorse any particular attorney, nor guarantee the outcome in any particular case.

Instructions: All parties and counsel shall read the Notice, sign on page three, and have this Notice served on the other party with any Petition or Response under the Family Law Act, Uniform Parentage Act, Order to Show Cause, Response to Order to Show Cause, Notice of Motion, Response to Notice of Motion, or any other family law pleading which will result in a court hearing or trial unless a notice has previously been filed within the past 180 days. A proof of service shall be filed with the Court. (Local Rule 5.5(b))

Local Court Form FL-120 (1/2025) Page 1 of 3 www.courtinfo.ca.gov

Here's how to spend Labor Day weekend in Silicon Valley

Catch Shakespeare and live music outdoors, swap plants and shop locally made art

By Julia Brown

Staying local for the long holiday weekend? Labor Day marks the return of longtime Peninsula festivals, plus opportunities to listen to live music, pick up new plants, shop for artisan goods and more. Find holiday weekend happenings around the region below. All events are free unless otherwise noted.

Concerts on the Plaza, Mountain View

Mountain View's Friday night concert series features Coastside string band False Bottom Band (bluegrass, rock and country) Aug. 29.

Aug. 29, 6-7:30 p.m. at Civic Center Plaza, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. mountainview.gov/our-city/departments/community-services/special-events/concerts-on-the-plaza.

Music in the Park, San Carlos

The city's summer concert series concludes with Burnin' Vernon (funk/blues/jazz) Aug. 29. Attendees are encouraged to bring a picnic and a blanket or chair. Beer, wine and other beverages are sold at the event.

Aug. 29, 6-8 p.m. at Burton Park, 900 Chestnut St., San Carlos. cityofsancarlos.org/business_detail_T10_R27.php.

Music on the Square 2025, Redwood City

The Friday night summer music series in downtown Redwood City concludes with pop/soul band Pride & Joy Aug. 29.

Aug. 29, 6-8 p.m. at Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City. redwoodcity.org/residents/redwood-city-events/music/music-on-the-square.

70s Disco Party and SF Comedy Competition, Menlo Park

The Guild Theatre will be home to The Hustle: 70s Disco Party Aug. 29, followed by the 49th annual SF Comedy Competition's first round Aug. 30 featuring 16 comedians and two shows early and late.

Aug. 29, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40.08, ages 21 and over. Aug. 30, 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Tickets are \$49-\$324, all ages. Both events are at The Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. tixr.com/groups/guildtheatre.

Kings Mountain Art Fair, Woodside

The 62nd annual Kings Mountain Art Fair showcases fine art from 130 artists among the redwoods above the town of Woodside every Labor Day weekend. Preview and shop from participating artists on the fair's website. Proceeds benefit Kings Mountain Elementary School and the Kings Mountain Volunteer Fire Brigade.



Courtesy Kings Mountain Art Fair

The 62nd annual Kings Mountain Art Fair showcases fine art from 130 artists among the redwoods above the town of Woodside over Labor Day weekend.

Aug. 30-31 and Sept. 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (breakfast from 8-10:30 a.m.) at the Kings Mountain Firehouse and Community Center, 13889 Skyline Blvd., Woodside. kingsmountainartfair.org.

Millbrae Art & Wine Festival

Millbrae's annual festival returns with live music, artwork from over 170 artists, wine tasting, artisan food booths, a family

fun zone and more.

Aug. 30-31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Broadway Avenue between Victoria and Meadow Glen avenues, Millbrae. millbraechamber.com/artwinefestival2025.

Read the full version of this story at AlmanacNews.com. Email The Six Fifty Editor Julia Brown at jbrown@embarcaderomedia.org.

HOSPITALS

continued from page 10

Your Rights" sessions at her hospital and in her community as part of her union, SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West. She said some of her coworkers have expressed anxiety over some of the situations they've seen play out in other hospitals.

"Because of my involvement with all the training that we have done to the workers and to the community, personally, I do feel prepared. I am not that confident that we have been able to reach the entire workforce within Kaiser to get them to the level of confidence to deal with it," Rugeles-Ortiz said.

Dr. Douglas Yoshida, an emergency room physician at Stanford Health Tri-Valley in Alameda County, said additional guidance and training for workers at medical facilities could be of great value.

"I think as health care providers, we need to deliver good health care to these

Supported by the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), which works to ensure that people have access to the care they need, when they need it, at a price they can afford. Visit www.chcf.org to learn more.

patients, just like any other patient, and we need to protect their rights," Yoshida said. "I mean, personally, if someone comes in in ICE custody, within the limits of the law, I want to do everything I can to help [patients.]"

The hospital in Pleasanton that Yoshida works in is located near the county's Santa Rita Jail; staff, he said, have been used to a law enforcement presence. But the recent incident at John Muir Medical Center, about 30 miles north, as well as the criminal charges filed against the southern California surgery center workers have set people on edge, Yoshida said.

"Normally, health care workers have no reason to fear law enforcement," he added, "but we're in uncharted territory." ■

FUNDING

continued from page 1

health care, housing and other basic services.

Supervisor Jackie Speier, said the issue is about more than money. "The state made a promise, and breaking it doesn't just hurt local government budgets, it hurts our residents," she said in a statement.

San Mateo County has long warned of this funding quirk but it may not be blameless. San Mateo County was one of

five counties that was accused of abusing "excess ERAF" by the Legislative Analyst's Office in 2020. The office claimed the counties were incorrectly shifting funds out of ERAF, leading to the counties incorrectly taking a combined \$350 million from schools.

The county's lawsuit names the state of California, Department of Finance Director Joe Stephanshaw and State Controller Malia Cohen as defendants. ■

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



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Menlo Park artist offers new look at 'Half Dome and Elsewhere'

Daniel Meehan's show at Los Altos gallery features mixed-media paintings with a detailed twist on familiar landscapes

By Angela Swartz

Inspired by the shapes of Yosemite Valley's Half Dome and other geological formations, Menlo Park artist Daniel Meehan is showcasing his latest collection of mixed media paintings at Gallery 9 in Los Altos. The show runs from Sept. 2 to 28.

This is Meehan's first solo exhibit at the co-op gallery. It's called "Half Dome and Elsewhere."

Meehan, a New York City native, came to the Bay Area in 1972 for a change in pace. He then worked for software companies — he first gained experience working on computers during his youth as a messenger boy in Manhattan — until his retirement in 2013. Throughout

his time on the Peninsula, he's continued to pursue a lifelong love of drawing and painting.

"Geometric and historic designs, forms from nature, and flames are shapes that I appreciate and respect," he says on the Gallery 9 website. "I like to work with them, explore them, and experiment with combinations of these shapes and colors."

This latest collection is a long time coming. Meehan started a drawing of Half Dome in 2017 that "turned out really nice." He came back to the work a couple of years ago, ultimately leading to the 20-piece collection.

Meehan, who won the "Best of Show" award at the Pacific Art League's 2023 Works on Paper exhibit in Palo Alto, will be selling his paintings at Gallery 9

when the show opens.

The gallery will host an opening reception for the collection on Friday, Sept. 5, 5-8 p.m.

The following interview has been condensed for clarity and space.

The Almanac: What inspired the collection? Have you visited Yosemite National Park often? Have you climbed Half Dome?

Daniel Meehan: Though I have not climbed it, I've been around its base many times. I have had friends that have climbed the face on the opposite side, and they gave me a lot of information about the dome and its characteristics. And I spent many years backpacking in the backcountry. The Yosemite backcountry is really beautiful.

The Almanac: Were there



Courtesy Daniel Meehan

Daniel Meehan sketches out a future painting.

other places that influenced the collection?

Meehan: There's Mount Hoffman, which is also in Yosemite. ... I've got some agave ... and succulent paintings in the show too, from different areas of the West.

The Almanac: How does living on the Peninsula influence your work?

Meehan: Living on the Peninsula ... is like living in a beautiful park. You know, the

Mediterranean climate gives us those nice, mild winters and warm, dry summers. And I live near Flood Park in Menlo Park (where he has lived for 38 years), and I spend a lot of time walking out there, and it's beautiful. It's 21 or so acres of old oaks and many bay trees and open savannah areas.

The Almanac: When did you become interested in painting and drawing? How has your work evolved?

Meehan: Since I was a child I've been drawing. When I was really small, like 3 or 4 years old, I became very, very interested in cartoons. I copied them, and I had cousins that knew how to draw, and they gave me some pointers. It's been the thing that's been going on all my life, just sort of on and off at different times. For the last 15 years or so, I've really dedicated a lot of time and energy into it.

I consider myself to be a visual learner. I see things, images, photographs, or even other artworks in a variety of sources, and I get ideas from those. Sometimes they pan out and sometimes they don't. I don't really have a particular style of art. ... A lot of (my) time is spent on mandalas or mandala-type paintings. Just recently, I started painting landscapes.

The Almanac: Do you have a favorite work in the latest collection? What challenges did you face when creating it?

Meehan: I kind of liked them all.

The "Half Dome #5" is a pretty interesting work. I did a painting maybe three or four years ago, called "Starry Night," based on Vincent van Gogh's "Starry Night." In that painting, I was able to use a lot of designs and techniques for the stars in the sky in the evening, and it came out really well. And then I also used that same idea of painting



Courtesy Daniel Meehan

Daniel Meehan used a variety of techniques and designs to create the pattern in the sky for the painting "Half Dome #5."



Courtesy Daniel Meehan

For “Half Dome the Visor #2,” Daniel Meehan used a mix of watercolor, ink and acrylic to portray the rock formation’s jagged surface.

the sky and the stars at night over Half Dome. I can’t say that it’s my favorite, but it took a lot of work and there were a lot of challenges in it too.

For traditional watercolor, you always paint light to dark ... because watercolor is mostly transparent, and putting light transparent colors on top of a dark color does not show the colors’ attributes or beauty. It just gets lost in the dark color. It is different with oil or acrylic, where the colors on the top layers can be made non-transparent or opaque, or transparent. With oils you can paint light to dark, or dark to light.

For “Half Dome #5,” I laid in a deep dark blue for the sky first. I thought I had a way to put down the lighter colors, but it did not work out the way I wanted. I thought a white watercolor ground could be used, but it just did not look right. So I worked with other mediums (pen and ink, gouache, colored pencil and acrylic) to achieve the right colors, right on top of the dark sky watercolor. I was surprised and pleased with the results.

The Almanac: What advice do you have for aspiring artists?

Meehan: They should look at art that really speaks to them and moves them. They should study that art and learn from it and try to work with the ideas expressed in them. Talking to and reading about other artists, (asking): “What inspires them? How do they make their art? What’s important to them?”

For people to copy other artists’ work and learn from their

works, it’s just totally normal.

Also, I would recommend that folks learn how to draw, learn the basics of perspective and how to create depth and textures before trying to paint.

The Almanac: Did you have some training in drawing and painting?

Meehan: I learned commercial art in high school, so I had two years of commercial art there. I also went to the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan and studied photography and art for two years.

The Almanac: And what is commercial art?

Meehan: Commercial art at that time was making advertisements for publications or posters or product promotions. You learn a lot of techniques that way. They covered it all from airbrush to watercolor, pen and ink.

The Almanac: Where do you work?

Meehan: I have a room converted into a work studio in my home. Fortunately, the size of my works allows me to do most of it on a normal desk. And I have adjusted the lights to help with working in a room. The largest pieces I work on are 30 x 22 inches, which is considered a full sheet of watercolor paper. And I can manage that size. ■

Angela Swartz is a contributing writer.

“Half Dome and Elsewhere,” Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos, Sept. 2-28, Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. gallery9losaltos.art.

Worth a Look



Courtesy Tijs van Leur/The Offspring

The Offspring will play Shoreline Amphitheatre on Aug. 30.

The Offspring

Pop-punk band The Offspring — you may know them from songs such as “Come Out And Play” and “Pretty Fly (For A White Guy)” — released its most recent album, “Supercharged,” in 2024. The group is currently on a U.S. tour and making a stop at Shoreline Amphitheatre, joined by fellow rock bands New Found Glory and Jimmy Eat World, at a concert presented by radio station Live 105.

Aug. 30, 7 p.m., Shoreline Amphitheatre, 1 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View; \$37-\$285; shorelineamphitheatre.com/shows.

‘Bird Lives: A Charlie Parker Birthday Celebration’

Jazz guitar master Roni Ben-Hur leads a celebration in honor of the birthday of jazz legend and “father of bebop” Charlie “Bird” Parker, featuring fellow acclaimed jazz musicians pianist Larry Vuckovich, bassist Sam Bevan and drummer Jason Lewis. According to the venue, Meyhouse Palo Alto, this special event (with two performances) is the Bay Area’s only concert honoring Parker’s birthday.

Aug. 29, seatings at 5 and 8 p.m., Meyhouse Palo Alto, 640 Emerson St., Palo Alto; meyhousejazz.com.

‘At Ease with Hand and Mind: Literature, Calligraphy, and Contemporary Art’

The latest exhibition at Qualia Contemporary Art, “At Ease with Hand and Mind: Literature, Calligraphy, and Contemporary Art,” is a group show featuring 19 artists exploring the interchange of Chinese calligraphy and painting. Curated by poet Ouyang Jianghe and artist and Stanford art professor Xie Xiaoze, “This diverse exhibition spans contemporary calligraphy through interdisciplinary works from prominent practitioners,” the press release states.

Through Sept. 27, Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Sunday and Monday by appointment), Qualia Contemporary Art, 229 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto; qualiacontemporaryart.com.

Kings Mountain Art Fair

This uniquely scenic art festival unfolds each Labor Day weekend in a redwood forest near Woodside. Visitors can browse the works of over 130 juried artists working in a variety of media, such as jewelry, paintings, sculpture,

textiles, decorative and functional ceramics, furniture and woodworking, wearable art and photography. For visitors who can’t make it in person or just want to get a head start on shopping the fair also offers an online gallery showcasing participating artists. Young fair visitors can enjoy crafts and games. Breakfast and lunch are available for purchase to help keep hungry shoppers fueled up, with a menu that includes the “world’s largest cookies.” The fair is 100% volunteer-run, with all proceeds benefitting the all-volunteer Kings Mountain Fire Department and the Kings Mountain Elementary School.

Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (breakfast 8-10:30 a.m.; lunch 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.) at Kings Mountain Community Center and Firehouse at 13889 Skyline Blvd. above the town of Woodside. Admission is free. kingsmountainartfair.org.

San Francisco International Comedy Competition

Who can make you laugh the most in three to seven minutes? The answer just might be a future big-name comedian. The San Francisco International Comedy Competition, which, according to its website, played a role in the early careers of stars such as Patton Oswalt, Robin Williams and Ellen DeGeneres, is back once again at the Guild Theatre for its preliminary rounds. The contest will take place over the next month at venues around the Bay Area. The 49th annual event features a total of 32 comics performing in successive rounds, narrowing the lineup until one is crowned the winner of a \$20,000 prize and bragging rights. The Round 1 lineup at The Guild this week highlights 16 comedians, and if you come back for the Round 2 shows on Sept. 6, you can catch the other 16 comics in this year’s competition.

Aug. 30 and Sept. 6, 6 p.m. (early show) and 9 p.m. (late show), at The Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, \$49-\$62, guildtheatre.com.

Food & Drink

Angela Pierucci, owner of By the Teashore, stands in front of her new Half Moon Bay tea house.

Tea By the Teashore

This new afternoon tea spot will soon open in a downtown Half Moon Bay Victorian house

Story by Adrienne Mitchel
Photos by Lizzy Meyers

Step inside a pink-and-blue 1903 Victorian house for an experience meant to make you feel special — regardless of how you're dressed or how much you can afford to spend.

"Everyone is welcome By the Teashore," said Angela Pierucci, owner of the new Half Moon Bay breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea spot.

Opening Sept. 5, By the Teashore has been a dream years in the making. The restaurant and teahouse, located in the former home of Velvet Hippo Lounge, will offer a variety of gluten-free, dairy-free, vegetarian and vegan

options, as well as a kids' menu — all for an affordable price, Pierucci said. A former single mother, Pierucci aims to make her debut restaurant accessible.

"I want our single moms and our single dads and our farmworkers and our seniors and our high schoolers, I want everybody to be able to get something," she said. "I don't want to price people out."

Above all, Pierucci wants to make each and every guest feel special — the same way she and her children felt celebrating their birthdays every year at the now-closed afternoon tea spot The English Rose in San Carlos.

"I just remember feeling that I was somewhere special, somewhere different, that you can't just go anywhere

**'Everyone is welcome
By the Teashore.'**

ANGELA PIERUCCI,
OWNER OF BY THE TEASHORE

and get that kind of experience," said Isaac Boland, Pierucci's son. "I just remember it feeling very magical."

But after about 12 years of their family birthday tradition, The English Rose suddenly shuttered in 2012.

"I've just had this hole in my heart ever since then," Pierucci said. "I've just always had this feeling that I needed to recreate that, I needed to feel that warmth and that tradition."

In January 2023, inspiration struck when Pierucci thought of the name By the Teashore. She took it as a sign to jump on pursuing her dream. It took her 13 months to trademark the name, and she began collecting vintage china, mirrors, artwork and chandeliers while balancing her full-time job as an executive assistant and looking for the perfect restaurant location.

Pierucci grew up in San Bruno and lived in San Carlos for over two decades, but Half Moon Bay, where she lives now, holds an extra special place in her heart.

"I've been coming to the coast my entire life, like I'd go sing at the ocean, cry at the ocean when a boy broke up with me," she said. "Half Moon Bay is such a charming town with friendly people and just a whole different kind

of lifestyle."

Pierucci had her eye on the 1903 Victorian for a long time. The first time she saw the "for rent" sign out front, the owner of next-door Sacrilege Brewery had just agreed to sign lease papers for Velvet Hippo. But she kept her eye on the spot and when she saw the sign return, she called again.

Since acquiring the space, Pierucci has been creating an ambiance that she describes as vintage elegance. The deep turquoise and pink walls are adorned with vintage china, mirrors and paintings. Vintage chandeliers hang from the ceiling, including a pink-and-clear vintage Murano glass chandelier with flowers and leaves. The inside seats about 44 people.

In the front of the house is a heated, dog-friendly patio that seats eight. There's also a porch with four shell-shaped pink chairs.

The menu is curated by Pierucci, a home cook and avid cookbook collector with more than 700 titles in her collection. Every table will have a full set of matching china, and Pierucci has made her own three-tiered china servers.

For breakfast, options include custard baked French toast with vanilla chai spice and Chantilly cream, almond butter oatmeal with stewed blueberries and yogurt parfait with dark chocolate, pistachios and strawberries (\$14-\$21). Lunch fare includes lamb and wild mushroom shepherd's pie, bangers and mash, citrus-encrusted salmon, lentils with sage creme fraiche and kale-quinoa salad (\$10-\$24). And the



By the Teashore is full of vintage china sets. This is one of owner Angela Pierucci's favorites.



Clockwise from the top: The interior of By the Teashore, a new tea house opening in downtown Half Moon Bay on Sept. 5, has an ambiance owner Angela Pierucci describes as vintage elegance.

kids' menu has caramel apple pancakes, butterfly pasta with veggies and more (\$8-\$13).

Guests can choose between three menus for afternoon tea (\$32-\$43), and food is plated on a three-tiered server. All sets include a choice of sandwiches and scones. Sandwich options include cream cheese and cucumber, curried chicken, egg salad, turkey with cranberry and walnuts or roast beef and horseradish, and scone options include blueberry orange, Earl Grey, pumpkin spice and zucchini carrot. Scones are served with olallieberry preserves, lemon curd and clotted cream.

All three afternoon tea options also include spring mix salad with herb vinaigrette, fresh fruit, a lemon lavender tea cookie and a bottomless pot of tea. There

are 19 tea options, including a black tea with rose petals and cacao nibs, a sencha green tea with pomegranate and an herbal tea with hibiscus flowers, rose hips, fruit pieces and blue cornflower petals.

Depending on the tea set, patrons may also receive a chocolate-covered strawberry, mini quiche, macaron or a Wave Treat, a melted sugar bowl with vanilla ice cream.

TEAny Tea, a kids' tea plate, includes one sandwich, one scone served with olallieberry preserves and clotted cream, light whipped cream in a mini ice cream cone with sprinkles, fresh fruit, strawberry and blueberry yogurt in a mini mason jar and a lavender tea cookie (\$22).

'My only goal is to make people feel special. If they feel special, I've done my job.'

ANGELA PIERUCCI,
OWNER OF BY THE TEASHORE

"I'm just a 58-year-old gal who has the energy, hopefully, of a 30-year-old and just is totally changing gears," Pierucci said of quitting her job in May to go full time with By the Teashore. "This is a huge departure, and it could be inspirational for some people who are considering following a dream."

Through it all, her biggest supporters have been her children, she said.

"They have always been and will always be my inspiration," Pierucci said. "They are everything to me, and we've just been through the ringer together, and they are so proud of me. They've never thought (opening a teahouse) was crazy. In fact, one of them said to me, 'Mom, if anybody can do this, it's you.'"

Her daughter, Allie Boland, described Pierucci as "passionate, creative, friendly and very resourceful," and said she's proud of her mom for achieving her dream.

"I'm looking forward to seeing her see joy through other people and welcoming the community," she said. "Because I think she's just so jazzed about getting people

By the Teashore, 724 Main St., Half Moon Bay; 650-713-6562, Instagram: @bytheteashore. Soft opening Aug. 30-31 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Starting Sept. 5, open Wednesday to Sunday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon, lunch and afternoon tea from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with final seating at 1:30 p.m.

actually in there and giving people a good experience."

"(My mom) happily supported me and my sister's dreams our entire lives, so it's amazing as an adult, seeing her not just as my mom, but as another human being chasing her dreams," added Isaac Boland. "I want people to know that (By the Teashore) was created with so much love and care."

With opening day approaching, Pierucci invites everyone to come by, whether they're celebrating a special occasion or just grabbing a bite.

"My only goal is to make people feel special," she said. "If they feel special, I've done my job." ■

Email Food Editor Adrienne Mitchel at amitchel@almanacnews.com.



RARE CORNER SETTING IN MORGAN LANE COMMUNITY



207 PEARL LANE | MENLO PARK | OFFERED AT \$2,495,000 | 207PEARLLANE.COM

- Craftsman-style single-family home in Morgan Lane, a community of 56 homes built by Taylor Morrison in 2008
- Rare corner location overlooking the central community park with playground
- Three levels with 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths
- Approximately 1,840 square feet of living space
- Main rooms: wraparound front porch, foyer, living area with fireplace, open dining area, kitchen
- Personal accommodations: main-level powder room, second-floor primary suite, two second-floor bedrooms plus bath, third-floor bedroom suite
- Engineered wood floors on the main level and new carpet upstairs
- Lot size of approximately 2,664 square feet
- Linfield Oaks location minutes to Burgess Park, Meta headquarters, downtown Palo Alto, and Highway 101
- Excellent Menlo Park schools



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